

# \$4.2 Million in Grants Awarded for First Quarter of 2014

The Iowa West Foundation has announced \$4.2 million in grants for the first quarter of 2014. The grants will be used to assist 21 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

The largest grant awarded in the quarter was to the Green Hills Area Education Agency for preschool programs in school districts located in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The \$1.1 million grant ensures that four-year-olds, with the most at-risk factors for possible school failure, will have the opportunity to participate in quality early childhood education.

“Quality preschool programming crisscrosses the Foundation’s focus areas of education, economic development, and place making to achieve our intended outcome of strong healthy families,” said Pete Tulipana, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation. “Early childhood education is an important step to help children begin a successful educational tract.”

“It’s extremely important to keep preschools in Pottawattamie County at a quality level,” stated Dr. Lane Plugge, administrator of the Green Hills Area Education Agency which coordinates the county program. “We are very grateful for Iowa West’s funding because it matches our funding thus assisting hundreds of at-risk preschoolers in the area.”

## CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT HELPS EL CENTRO LATINO EXPAND SERVICES

One of the important themes that emerged from Iowa West Foundation’s extensive community outreach in 2013 was the need to improve Latino engagement. A \$35,000 grant was awarded this quarter to Council Bluffs El Centro Latino as an Iowa West initiative for capacity building of the organization.

“The city has a lot to offer,” said Ernest Ruehle, chairman of the El Centro Latino. He explained that a recent UNO study showed the increase in the population of the community was largely Latino.

“We have welcoming people in Council Bluffs,” he said. “This is a good place to work. We have good schools, and it’s a better place to raise families. This is a good place to live.”

Since 2005, El Centro Latino has been helping to provide a bridge to services in the areas of social services, education, housing, health, economic development and more.

This grant will further expand El Centro Latino services to help Latinos become more involved in community functions and assist city leaders to better understand Latino culture. It also includes funds to lease additional office space and make a part-time position a full-time employee.

The \$1.1 million grant brings the Iowa West Foundation’s total support of the Pottawattamie County Preschool Initiative to \$13.8 million since its inception in the 2003-2004 school year. In 2010, the Foundation commissioned national expert Dr. Susan Hegland of Iowa State University to evaluate the program, and it showed the children as “having significant gains in academic achievements.”

Tulipana also highlighted two other major grants in the “place making” focus area.

- A \$1 million grant was awarded to the Joslyn Art Museum located in Omaha for capital improvements in its Memorial Building and Scott Pavilion. The funding is for museum repairs designated in the Joslyn’s 21st Century Campaign.
- The City of Council Bluffs received an \$850,000 grant award for planning and improvements to the landing area of the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge near Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park. Iowa West was the catalyst for the park in 2010 when it provided \$5.5 million.

For more information regarding grant applications and deadlines, visit [www.iowawestfoundation.org](http://www.iowawestfoundation.org), where funding guidelines and procedures can be accessed, or call 712-309-3000.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

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# 2014 First Quarter Grant Recipients

## Ballet Nebraska

Two performances at community college in Council Bluffs

## Bluffs Arts Council

Music and movies in Bayliss and Tom Hanafan River's Edge parks

## Children's Square U.S.A.

Furniture and audio visual equipment for visitor center on Council Bluffs campus

Start-up of new "Pediatric Integrated Health Services" in Council Bluffs

## City of Council Bluffs

Planning and improvements to landing area of Missouri River pedestrian bridge

## Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance

Front porch restoration of Historic Bregant House

## Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund, Inc.

Affordable housing and residential rehabilitation program

## Crossroads of Western Iowa

Volunteer program for intellectually disabled

## El Centro Latino

Iowa West Foundation initiative for capacity building of organization

## Grameen America, Inc.

Expansion of self-sufficiency and microloan program into Council Bluffs

## Green Hills AEA

Preschool programs in Pottawattamie County school districts

## Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs

Implementation of "Asset Based Community Development" in neighborhoods

## Hospice of Southwest Iowa

Medical records documentation upgrade

## Joslyn Art Museum

Capital improvements to art museum

## Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa

Fulfilling wishes of southwest Iowa children

## Mills County Fair Association Free Fair

Community building at fairgrounds in Mills County

## Mills County Prevent Child Abuse Council, Inc.

"Circles4Support" program

## Omaha Performing Arts Society

Data management and capacity building project

## Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.

Prevention education in Douglas, Montgomery and Pottawattamie counties on STI's and teen pregnancy

## Successlink

Creation of an evaluative database for Council Bluffs area schools to measure the impact of programs on student educational success

## The Christian Worship Center

Strategic planning and operating support for a homeless shelter and meal site in Council Bluffs

## YFC, Inc.

The Maha Music Festival in Omaha region including a Council Bluffs pre-concert

The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, receives its funding for grants from investment income and also from the Iowa West Racing Association. The Association receives sponsorship license fees from casino operators—Ameristar and Harrah's.

The Foundation has provided more than \$300 million in grants to non-profits and governmental entities since the inception of its grants program in 1996.



The Iowa West Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation that is funded from its investment income and from the Iowa West Racing Association, which receives fee income from local casino operators.



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