



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**IOWA WEST FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3.7 MILLION  
IN SECOND QUARTER**

**THREE EDUCATION GRANTS TO IMPACT POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

(Council Bluffs, IA) The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, has announced \$3.7 million in grants for the second quarter of 2010. The grants will be used to assist 42 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

“Educational attainment in the region continues to be one of the Foundation’s over-arching goals,” said Todd Graham, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, “and three grants this quarter will positively impact Pottawattamie County students of varying ages.”

Funding for the Foundation’s grants comes from investment earnings and the Iowa West Racing Association (IWRA), which receives contracted fees from casino operators – Ameristar and Harrah’s.

IWRA distributes funds to the Foundation, which is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization that makes grants in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The Iowa West Foundation is one of the largest community-based private foundations in the Midwest.

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Graham highlighted three education grants which will enhance education in Pottawattamie County.

- A \$458,200 grant is for the STARS Scholarship Program. This program, which is administered by the Community Education Foundation (CEF), provides a supplemental scholarship source for lower-income parents, who live in Pottawattamie County and want to return to school. The scholarships assist the students in attending post-secondary educational institutions. An evaluation in early 2008 showed the program to be highly effective, but underutilized. This quarter's grant continues the successful expansion of the program that was supported with a Foundation grant made in the summer of 2008, which helped increase STARS scholars to 100 participants.
- A \$420,000 grant was awarded to the Council Bluffs Community School District as a third installment to fund the new School Administration Managers (SAMs) Project, which strengthens instructional leadership by assisting principals and freeing up their time for improving curriculum and instruction. The grant will continue support for seven of thirteen SAMs, which are now in nine elementary schools and all four middle and high schools. Other funding for SAMs comes from federal stimulus funds.
- A \$100,000 grant was awarded to Green Hills Area Education Agency for an assessment of the technology needs in seven Pottawattamie County rural school districts: Avoca-Hancock-Shelby-Tennant (AHST), Lewis Central (Council Bluffs), Riverside (Oakland), Treynor, Tri-Center (Neola), and Underwood. Green Hills AEA is a new agency, which now includes the former Loess Hills AEA 13.

“There have been over 100 additional STARS participants over the past two years,” said Marsha Grandick, STARS Scholarship Program Director, “and thanks to the Iowa West Foundation grants that number equals the total scholars in the past ten years of the program.”

Grandick added that “another piece of good news is that 72 percent of the participants have GPA's of 3.0 or higher.”

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Requests for applications for the fourth quarter of 2010 will begin September 1, 2010 and will be accepted through October 1, 2010. Completed applications will be due October 15. The deadline to request applications for the third quarter has passed. For more information including deadlines, interested organizations may visit the Foundation's website at [www.iowawestfoundation.org](http://www.iowawestfoundation.org) or contact Deb Debbaut, Grants Manager, at 712-309-3003. Applicants can apply on-line through the web site.

(A listing of grant recipients and their projects is attached for your reference.)

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**Iowa West Foundation 2010 Second Quarter Grants \$3,770,287**

Recipient	Project Description	Awarded
Adams County Conservation Board	New playgrounds at Lake Icaria park near Corning (IA)	\$20,000
African American Heritage Foundation	Presentations in Council Bluffs by African American Museum of Iowa	\$3,000
Ballet Nebraska	"Swing" dance performances and educational programs in the Omaha area	\$10,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Inc.	Social skills education and after-school programming at Council Bluffs site	\$225,000
Camp Fire USA	"Out of School Time" youth empowerment program in Council Bluffs	\$10,000
Children's Imagination Station Daycare and Preschool	Classroom supplies for a daycare and preschool in Denison (IA)	\$1,984
City of Council Bluffs	Support of economic development initiative	\$150,000
City of Council Bluffs	For "First Night" - a New Years eve festival for families	\$40,000
City of Council Bluffs	Historic residential rehabilitation and improvement program	\$180,000
City of Hancock (IA)	New playground equipment for city park	\$18,000
City Sprouts, Inc.	"Grown in North Omaha" sustainable community gardens	\$5,000
Community Education Foundation	Expansion of STARS scholarships program in Pottawattamie County	\$458,199
Community Education Foundation	General support to increase community outreach in Council Bluffs area	\$123,800
Community Housing Investment Corporation	First time buyer assistance and training program in Council Bluffs	\$200,000
Conference for Inclusive Communities	Inclusiveness and diversity summer programs for youth in Omaha metro area	\$4,500
Council Bluffs Community School District	School Administrative Managers (SAMs) to support instructional leadership	\$420,000
Council Bluffs Public Library	Beautification of front plaza	\$125,000
Council Bluffs Trees Forever	Projects in partnership with community neighborhoods	\$5,000
Family Housing Advisory Services	Database upgrade to consolidate information from Omaha and Council Bluffs areas	\$4,000

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Grameen America, Inc.	Micro-enterprise loan program in southwest Iowa region	\$100,000
Green Hills Area Education Agency	Assessment of technology needs in Pottawattamie County rural schools	\$100,000
Heartland Family Service	Follow-up support services to homeless in southwest Iowa	\$37,500
Heartland Family Service	"Ways to Work" program to assist low-income families in Omaha metro area	\$50,000
HELP Adult Services	A health and medical equipment loan program for residents in southwest Iowa	\$2,500
Humanities Iowa	"Voices from the Prairie Annual Iowa Writers Celebration" - illustrated lectures in Council Bluffs	\$1,000
Impact One Community Connection	Gang prevention/intervention initiative for youth in Omaha-Council Bluffs area	\$50,000
Iowa Western Community College Foundation	Programming at the Arts Center in Council Bluffs	\$50,000
Iowa West Foundation Streetscape Initiative	Beautification of corridors in Council Bluffs	\$750,000
Joslyn Art Museum	Support for "Albert Paley: Celebrating a Contemporary American Sculptor" exhibition at Omaha museum	\$17,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	"Building Families Boutique" to provide support services for at-risk families in Pottawattamie County	\$40,000
MICAH House	Operating support for campus coordinator position at human services campus in Council Bluffs	\$243,932
Mills County Prevent Child Abuse	School-based education programs for teens in Mills County (IA)	\$6,000
Nebraska Foodbank Network, Inc.	Weekend food program for low income children in three Iowa counties - Pottawattamie, Harrison, & Mills County	\$8,400
Omaha Economic Development Corporation	Community - development and comprehensive planning initiative in north Omaha	\$25,000
Omaha Public Library Foundation	Technology enhancements including equipment and databases	\$5,000
On With Life Foundation	Mobility rehabilitation project for residents at Glenwood (IA) care facility	\$1,000
One World Community Health Centers, Inc.	Pharmacy expansion to assist non-profits in Omaha - Council Bluffs metro area	\$10,000

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Partnerships in Aging, Inc.	Initiative to support the development of "elderly friendly" neighborhoods in Pottawattamie (IA) and Douglas (NE) counties	\$5,000
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.	Office equipment at Council Bluffs site	\$50,000
Pottawattamie County Conservation Board	Strategic planning and creation of comprehensive plan	\$53,900
Project Harmony Child Protection Center	Child advocacy center in Omaha for eastern Nebraska and southwest Iowa youth	\$100,000
R.E.S.P.E.C.T.2.	Educational theater programs in southwest Iowa schools on healthy relationships	\$10,000
Society of American Military Engineers	Student mentoring program to expose Omaha area youth to architecture and engineering	\$2,500
The ARTery	A "dancing classrooms" program for students at two Omaha middle schools	\$1,000
Visiting Nurse Association of Pottawattamie County	Maternal/child home visitation program	\$42,072
Youth Emergency Services	Healthy food program for street dependent youth in Omaha and Council Bluffs	\$5,000

The following fire departments also received Iowa West Foundation funding for equipment through the Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association:

TOTAL: \$3,770,287

- Carson Volunteer Fire Department
- Carter Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Crescent Volunteer Fire Department
- Hancock Fire Department
- McClelland Fire Department
- Minden Volunteer Fire & Rescue
- Walnut Volunteer Fire Department