

BLACK HAWK COUNTY GAMING ASSOCIATION



HELPING THE CEDAR VALLEY PROSPER

Funding Guidelines and Procedures

What We Are

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association is a corporation that holds and maintains a license to conduct gambling games in accordance with the Iowa Excursion Boat Gambling Act. The Black Hawk County Gaming Association benefits the Cedar Valley by:

- Providing property tax relief to cities and counties
- Funding capital improvements
- Making charitable contributions

Who We Are

The Board of Directors of the Black Hawk County Gaming Association includes sixteen residents of Black Hawk County, who represent the broad interest of the Cedar Valley.

What We Do

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association accepts, reviews and acts on requests to fund programs, projects and activities that benefit the Cedar Valley.

Where We Do It

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association funds programs, projects and activities for organizations and communities in seven Iowa counties. **Our primary focus is Black Hawk County.** We also serve Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy and Tama counties. Counties other than Black Hawk must first apply to their local county foundation for funding.

Letter of Intent

The initial requirement of any organization seeking a grant from BHCGA is a [letter of intent](#). The letter should be 1-2 typewritten pages describing the organization, the project for which the funding is requested, the total budget with timelines and projections for project completion, the portion of the budget for which BHCGA funds are being requested, and other funding sources requested and /or committed to the project.

When We Do It

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association funding cycle is quarterly. Letter of Intent and Application deadlines:

SUMMER 2011

Letter of Intent due	June 1, 2011
Grant Application due	July 1, 2011

FALL 2011

Letter of Intent due	September 1, 2011
Grant application due	October 3, 2011

WINTER 2011

Letter of Intent due	December 1, 2011
Grant application due	January 2, 2012

SPRING 2012

Letter of Intent due	March 1, 2012
Grant application due	April 1, 2012

Requests We Will Consider:

The Board of Directors of the Black Hawk County Gaming Association is interested in awarding grants that will make the Cedar Valley a stronger, better place to live. It places particular emphasis on proposals that enhance public facilities; create, replace or upgrade substantial capital items; or create new opportunities where none now exist. Projects should demonstrate the ability to leverage funding and support from additional sources. Special preference is given to applications that maximize community resources through cooperation and collaboration with other organizations in the community and the elimination of redundant services, programs or projects. Applications should demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed project without additional long-term financial commitments from Black Hawk County Gaming Association.

A partial list of programs, projects and activities that will be considered for funding includes:

- Capital improvements
- Challenge grants
- Charitable programs
- Operating requests (but not in consecutive years)
- Projects that provide tax relief for cities and counties
- Public works projects
- Transformational projects that are major new initiatives in the Cedar Valley

Requests We Will Not Consider

Some programs, projects and activities are outside the scope or geographic area served by the Black Hawk County Gaming Association. We will not accept or consider applications which request 100% of the funds from BHCGA. In addition we will not accept or consider applications to fund:

- Annual campaigns
- Any program located outside the seven-county service area (see **Where We Do It**)
- Capital campaigns for private organizations
- Conferences or seminars
- Computers, cell phones, printers, or tablets for individual or classroom use and related hardware and software
- Contests or competitions to benefit individuals
- Endowment funds
- Existing bills, debts or obligations of other organizations
- Festivals
- Financial support for individuals or their families
- For-profit organizations or programs
- Foundation operating endowments
- Fundraising events or activities
- Healthcare for individuals or their families
- Hospitals, group homes, assisted living projects, nursing homes, independent care and extended care facilities
- Membership in civic or social organizations
- Memorials
- Organizations that would re-distribute the funds received to other groups and or individuals
- Political or issue advocacy or political advertising, campaigns or lobbying
- Private events or activities
- Publications
- Research
- Subscriptions
- Support for religious endeavors, worship, or religious education
- Tickets
- Trips

No distribution to any organizations that has an employee, officer or director who is a member of the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

General Policies for Funding

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association will keep income and distributions in general balance. Proceeds from **the isle casino and hotel at waterloo** will be put to use each year to enhance the quality of life in the Cedar Valley rather than withheld to build an endowment. We will bank reserves sufficient to meet our expenses and obligations.

These guidelines apply to all grants:

- Applications must be submitted in writing on our form
- Applications must be complete and on time to be considered
- Applications should be clear and to the point

- Application should not be long or complex
- Applications should not include extensive artwork, audio or video presentation or petitions of support
- Applicants must submit only one project per application
- Applicants must be public agencies, educational organizations or not-for-profits (501c3)
- Applicants must demonstrate ability to complete and operate their proposals
- Applications must demonstrate their tax status (501c3) to qualify for funding
- Applicants receiving grants must submit a Final Evaluation form offering written proof of performance
- Applicants may be asked to present in person at the invitation of the Board
- Payments will match the percentage of other payments grantees have received
- Projects must be started and submitted on time and completed as presented. Failure to do so may be cause for the Board to suspend future payments and demand repayment.
- Projects must benefit the public rather than private individuals or organizations
- Projects must stand on their own merit

The Board reserves the right to deny funding to Applicants who fail to follow funding guidelines.

How to Apply for Funding

In Person: Fill out a paper application. Make 17 copies and return the original, plus the 17 copies Black Hawk County Gaming Association.

Online: Download, print and complete the application at www.bhcga.org

Make 17 copies and return the original, plus the 17 copies to Black Hawk County Gaming Association.

How to Contact Us

Telephone: 1-319-433-1153

E-Mail: info@bhcga.org

In Person 229 East Park Avenue – Waterloo, IA 50703

Online: Visit us on the web at www.bhcga.org

The Executive Director has the discretion and board authorization to direct applications to other funding partners or other resources as appropriate.