



BLACK HAWK COUNTY

# Gaming Association



Grant Informational Session  
Spring 2024

## Introductions

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Emily Hanson,  
Executive Director

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Holly Althof,  
Project Coordinator

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BHCGA Board Members



**CASINO•HOTEL  
WATERLOO**

Special  
Guest:  
Chad  
Moine

What is  
BHC GA?

Different from other  
local funders

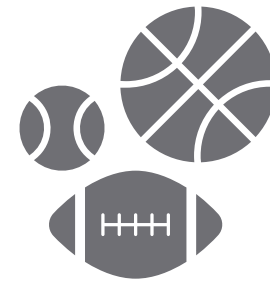
QSO – qualified  
sponsored  
organization

# How does money come to BHC GA?



## **Contract with Isle Waterloo**

5.75% of AGR from tables and slots  
Approx. \$4-5 million per year



## **Sports Wagering**

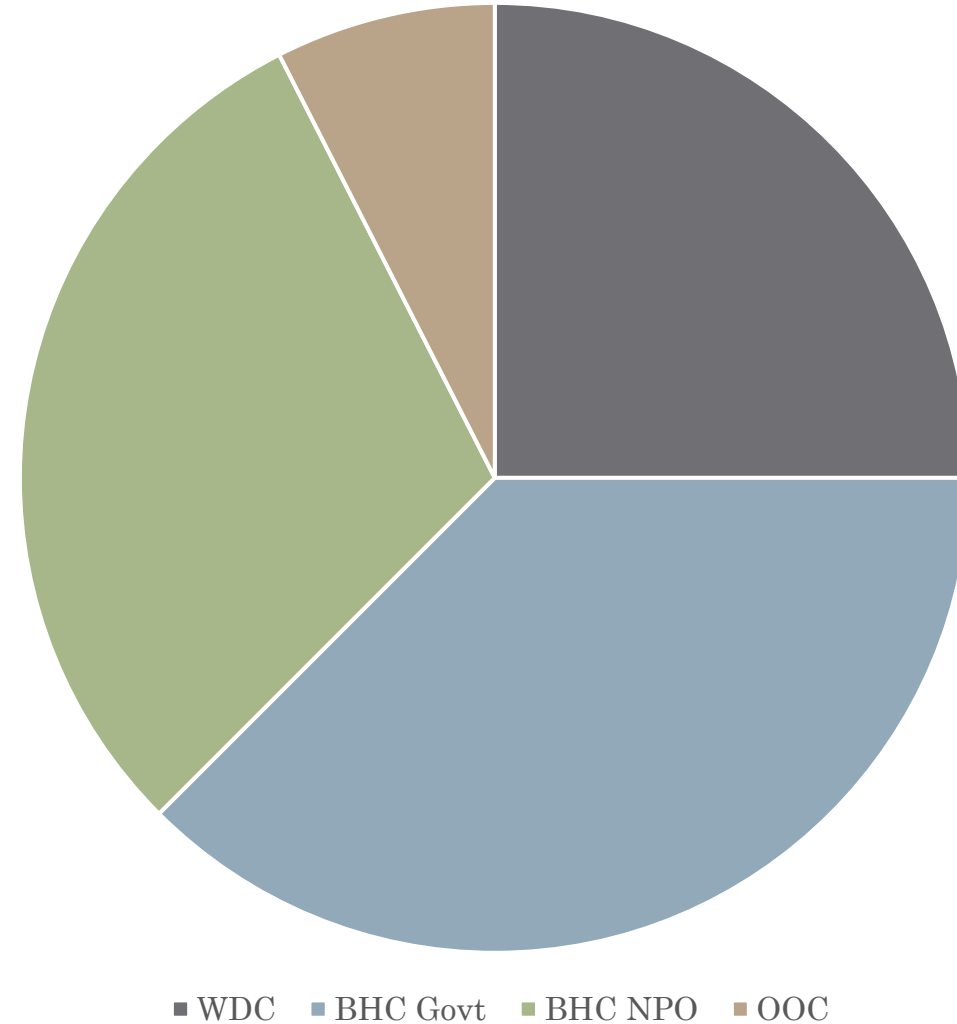
Caesar's Sportsbook – 0.75% of payout  
Average \$3,000 per month

Our funding can be hard to predict!

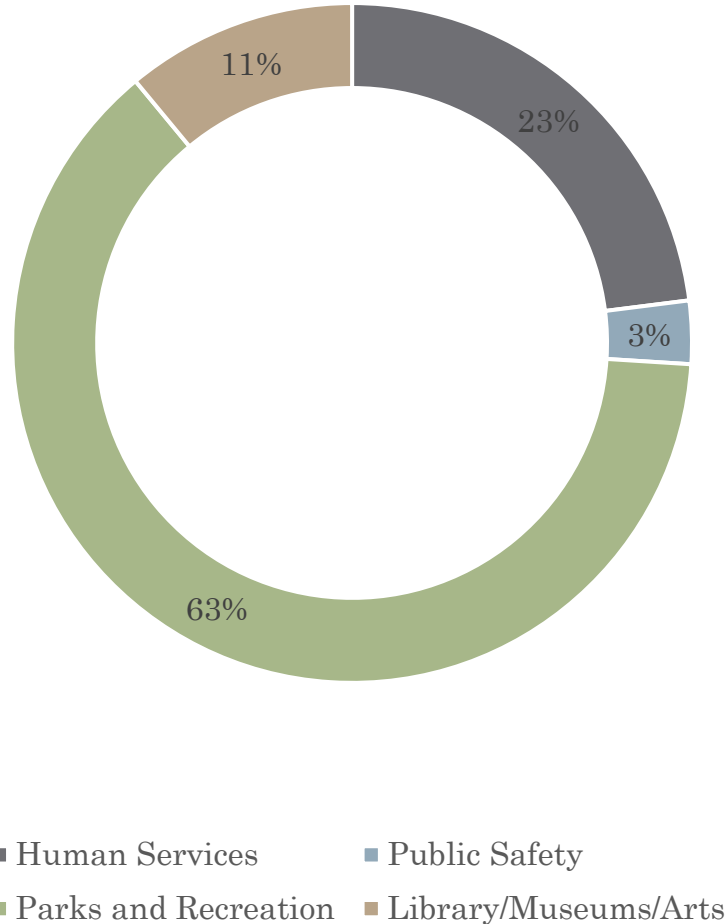
# How are funds distributed?

- 25% of AGR –Restricted to Downtown Waterloo (Waterloo Development Corp)
- As per our agreement with the Isle, remaining funds for the BHC GA competitive grants should be allocated as follows:
  - 50% - Local government in BHC
  - 40% - Nonprofit organizations in BHC
  - 10% - Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy and Tama
- **REQUIRED** to allocate 3% AGR annually

BHCGA Budget FY24



## Grant Types



# BHCGA by the Numbers

- Average Grant Size: \$108,579
  - City in BHC: \$690,000
  - Nonprofit in BHC: \$432,000
  - Non-BHC: \$25,773
- Approval rate: 30%
- Historically, 85% of what we've funded has been capital projects.
- Average Grant Size for Non-Capital Projects: \$32,977

# Grant Cycles for FY25

Summer Grant Cycle



Fall Grant Cycle



Spring Grant Cycle





# Grants Program



Capacity Building Grants:  
Transforming Critical  
Community Services



Capital Grants:  
Transforming Places and  
Spaces



Out of County Grants:  
Investing in Projects  
Benefitting the Region



# Capital Grants: Transforming Places and Spaces

The goal of these grants is to build better cities, neighborhoods, and places in Black Hawk County, Iowa.

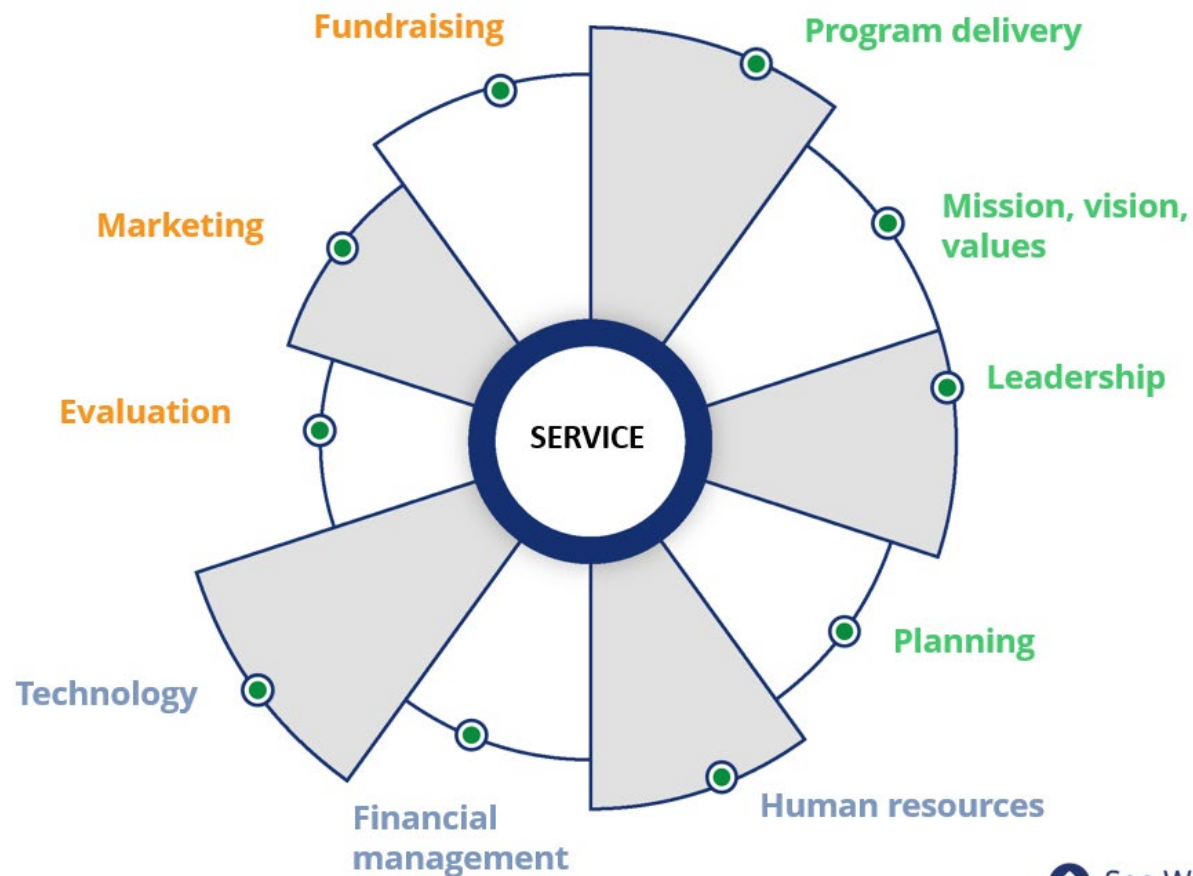
- Request size will vary based on scope, impact, and community partners:
  - Individual org equipment/upgrades: \$40,000
  - Multi-million construction: \$250,000-\$500,000
  - Requests \$500,000+ should show connection to community needs and partnerships
- Most interested in public, inclusive spaces



## Capacity Building Grants: Transforming Critical Community Services

The goal of these grants is to help organizations in Black Hawk County, Iowa, build stronger skills, processes, and resources to better serve the Cedar Valley.

- Helping reach the next level of operational, financial, or organizational maturity to better serve community needs.
- Requests in this category typically range from \$5,000 - \$50,000.



 See What I Mean

How might capacity building transform critical community services?



## Out of County Grants: Investing in Projects Benefiting the Region

These grants are intended for cities and nonprofit organizations in Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy, and Tama counties.

- Requests in this category typically range from \$5,000 - \$50,000
- Most interested in capital improvements
- Must apply through local community foundation before BHCGA
- Staff approval more than \$50,000

# Requests will NOT be considered:



Endowment funds



Political causes, candidates, or lobbying efforts



Individuals, including scholarships, fellowships, or personal benefits



Religious workshops, education, or proselytizing



Debt incurred or purchases made prior to award date



Capital requests for more than 50% of the total project budget

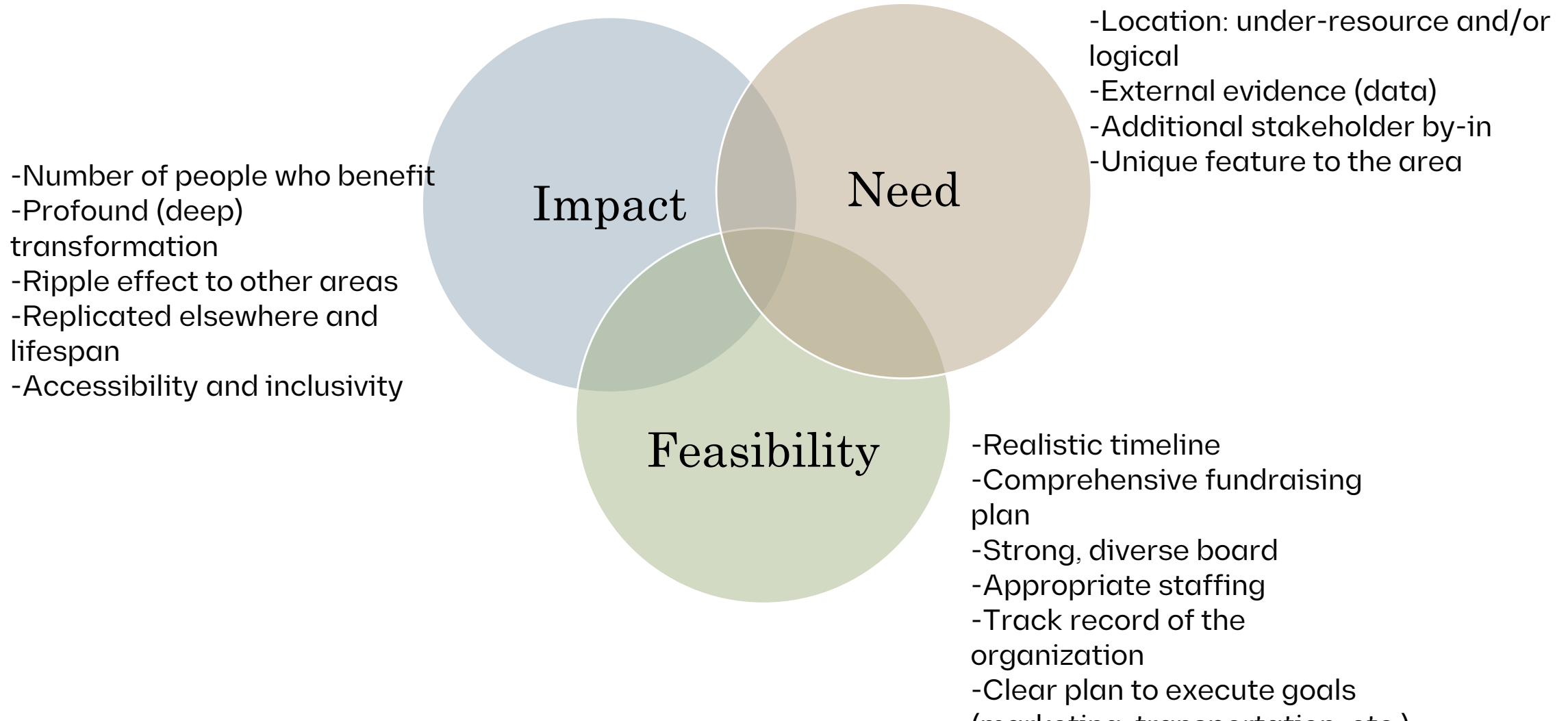


Must be nonprofit or government agency – do not accept fiscal agents



No funding to affiliates of the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission

# How does our board evaluate and prioritize grants?



## Recommended to Strengthen Proposal

Demonstrate a community need

Letters of support and/or resolutions – especially if government agency

Multi-year and consecutive year requests are rare

Collaborative initiatives

Significant funding committed

Realistic timeline

If you submitting more than \$100,000, you **MUST** meet with staff

New applicants should meet with staff before LOI opens



# Resources to Help: BHC GA Website

[Links to Community Plans](#)

[Publicity Guide](#)

[Budget Template](#)

[Financial Statement Guide](#)

[Grant Forms](#)

[Nonprofit Resources](#)

[Community Foundation Northeast Iowa Website](#)

# Keep in Mind



We do not expect you to be professional grant writers.



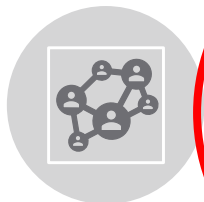
Make sure you are answering the questions asked on the application.



Clear is kind!



Don't wait to communicate – early is best.



Staff are here as a resource!!!

# Questions?



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Holly Althof – [holly.althof@bhcga.org](mailto:holly.althof@bhcga.org)



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