



BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Gaming Association



Grant Informational Session

Spring 2026

Introductions

Emily Hanson,
Executive Director

Sarah Craft,
Grant Coordinator

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 BHC GA get their funding?



Contract with Isle Waterloo

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



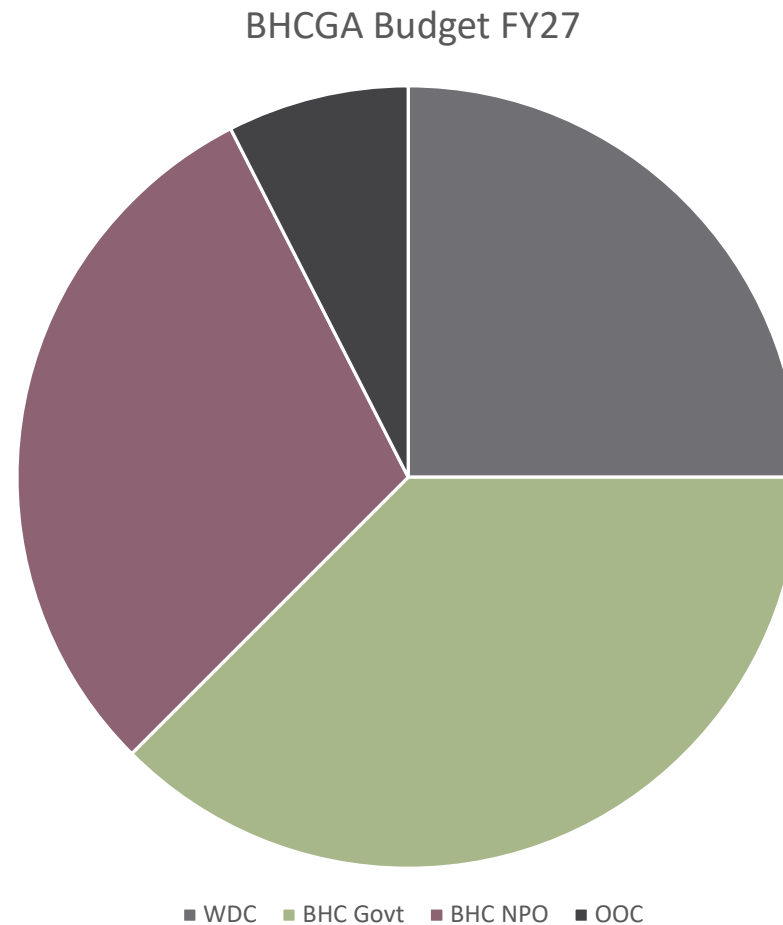
Sports Wagering

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

Our funding can be hard to predict!

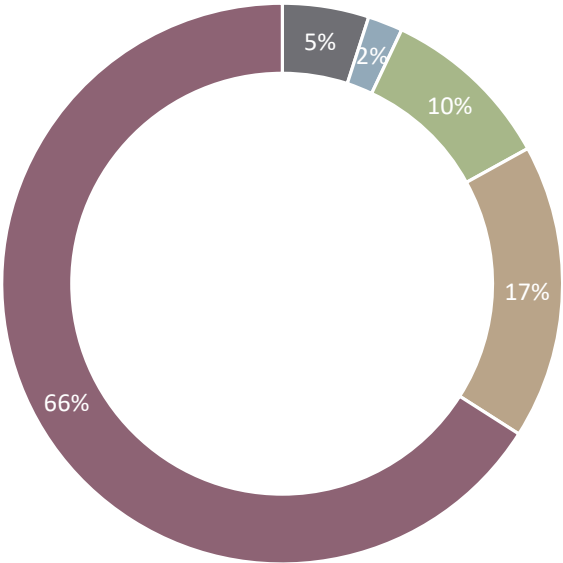
How are funds distributed?

- 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 in the following way:
 - 50% - Local government in BHC
 - 40% - Nonprofit organizations in BHC
 - 10% - Bremer, Butler, & Grundy
- **REQUIRED** to allocate 3% AGR annually



BHCGA: Key Statistics & Facts

Grant Types



- Arts & Culture
- Education & Youth
- Community Betterment
- Public Safety
- Human Services

FY21-Present

- Average Grant Size: \$162,664
 - City in BHC: \$216,083
 - Nonprofit in BHC: \$74,398
 - Non-BHC: \$28,393
- Approval rate: 30-35%
- 91% of funding has gone to capital projects

Grant Cycles for FY27

Summer Grant Cycle



Fall Grant Cycle



Spring Grant Cycle



Grants Program



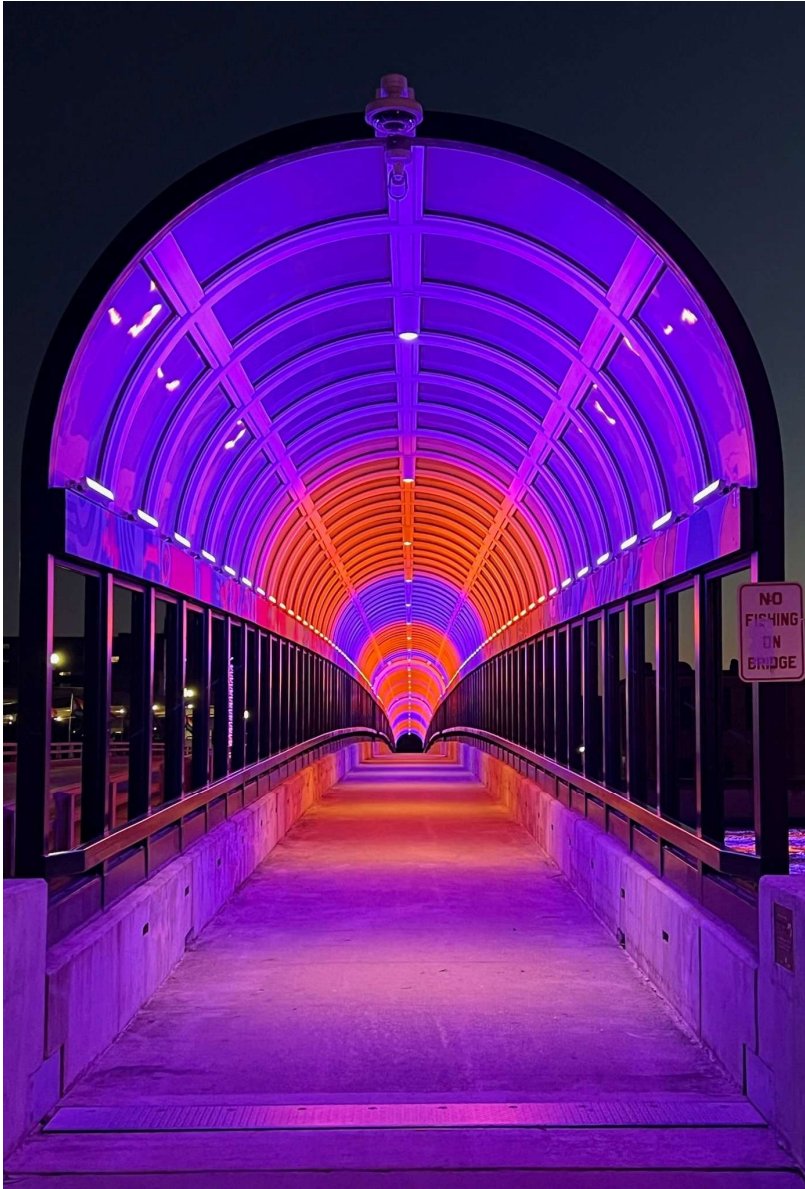
Capacity Building Grants:
Transforming Critical
Community Services



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

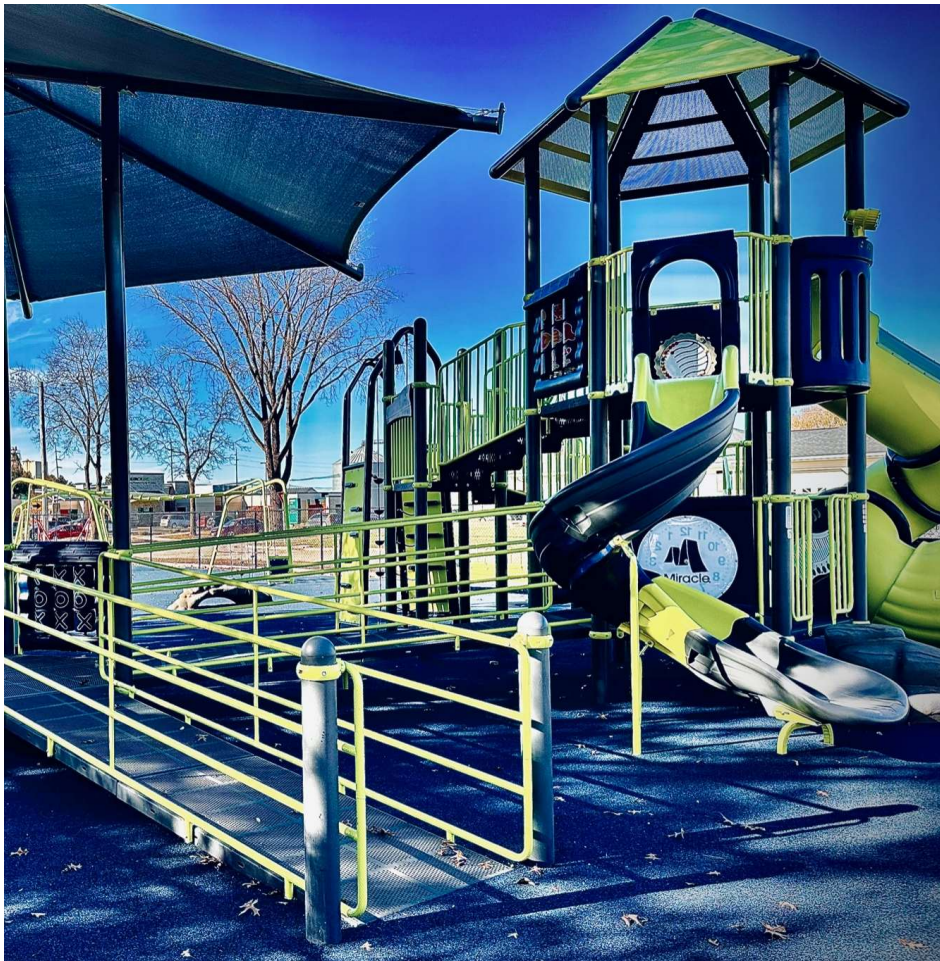
The goal of these grants is to help organizations in Black Hawk County, Iowa, build stronger skills, processes, and resources to better serve the Cedar Valley.

- 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.
- Capacity building is not...
 - Ongoing operating support
 - Funding for current positions/programs
 - “Program expansion” to increase numbers



How might capacity building transform critical community services?

To write a successful capacity building grant, there needs to be a plan for how it will help your organization in the future.
How is it sustainable or informing future decisions?



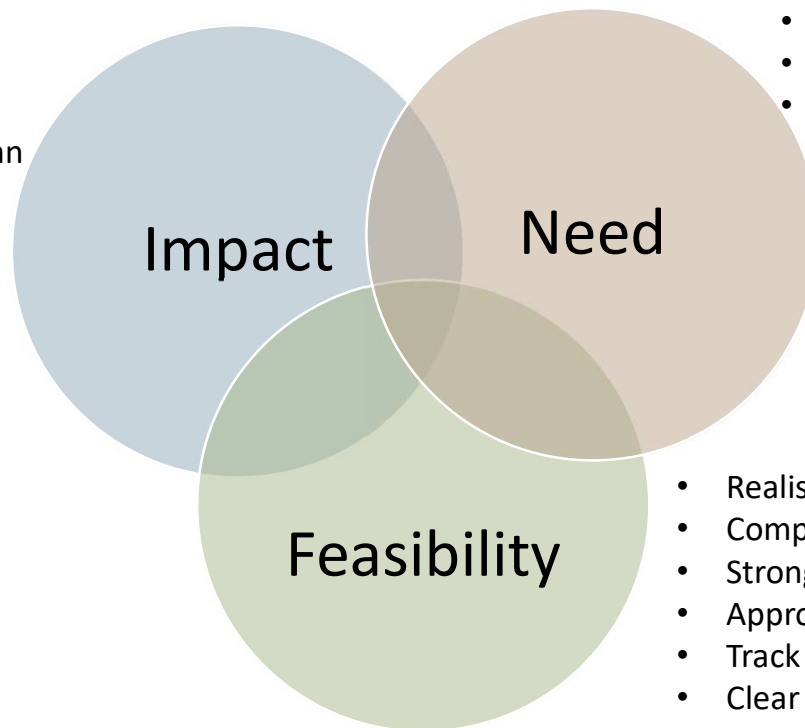
Out of County Grants: Investing in Projects Benefiting the Region

These grants are intended for cities and nonprofit organizations in Bremer, Butler, and Grundy.

- 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

How does our board evaluate and prioritize grants?

- Number of people who benefit
- Profound (deep) transformation
- Ripple effect to other areas
- Replicated elsewhere and lifespan
- Accessibility and inclusivity



- Location: under-resource and/or logical
- External evidence (data)
- Additional stakeholder buy-in
- Unique feature to the area

- Realistic timeline
- Comprehensive fundraising plan
- Strong, diverse board
- Appropriate staffing
- Track record of the organization
- Clear plan to execute goals (marketing, transportation, etc.)

Recommendations for Strong Proposals

Follow instructions

- They're designed to guide you through the LOI and applications

Be transparent

- Provide accurate numbers, timelines, and expectations.

Explain the need

- Clearly demonstrate the community need and how your project addresses it. Metrics help!

Do your research

- Understand our guidelines, especially regarding financials and timing—we're often "last dollar in".

Ensure alignment

- Ensure our support aligns with your project's needs and we're the right funder for your organization.

Join forces

- Propose unique, collaborative projects that stand out.

Connect with us

- Schedule a meeting with our Project Coordinator before a grant cycle opens – Use the Bookings link to schedule or call us!

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](#)

www.bhcga.org

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?



Emily Hanson – emily.hanson@bhcga.org



Sarah Craft – sarah.craft@bhcga.org



Phone – 319-433-1153