

BUCHANAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REVIEW



GrowBuchanan
Economic Development

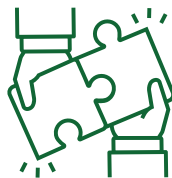
2022

CONNECTION



We identify and link people and groups to resources for shared goals.

COLLABORATION



We engage our communities in dynamic collaborative ways that support success.

VISION



We drive momentum for the future by communicating and advocating for economic development.

SUSTAINABILITY



We maximize potential for our investors now and for generations to follow.

MISSION

The primary mission of the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC) is to foster a strong economic environment which supports business, nurtures growth and new investment while attracting sustainable businesses and a quality labor force to the communities of Buchanan County. BCEDC relies on its trusted relationships that unite our communities and businesses. Their investment in BCEDC provides essential services that facilitate Economic Development throughout the county.

VISION

BCEDC will improve the quality of life in our area and foster relationships for the economic advancement of businesses and their employees and support a high quality of life in our communities.

BUCHANAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- 1 Focus on retention and expansion of current businesses to support long-term sustainability of our county.
- 2 Actively seek applicants for revolving loan fund and key business grant and support small and new business development.
- 3 Access resources with Small Business Development Center to support all and new business in Buchanan County.
- 4 Seek and connect relationships between state, regional, city and county resources to support economic development initiatives.
- 5 Identify additional private and public partnerships that could bring in new dollars and investment into the county as part of Cedar Valley Regional Partnership.
- 6 Communicate and share resources from the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership to maximize local efforts and offer more tools for our businesses.



PRIES Enterprises completes their expansion

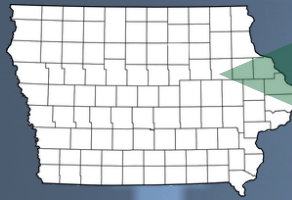
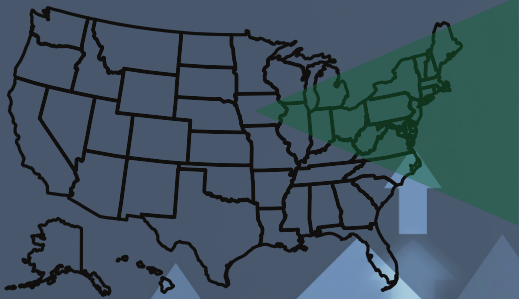


Allerton Brewing Co. receives their second RLF



Balanced Nutrition receives their Key Business Grant

TACTICS FOR SUCCESS



CONNECTING WITH BUSINESSES

Conducted investor and Buchanan County business visits throughout 2022 to connect with, understand, and address the needs of our businesses and industries.



BUCHANAN COUNTY CAREER FAIRS

Facilitated 2 successful Buchanan County career fairs in partnership with CoWork591, Independence Area Chamber of Commerce and Jesup Chamber of Commerce.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Represented Buchanan County at the following con. ed. conferences: Iowa Tourism, ILead, Dev2022, IEDA Downtown Conference, Cedar Valley Manufacturing Conference, Professional Developers of Iowa, & served as a panelist at the Iowa Rural Summit.





CATALYST COMPLETION

BCEDC was excited to see the completion of a Catalyst Grant in 2022. The grant was written and awarded in 2021. BCEDC Director, Lisa Kremer, wrote the grant for the city of Independence and STAN Development. STAN Development is the home of The Brick Kitchen, Circle 8 Cyclery, and Allerton Brewing Company's brewing station. Jim Thompson with Iowa Economic Development Authority was able to stop by, evaluate, and close out the grant in the fall of 2022.



KEY BUSINESS GRANT

Balanced Nutrition of Fairbank was granted our very first Key Business Grant. This is a BCEDC developed and administered grant strictly for Buchanan County.



HOUSING STUDY GRANT

BCEDC received grants from the USDA, MidAmerican Energy and the City of Independence to conduct a County Wide Housing Study to move development of housing forward within the County.

UPPER STORY HOUSING GRANT

BCEDC wrote and was awarded a \$600,000 Upper Story Grant for the City of Independence and the Hardware Hank building



In 2022, BCEDC worked with the Small Business Development Center on ten potential new businesses to include Balanced Nutrition of Fairbank.

CHILDCARE

BCEDC continues work with communities and industries on childcare initiatives and pursuing grant possibilities to further childcare opportunities within the county.





MANUFACTURING ROUNDTABLE

BCEDC worked on connecting area manufacturers through a Manufacturing Roundtable in conjunction with The Innovation Lab and CoWork591. Partnering with The Innovation Lab, future events will be held due to the success and community built during initial events.



GROWING LEADERS IN BUCHANAN CO.

Partnering with Hawkeye Community College, we hosted our largest Leadership Program to date. Topics included: Leading for Impact, Decision Making for Leaders, Giving Feedback Through Difficult Conversations to Resolve Conflict, Emergence - From Individual Contributor to Leader and on to LEAdERnship, Adulting Your Career and Professional Future, and You, The Leader



Throughout 2022, BCEDC provided four Lunch and Learn opportunities in partnership with Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach and Independence Area Chamber of Commerce. The Lunch and Learn events covered the topics of Time Management, Team Building, Customer Service, and Energy Vampires. We look forward to growing this opportunity in the future.



Each event consisted of a learning opportunity, catered lunch, and networking opportunities.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Buchanan County





SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING

In 2022, we completed a marketing study with McConville Consulting and a 5-year strategic plan with Peerman Group. An action plan was developed based on the results.

We redesigned our social media strategies to best fit Buchanan County and its communities, businesses and industries. In doing so, we highlighted each of our eleven communities throughout the year and created a blog to highlight key topics throughout the county.

A plan was created to better promote the opportunities we provide Buchanan County such as our Revolving Loan Fund and Key Business Grant. In addition, we were able to connect businesses not only through visits but through email, newsletters and social media to keep them up to date on all initiatives available including grants, classes, and other opportunities.



2022 FACEBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

- 53K+ Reach (up 20%)
- 1600+ Followers (up 95%)
- 4600+ Page Visits (up 184%)

Throughout 2022, we have witnessed much growth throughout the county and it has been a pleasure to be a part of it. Some of these include:

- Assisted with the development of a full-time tourism position in conjunction with with the Buchanan County Tourism board. We have continued to support the BCT board and newly hired director.
- Assisted with the Jesup Splash Pad Campaign on a CAT Grant Application.
- Worked to connect our area students with Buchanan County businesses and industries as well as connecting our industries to additional educational opportunities by adding a Hawkeye Community College representative to our Board of Directors.
- Assisted both large and small businesses develop within the county.
- Provided multiple services including free job listing on the CVRP Regional Job Board.
- Continued to list available buildings and land through LOIS on our website.
- Provided multiple resources for starting, expanding, and supporting businesses and industries available on our website.

LOIS

CVRP

CEDAR VALLEY
REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP
IOWA USA



FROM OUR DIRECTOR, LISA KREMER,

I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with the BCEDC Board of Directors, communities, businesses and people of Buchanan County for almost 7 years as we continue to carry out our mission of growth. What I consistently see throughout Buchanan County is communities and businesses working together for the benefit of all. Buchanan County is a beautiful and prosperous place to live work and play. The BCEDC Board of Directors, Director and Communication Manager will continue to work hard for Buchanan County as we all continue this forward momentum.



FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR, GERALD DENNIE,

2022 was a busy and exciting year for Buchanan County Economic Development. Under the superb leadership of Lisa Kremer and with the help of our Communication Manager, Molly Hocken, our Commission was able to secure different Housing Grants, Childcare Grants and able to use our Revolving Loan Fund and Key Business Grant. Lisa and Molly are very responsive to everyone needing assistance. We are very fortunate as a commission to have them both to help our cities, county and residents to continue to grow and prosper as we start 2023 and beyond.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

KEY BUSINESS GRANT

BCEDC WAS EXCITED TO ASSIST BALANCED FAIRBANK AS THEY BEGAN THEIR JOURNEY AS A NEW BUCHANAN COUNTY BUSINESS. WITH THEIR STARTUP THEY ADDED TO THE TAXBASE BY REMODELING AND ADDED JOBS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THEIR GROWTH!



CATALYST GRANT COMPLETION

BCEDC WAS EXCITED TO SEE THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST BUCHANAN COUNTY CATALYST GRANT, KINGS HALL IN INDEPENDENCE. WITH THIS GRANT A VACANT BUILDING WAS REFUBISHED, ADDING A NEW RETAIL BUSINESS AS WELL AS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO ADDITIONAL BUSINESSES TO GROW AND EXPAND.



REVOLVING LOAN FUND

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS BCEDC CAN DO IS SUPPORT EXISTING BUSINESSES AND HELP NEW BUSINESSES GET OFF THE GROUND. OUR RLF HELPS BOTH.



FACADE UPDATES

BCEDC WORKED HARD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BUSINESS OWNERS AND INRCOG ON THE CDBG FACADE GRANT FOR THE CITY. WE ARE NOW SEEING THE RESULTS OF THAT HARD WORK AS DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENCE BEGINS ITS TRANSFORMATION.



UPPER STORY HOUSING

IN ADDITION TO THE CDBG FACADE GRANT, INDEPENDENCE WAS A RECIPIENT OF THE UPPER STORY HOUSING GRANT FROM THE IEDA FOR THE HARDWARE HANK BUILDING. OWNERS ARE INVESTING IN THEIR BUILDINGS AND THE RESULTS ARE BEING SEEN BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.



