

BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Gaming Association

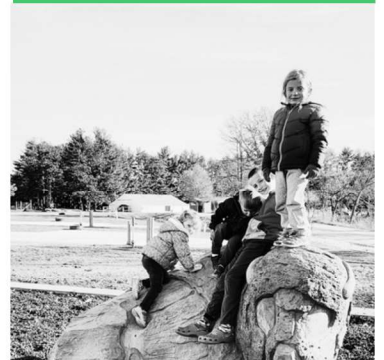


HELPING THE CEDAR VALLEY PROSPER

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 24

More than \$79 million reinvested into the Cedar Valley since 2008.



FY24 Board of Directors

The Black Hawk County Gaming Association's Board of Directors dedicate countless hours to ensure high-quality governance. With meticulous attention to each proposal received, the Board votes to approve transformative projects that elevate communities and enhance essential nonprofit services throughout the Cedar Valley.

All Board of Directors:

- Volunteer their time and receive no compensation for their dedicated service
- Reside in Black Hawk County
- Undergo a background check and are licensed by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission
- Bring diverse expertise and interests from across the county



Endya Johnson

Black Hawk County Gaming Association staff and Board of Directors wish to honor the memory of Endya Johnson. Endya served on the BHCGA Board from October 2020 until her passing in October 2023. Her dedication, vision, and passion profoundly impacted our organization and the community. Endya's contributions will be remembered and will continue to inspire the Board in future grantmaking decisions.



Alice Shirey
President



Kingsley Botchway
Vice President



Stacy Van Gorp
Secretary



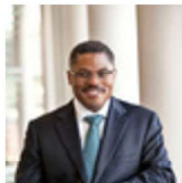
Jane Whittlesey
Treasurer



Eric Ritland
At-Large



Scott Becker



Russ Buchanan



Shawn Chestnut



Nick Evens



John Huff



Melanie Knipp



Chiquita Loveless



Ann Lyons



Selvedina Nuhanovic



Mike Tyer

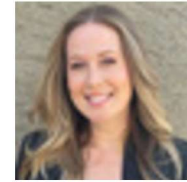
Letter from the Executive Director



Staff



Emily Hanson
Executive Director



Holly Althof
Project Coordinator

Fiscal Year 24 (FY24) marked the 16th year of grantmaking by the Black Hawk County Gaming Association (BHC GA) in the Cedar Valley. It was a year of change, challenges, and exciting growth, all aimed at making the Cedar Valley a better place to live, work, and play.

Our biggest change in FY24 was introducing the capacity-building grant opportunity. Building upon our strategic planning from FY23, the Board reaffirmed our commitment to large capital projects that transform places and spaces in Black Hawk County. However, they also recognized the importance of helping local nonprofits build capacity, thus strengthening organizations that provide critical community services. This led to a redefined focus that balances specificity with flexibility. With this clearer focus, the Board has a renewed commitment to evaluate proposals based on impact, need, feasibility, and regional benefit. Above all, BHC GA remains dedicated to "helping the Cedar Valley prosper."

In January, BHC GA staff moved across the river to the Union Block Building on 4th Street in downtown Waterloo. Sharing space with the R.J. McElroy Trust, the Otto Schoitz Foundation, and the Waterloo Community Foundation, we now have greater opportunities for collaboration and strategic contributions to the Cedar Valley. If you haven't visited our new space yet, please stop by for a tour!

As we wrap up FY24, I'm thrilled to announce that our partnership with the Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo allowed BHC GA to reinvest \$5,557,500 back into the Cedar Valley, bringing our 16-year total to over \$92 million. Previously, we reported only the total dollars reinvested through our competitive grant cycles. This year, we're proud to include funds strategically invested in downtown Waterloo through our partnership with the Waterloo Development Corporation, too.

Looking ahead to the next fiscal year, the Board of Directors is eager to continue forging collaborative partnerships with cities and nonprofits across the region. Serving Northeast Iowa is an incredible experience, and we look forward to continued growth and service for many years to come.



Impact Snapshot

\$5,557,500
Total Dollars Awarded in FY24

29
Awards Approved in FY24

\$79,511,432
Total BHC GA Dollars Reinvested into the Cedar Valley

\$3,991,500
Dollars Awarded from FY24 Competitive Cycles

21
Grants Approved from FY24 Competitive Cycles

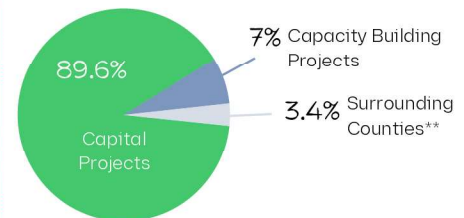
38
Total Number of Legacy Grants Funded by BHC GA*

24%
Percentage of Proposals That Received Funding

10
Number of Cities Awarded Funds in FY24

689
Total Number of Grants Awarded Since 2008

Where did our funding dollars go in FY24?



Historical Breakdown by City/Gov't, Nonprofit, and Outside of Black Hawk County Grants



*Legacy Grants are funded projects over \$500k

**Surrounding counties include: Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy, Tama

FY24 Grants Awarded

Congratulations to all of our grant partners this past fiscal year! The Black Hawk County Gaming Association Board of Directors selected the following proposals during one of our three four-month long grant cycles between July 2023 and June 2024.

City / Organization	Project	\$ Amount
Waterloo Development Corporation	Hard Court Tournament Center	2,500,000
City of Cedar Falls	Community Natatorium	500,000
House of Hope	Empowerment Center	500,000
Americans for Independent Living	Veterans Resource Center	100,000
Amani Community Services	Center for Peace and Healing	50,000
Sumner Daycare and Learning Center	Phase 2 of Solving Daycare Desert	50,000
Northeast Iowa Food Bank	Heavy Lifting	39,000
Operation Threshold	Data System Update	30,000
Waverly Public Library	Make Room for Renewal	25,000
Independence Parks and Rec	Complex Infield Turf Project	25,000
Embracing Exploration	Black Excellence Leadership & HBCU Tour Website	25,000
City of Dysart	Public Works Maintenance Shop	25,000
City of Winthrop	Community Park Shelter	25,000
Independence Area Food Pantry	Relocation	15,000
The Job Foundation	Strengthening Development Process	15,000
Try Pie Bakery	Learning Space Expansion	15,000
Union Community School District	Dysart Elementary School Playground	15,000
City of Greene	Fire Protection Equipment and Radio Upgrade	10,000
City of Fredericksburg	Outdoor Pickleball Courts	10,000
Plum Creek Art Center	Art Gallery Façade	10,000
Waterloo Community Schools Foundation	5-Year Strategic Planning	7,500

TOTAL: \$3,991,500

Each grant cycle includes four stages: Letter of Intent, Application, Evaluation, and Decision. To learn more about our grant cycles in FY25, visit our website.

www.bhcgga.org



Award Spotlight

Waterloo Development Corporation - \$2.5 Million

Hard Court Tournament Center

Building on the momentum of the sports recreation economy in the Cedar Valley and Waterloo's 2030 Strategic Plan, the Waterloo Development Corporation is leading the Hard Courts Tournament Center project. This state-of-the-art facility will be located in downtown Waterloo, near Tech Works and John Deere.

The tournament center will feature 8 basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts within a versatile fieldhouse space that will have the flexibility to be used for wrestling, pickleball, gymnastics, cheerleading, and other activities and events. Upon completion, it will host tournaments for 50 - 100 teams every weekend, providing a significant boost to the Cedar Valley economy. Additionally, the center will serve as a practice hub for club teams and community sports leagues and offer other rentable spaces.

Beyond its economic benefits, the Hard Courts Tournament Center will expand access to youth sports and promote equity, making a positive impact on the community.



City of Cedar Falls - \$500,000

Community Natatorium

The Community Natatorium is an exciting collaboration between the City of Cedar Falls, the Cedar Falls Community School District, and Jump In!. Located next to the new Cedar Falls High School, this facility will serve as a premier venue for regional swim events and various aquatic activities. Featuring a 10-lane indoor pool and a separate 4-lane multi-purpose pool, the Natatorium will replace the aging pools at Peet and Holmes Junior Highs, providing a much-needed upgrade for the entire Cedar Valley community.



City of Fredericksburg - \$10,000

Outdoor Pickleball Courts

With pickleball rapidly gaining popularity, the City of Fredericksburg converted unused tennis courts into two regulation-sized pickleball courts. This exciting new addition to the town provides residents of all ages with a place to socialize and enjoy a fun game of pickleball whenever they want!

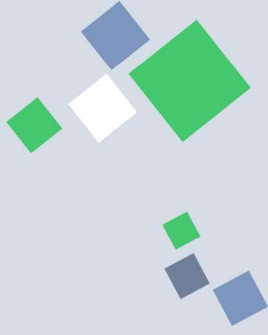


Photos are renderings of the proposed Hard Courts Tournament Center the Cedar Falls Natatorium, and may not exactly represent the final project.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank - \$39,000

Heavy Lifting Project

With nearly 700,000 pounds of food moving through the Northeast Iowa Food Bank each month, having sufficient equipment for efficient distribution is crucial. With this funding, the Food Bank has purchased two forklifts and additional equipment needed in the warehouse. These new tools will help volunteers and staff distribute food more effectively to those in need, advancing the organization's mission to end food insecurity.



Independence Area Food Pantry - \$15,000

Relocation

To meet the increasing demand for meals in Buchanan County, the Independence Area Food Pantry required more space. With the help of this grant, the pantry relocated to a larger building, which has been retrofitted to enhance its efficiency. The additional space not only improves service but also allows for more volunteers, extended operating hours, and increased accessibility for the public.



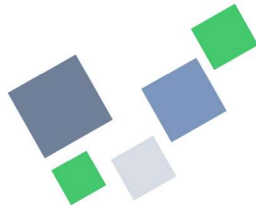
Union Community School District - \$15,000

Dysart-Geneseo Elementary Playground Renovation

Great news for Dysart-Geneseo Elementary School students—they're getting a new and improved playground! The new structure will feature a ramp for more inclusive accessibility, climbing equipment, and interactive pieces for sensory and adaptive play. Located near the soccer fields and Dysart Aquatic Center, this playground will be enjoyed not just by Union Community School District students, but also by visitors attending soccer games and swim meets.



Capacity-Building Grants



In the third and final grant cycle of FY24, we introduced our new Capacity-Building Grant opportunity. After months of strategic reflection, the BHC GA Board of Directors decided to add this grant to help nonprofit organizations in Black Hawk County strengthen their skills, processes, and resources, ultimately enhancing their ability to serve the Cedar Valley.

While capacity-building can be challenging to define, our Board is committed to funding projects that elevate an organization's operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational effectiveness.

We're excited to announce the following projects as the first recipients of BHC GA Capacity-Building grants!

Waterloo Schools Foundation - \$7,500 5-Year Strategic Planning

The Waterloo Community Schools Foundation (WCSF) is dedicated to one mission: funding, inspiring, and promoting educational opportunities for all Waterloo schools. To support the district's goals of building educational excellence and pride, the WCSF was awarded funding to hire a nonprofit strategic planner. This upcoming strategic planning session will map out the next five years of fundraising for the new Waterloo High School and set priorities for district-wide goals and initiatives.



Embracing Exploration - \$25,000

Black Excellence Leadership Academy
& HBCU Tour Website

Embracing Exploration, an organization in Waterloo, introduces Black students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through campus tours across the U.S. To help expand its reach, the BHC GA Board of Directors has awarded Embracing Exploration funding for a new website. Once the site is up and running, students and their families will be able to sign up online for the Black Excellence Leadership Academy, a six-month engagement program that includes a campus tour. They'll also be able to experience virtual HBCU tours and explore other educational opportunities focused on Black history and excellence.



Operation Threshold - \$30,000

Data System Update

Operation Threshold recently received funding to replace their outdated client data management system with a new one that aligns with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' updated tracking and reporting requirements. This upgrade will enable Operation Threshold staff to better serve their clients by allowing them to review each household's situation more holistically.

Legacy Grants

Projects \$500,000 and over are part of the Black Hawk County Gaming Association’s Legacy Grant Program. Each of these significant investments has played a crucial role in enhancing our local communities.

Project	Amount
Cedar Valley Sportsplex	\$8.0 M
City of Waterloo Gates and Byrnes Parks Transformation	\$6.5 M
Waterloo Development Corporation - Hard Courts Facility*	\$3.8 M
Riverloop Expo	\$2.8 M
Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity Walnut Neighborhood	\$1.9 M
City of Waterloo 4th Street Bridge Restoration*	\$1.8 M
City of Cedar Falls River Recreation	\$1.5 M
City of Waterloo Jefferson/Commercial Streetscape*	\$1.4 M
YWCA Building Renovations	\$1.2 M
Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center	\$1.2 M
E911 Black Hawk County Radio Project	\$1.0 M
Grout Museum - Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum	\$1.0 M
Northeast Iowa Food Bank New Facility	\$1.0 M
City of Waterloo Public Works Building	\$1.0 M
Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller Adult Education Center	\$1.0 M
Waterloo Riverfront Stadium Improvements*	\$930,000
Operation Threshold New Facility	\$850,000
Mark’s Park and Amphitheater	\$823,000
City of Waterloo Convention Center	\$820,000
Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center	\$750,000
City of Waterloo University Avenue Enhancements	\$750,000
La Porte City Main Street Redevelopment	\$750,000
City of Cedar Falls Public Safety Building	\$750,000
City of Cedar Falls Streetscape Phase 1	\$743,000
Byrnes Park Drainage Project	\$642,000
Young Arena Improvements	\$600,000
Waterloo Lincoln Park Improvements	\$600,000
City of Cedar Falls Details of the District Phase 2	\$574,800
Build Our Ballparks Cedar River Youth Sports Complex	\$500,000
Waterloo Center for the Arts Youth Pavilion	\$500,000
UNI Dome New Turf	\$500,000
UNI Scoreboard	\$500,000
City of Cedar Falls/UNI/Cedar Falls Schools Tennis Complex	\$500,000
City of Waterloo Boat House Enhancements	\$500,000
People’s Community Health Clinic Capital Project	\$500,000
Hawkeye Community College Smart Automatic Training Alliance	\$500,000
Center City of Cedar Falls - Community Natatorium	\$500,000
House of Hope - Empowerment Center	\$500,000

TOTAL
LEGACY
GRANT
FUNDING
SINCE
2008
\$46.8M



**Making the
Cedar Valley a
better place to
live, work, &
play.**

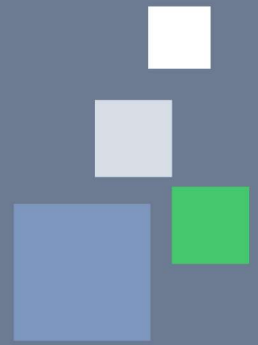


*Funding awarded through competitive grant cycle and/or Downtown Waterloo Reserves.

\$46.8 million

Outgoing Board Member Gifts

As a token of appreciation for their dedicated service on the Black Hawk County Gaming Association Board, outgoing members are able to make a grant to a cause of their choice. In FY24, these departing board members made a significant impact by contributing to several outstanding organizations in the Cedar Valley.



Alice Shirey

Served on the BHCGA Board from FY19-FY24

Jesse Cosby Center - \$2,500



Ann Lyons

Served on the BHCGA Board from FY19-FY24

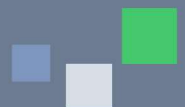
Cedar Falls Community Theatre - \$2,500



Nick Evens

Served on the BHCGA Board from FY22-FY24

Cedar Falls Community Schools Foundation - \$1,000



Statement of Financial Position

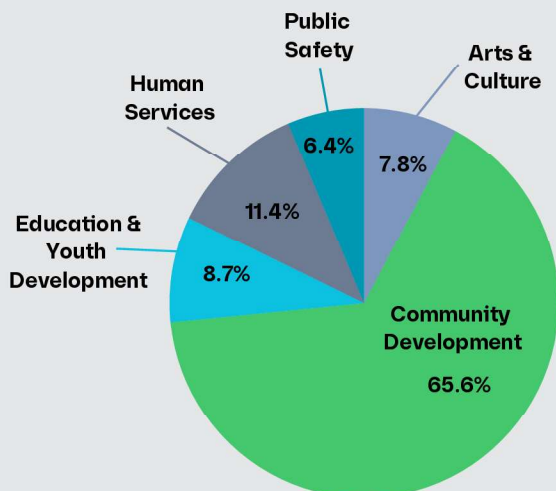
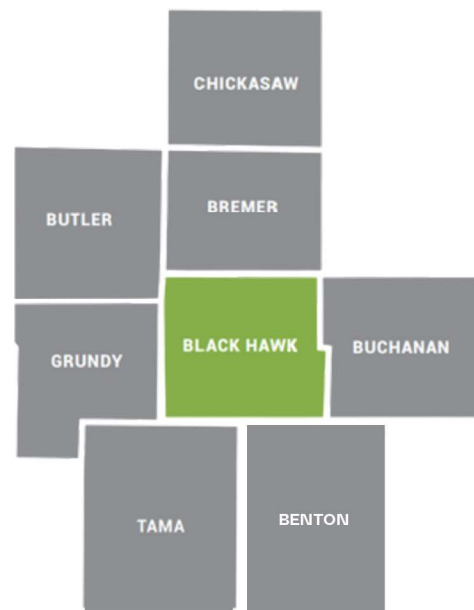
Since its inception in 2007, Black Hawk County Gaming Association has awarded over 79 million dollars to 689 projects in 8 counties and 55 cities.

Assets FY24

Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,683,810
Certificates of Deposit	\$13,687,970
Interest Receivable	\$683,246
Accounts Receivable	\$91,740
Net Leasehold Improvements	\$27,078
Right-of-use - Operating Lease	\$99,998
Total Assets	\$16,590,596

Liabilities & Net Assets (Deficit) FY24

Grants Payable	\$8,178,757
Operating Lease Liability	\$99,998
Total Liabilities	\$8,278,755
Net Assets, unrestricted	\$4,011,232
Board Designated Reserve - WDC	\$4,300,609
Total Net Assets, unrestricted	\$8,311,841
Total Liabilities & Assets	\$16,590,596



Breakdown of Awards

FY08 - FY24

AVERAGE
GRANT
SIZE
\$115,401

Audit provided
8/2024
by
BERGANKDV



BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Gaming Association



HELPING THE CEDAR VALLEY PROSPER



HELPING THE CEDAR VALLEY PROSPER

114 E. 4th Street, Suite 300

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

www.bhcgai.org



Scan the QR code to explore grant writing resources, view community plans, and learn about our grant processes.