

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Hardin County Endowment Foundation Announces Grant Guidelines

For the fifth year, the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation (HCCEF) is pleased to offer local social-profit organizations the opportunity to apply for grant funding. Grants are awarded each year to programs that address community needs and enhance the quality of life for Hardin County citizens. “This year over \$96,000 will be given out in grants,” says Kristi Harris, HCCEF Grant Chair.

Social-profit agencies, 107b units of government, or other qualifying charitable organizations operating for the benefit of Hardin County may apply. Grant dollars awarded should be expended within 9 months of the award date, unless a written request for an extension has been approved by the HCCEF board. Grant extensions are considered on a case by case basis.

The 2010 deadline for HCCEF annual community grants cycle is Wednesday, February 3. Grant recipients will be announced in early April.

Since 2005, over \$273,500 has been given to 97 projects, impacting and elevating the quality of life for Hardin County citizens. Grant awards are given to projects in six focus areas: Arts & Culture; Health & Human Resources; Community Betterment; Recreation & Environment; Education; and Youth Development.

This year a new focus area has been added to the grant application, noted Harris. Grants in the area of Economic Development and Entrepreneurship are being encouraged.

Guidelines used by HCCEF include:

- The maximum grant is \$10,000, not to exceed 50% of total project cost.
- Grant requests may be wholly or partially funded.
- Multiple grants are not given to the same organization in any one year, and new grants are not given to organizations with open grants not yet completed.
- Projects funded address significant community issues, present innovative, creative and practical proposals which build on community strengths; develop the leadership potential of the community; involve local people in the planning and implementation of the program, and impact a significant number of county residents.

- HCCEF does not fund ongoing project support; current operating expenses; annual and capital campaigns; budget deficits; reduction of debt; completed projects; endowments; individuals; recurring funds; religious purposes (this does not exclude grants to religious organizations for non-religious purposes). HCCEF also does not fund projects for statues, memorials and plaques.

Grant applications are available on the following websites: www.donateiowa.org/hardin or www.extension.iastate.edu/hardin/. Paper copies of the grant application are available at the Hardin County Extension Office in Iowa Falls as well as at each city hall in Hardin County.

Two grant workshops will be held Tuesday, January 5th, at the Hardin County Extension Office in Iowa Falls at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 7, at the Eldora Public Library at 6:30 p.m. All social-profit organizations interested in submitting a grant application to HCCEF are encouraged to attend. At the end of the meeting, workshop participants have the opportunities to visit individually with an HCCEF board member about their organization's specific grant proposal.

Funding for grants is made possible by the Iowa General Assembly. In 2004, the Iowa Legislature passed several bills to encourage foundation building and community-based philanthropy. Among those measures was H.F. 2032, which provided that 85 non-gaming county-wide community foundations would receive 8 tenths of 1% of the state's gross gaming tax revenues.

For further information on HCCEF and the 2010 grant opportunities, contact Kristi Harris, Grant Chair at 641-648-3475 or e-mail at kjmharris@msn.com.

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