

Main Street Challenge Grants Announced

The Department of Economic Development announced that \$822,000 in HUD Challenge Grants will be awarded to 14 Iowa communities through a fund administered by the Iowa Downtown Resource Center and Main Street Iowa. The funding will be distributed in the form of grants, training, and technical assistance to the selected Main Street programs.

The grants will benefit local improvement projects, including remodeling, installing a geothermal system, and converting an old post office into a winery. The total combined capital investment is nearly \$10.4 million.

The challenge grants have now been awarded to 69 projects in 33 different Main Street communities. Matching funds for the program are provided through the state's economic development budget, and the program is funded through an appropriation from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Photos of recipients can be seen at www.iowalifechanging.com under "Recent News" on Wednesday January 27, 2010.

The 2010 list includes the following projects:

Dubuque Main Street	Riverworks Bldg. Main St.
Main Street West Union	North Vine St.
Main Street West Branch	Historic Post Office W. Main St.
State Center Develop. Ass.	City Hall E. Main St.
Story City Chamber	Cook Family Dentistry, Broad St.
Cedar Falls Main Street	Bruhn Bldg. Main St.
Bloomfield Main Street	L. H. Leon Bldg., Washington St.
Hamilton County S.E.E.D.	Shorthorn Bldg., Main St.
Main Street Waterloo	Montgomery Ward Bldg., Commercial St.
Main Street Washington	Bodywrx Fitness Center, Iowa Ave.
Woodbine Main Street	Watson Gas Station, Walker St.
Main Street Mason City	J.E.E. Markley Bldg., Federal St.
Cedar Rapids Czech Village-New Bohemia	Suchy Bldg., 3 rd St. SE
Davenport Hilltop Campus Village	McButts Tavern, Harrison St.