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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sara Swenson, Communications Coordinator
Dakota County Community Development Agency
(651) 675-4434

CDA Awards over \$1 million in Redevelopment Grants

The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) Board of Commissioners recently approved \$1,055,000 in grants to help five cities with their redevelopment efforts. The grants are made possible through the CDA's Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program which was created in 2006 as a way to encourage community revitalization by providing project grants up to \$250,000 and planning grants up to \$15,000 to cities in Dakota County.

Cities receiving project grants include:

Apple Valley - \$250,000 to relocate underground utilities within a public street to provide for a future office expansion and construction of a training facility by Uponor, one of the city's largest manufacturing companies.

Burnsville - \$250,000 for soil correction at the former AAA site located in the Heart of the City redevelopment area. This is the final parcel in the area to be redeveloped and will provide land for a future public parking deck and for other development opportunities.

Hastings - \$250,000 to fund infrastructure improvements in the Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment that will support future planned projects on surrounding property to include park improvements, a Farmer's Market, commercial space and housing.

Lakeville - \$200,000 for street and infrastructure improvements for Market Place Park that will be the city's first downtown public parking lot in support of commercial redevelopment and special events. The area is located on Holyoke Avenue and 208th Street.

Rosemount - \$65,000 to assist in the demolition of five homes that will help improve parking and storm water management around St. Joseph's Church. The building is being renovated to complement the new county library as a downtown gathering space and may ultimately serve as a cultural and arts center. The five homes have already been voluntarily acquired by the city.

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Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program

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Overall, these five projects were awarded \$1,015,000 and the grant funding will leverage nearly \$13 million (a 13:1 match) in additional investment. These redevelopment projects are expected to attract new businesses to the communities creating over 60 new jobs as well as to retain existing businesses that currently provide over 250 jobs.

“These projects, when completed, will be an asset to the communities and it’s exciting to be a partner in these redevelopment efforts,” stated Mark Ulfers, CDA executive director. “The CDA remains committed to providing local financial resources in order to leverage additional investment to address the redevelopment needs in the county.”

"The grant funding from the Dakota County CDA will allow the City of Lakeville to construct a public parking lot and streetscaped area that will become a focal point and public gathering place in our downtown," said Community and Economic Development Director David Olson. "The project will provide a permanent location for our Farmer's Market and other special events and will allow for the redevelopment of an underdeveloped site that will result in a new commercial building for the area."

Cities receiving redevelopment planning grants include:

Apple Valley - \$15,000 to study transit oriented design along Cedar Avenue and determine how existing land uses can work with anticipated improvements being planned in the corridor. The study will provide guidance and standards for the city for future planning proposals.

Burnsville - \$15,000 to assist with the implementation of a Sustainability Plan which will apply environmental standards throughout city departments.

Rosemount - \$10,000 to study access around the city’s Central Park which will determine ways to make the park more visible and allow for better parking and access to the site.

“The City of Burnsville is working to enhance economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment,” stated Environmental Specialist Sue Bast. “The \$15,000 planning grant from the CDA for the city’s Sustainability Plan will help us accomplish that goal.”

To date the Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program has awarded over \$1.9 million. The program supports the CDA’s mission “to improve the lives of Dakota County residents through affordable housing and community development”. For more information about the CDA visit www.dakotacda.org.

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