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Over \$800,000 Awarded to Dakota County Cities for Redevelopment Efforts

Recently, the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) awarded seven cities grants totaling \$828,500 to help with their redevelopment efforts. Annually cities can apply for funding up to \$15,000 in planning grants and up to \$250,000 for project grants through the CDA's locally funded Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program.

"Each of the following cities is striving to enhance the quality of life for its residents through redevelopment plans," said Mark Ulfers, CDA executive director. "During these tough economic times, financial aid of this nature is crucial to help cities create new jobs and attract new businesses."

Cities receiving planning grants include:

Farmington – \$7,500 to assist with a planning study to establish development and redevelopment policies to maintain and/or restore natural resources through a land use assessment model and a green community infrastructure plan.

Inver Grove Heights – \$15,000 to fund a redevelopment plan for the Concord Boulevard Neighborhood to include balancing differing land uses, effective road access and attractive street frontage.

Lakeville – \$15,000 for a planning study to enhance accessibility through a parking plan for the Ben Franklin block, design streetscape improvements for the Pioneer Plaza area, and incorporation of walkable connections between Pioneer Plaza, Market Plaza and the downtown as a whole.

"The CDA Redevelopment Incentive Grant is critical to considering the future of the historic Concord Neighborhood, located along the Mississippi River," stated Tom Link, City of Inver Grove Heights community development director. "The grant will fund a planning study that will evaluate the impact of the recent public improvements in the

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Redevelopment Incentive Grants

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neighborhood, the future expectations and desires of the neighborhood's residents and businesses, and actions that can be taken to encourage redevelopment and economic development to preserve and maintain the neighborhood's unique character.”

Cities receiving project grants include:

Burnsville – \$250,000 to acquire properties at the intersection of County Road 5 and Highway 13 which will be demolished to allow for the construction of an overpass that is the first step in redeveloping the Minnesota River Quadrant area.

Eagan – \$250,000 to demolish eight properties in the Cedar Grove core area that will contributing to the overall redevelopment plan which encompasses 65 acres. The Cedar Grove area is being redeveloped with commercial, office, and a variety of residential properties, including supportive youth, family, and senior housing units.

Rosemount – \$41,000 to fund the redevelopment of the streetscape along 145th Street West, enhancing both the physical and visual connections throughout the city's main streets and completing one aspect of the Downtown Redevelopment Implementation plan.

South St. Paul – \$250,000 to assist in the creation of a methane mitigation system to eliminate the buildup of methane gases in three future office buildings totaling 315,111 square feet. The office buildings are part of the Bridge Point Redevelopment project which is expected to create 440 new jobs.

“The Dakota County CDA is an important partner in the Eagan's efforts to bring new vitality to the Cedar Grove Redevelopment District,” stated Tom Hedges, City of Eagan administrator. “Through the CDA's Redevelopment Incentive Grant program, Eagan is demolishing the remaining buildings in the redevelopment area's core, making it ready for new construction to help the city's vision for the area come to reality.”

To date, the Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program has awarded over \$2.5 million to 13 projects and six plans. The program is driven by 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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