

Iowa State Department Resources

The Iowa Great Places program encourages communities to evaluate and enhance the following assets during the visioning process: arts and culture, historic fabric, architecture, natural environment, housing options, amenities, entrepreneurial incentives for business development, and diversity. This toolkit compiles state, regional, and federal resources which may provide technical assistance or funding in achieving the community's envisioned goals.

Tools

Arts & Culture

- **Art Project Grants**
[Art Project Grants](#) create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Iowa by investing in projects that positively impact the vitality of the arts in the state, demonstrate public value, and support Iowa Arts Council funding priorities.
- **Art Builds Communities Grant**
This [grant program](#) supports an arts project that addresses a civic challenge facing your community in partnership with Iowa State University, University of Iowa or University of Northern Iowa.
- **School Arts Experience**
This [grant program](#) provides support for a field trip to an arts event, an in-school artist residency or equipment for your arts classroom.
- **Capacity Building Grant**
This [grant program](#) provides general operating support for nonprofit arts and culture organizations with budgets under \$150,000.

Housing Options

- **Housing Tax Credit Program**
The [incentive program](#) encourages property owners to invest in the development of rental housing for individuals and families with fixed or limited incomes.

Diversity

- **Cultural Heritage Project Grant**
This [grant program](#) supports a community project that creates jobs for Iowans and provides access to a cultural heritage experience.

Historic Fabric

- **Main Street Iowa**
The mission of the [Main Street Iowa Program](#) is to improve the social and economic well-being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets and character of their historic commercial district by utilizing the Main Street Approach®.
- **Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP)**
HRDP helps preserve, conserve, interpret, enhance, and educate the public about Iowa's historical assets. The [Historical Resource Development Program](#) provides funding for documentary collections, historic preservation and museums.
- **National Trust Preservation Funds (NTPF)**
[Grants](#) from NTPF are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects.

Natural Environment

- **Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)**
Housed within the Department of Natural Resources, [REAP's](#) purpose is to improve the quality of life for all Iowans with better soil and water quality; added outdoor recreation opportunities; sustained economic development; enhanced knowledge and understanding of our ecological and environmental assets; and historic preservation.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCP)**
Housed within the Department of Natural Resources, the [LWCF](#) is a federally funded grant program. The grant matches up to 50% of the cost for outdoor recreation and land acquisition. This grant is available for Iowa's cities and counties where it provides the chance for communities to increase their outdoor recreation resources.
- **Derelict Building Grant Program**
Housed within the Department of Natural Resources, this [competitive program](#) provides cash-match funding to rural communities for removal of environmental hazards posed by abandoned commercial and public buildings. Funding targets asbestos inspections, abatements, deconstruction, and renovation activities.

Entrepreneurial Incentives for Business Development

- **Iowa Tourism Grant Program**
The purpose of the [Iowa Tourism Grant Program](#) is to promote tourism in Iowa by funding tourism-related marketing initiatives and meetings, events and professional development efforts that benefit both local economies around the state and the state's economy.

Architecture

- **State and Federal Historic Tax Credits**
[Tax credits and exemptions](#) are available to encourage the reuse of historic properties, while retaining historic character-defining features.

Amenities

- **Federal and State Recreational Trails**

These [grant programs](#), implemented by the Iowa Department of Transportation, provide funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.

- **Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grants**

Enhance Iowa, through the Iowa Economic Development Authority, provides [grant funds](#) to assist projects that provide recreational, cultural, entertainment and educational attractions, as well as sports tourism.