

# RDA awards \$2.27 million in fall grants to support Quad Cities community projects

The Regional Development Authority approved 69 fall grants totaling \$2.27 million, supporting housing, childcare, mental health and other Quad Cities priorities.

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DAVENPORT, Iowa — The Regional Development Authority (RDA) has awarded more than \$2.27 million in fall grant funding to support dozens of projects across the Quad Cities, emphasizing efforts in housing, child care, mental health and other community priorities, the organization announced Wednesday.

The RDA Board met Nov. 12 at Rhythm City Casino Resort and approved 69 grants totaling \$2,278,448. The fall cycle includes three Transformational Initiative awards, five multicyle payments for previous commitments, 60 new general community grants and one emergency grant for hunger relief.

This year marks the debut of the RDA's Transformational Initiatives program — a three-year grant model designed to tackle large-scale regional challenges. The program prioritizes affordable housing, child care, mental health, economic development, life-skills training, safety-net services and violence prevention.

“As we look for ways to meaningfully ‘move the needle’ on important issues, this new Transformational Initiatives grant opportunity will help us to support larger efforts that make a meaningful difference,” RDA President and CEO Matt Mendenhall said in a release.

Three projects received the inaugural Transformational Initiative awards: Quad Cities Housing Council for its Collaborative Signature Housing initiative; Project Potential to support development of a nonprofit-sector human-services campus; and River Bend Food Bank to accelerate progress on three strategic goals aimed at addressing hunger across the region.

The Transformational Initiative opportunity will be offered once per year. RDA leaders plan to refine the process based on lessons from the pilot year, with the next round expected to be announced on the organization's website by the end of May 2026.

Along with the new Transformational awards, RDA will distribute \$390,500 in multicyle payments to several ongoing projects. Recipients include the Figge Art Museum for its “While Building Light” sculpture; the City of Bettendorf for The Landing Pool & Rink; the City of

Davenport for Main Street Landing; the Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI) for operational support; and NAMI Greater Mississippi Valley for operational support during its Trauma Informed Care Consortium transition.

The RDA, governed by a 17-member board of local leaders, awarded 143 grants totaling \$4.43 million during the 2025 calendar year. The board evaluates applications based on collaboration, funding leverage and clarity of community impact.