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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RDA BOARD AWARDS GRANTS FOR SPRING 2019

Davenport, IA – On Thursday, May 16, the Regional Development Authority (RDA) Board awarded 50 grants totaling \$1,207,453 to area nonprofit, civic, and governmental organizations – bringing the total grant dollars awarded by RDA since 1991 to nearly \$70 million. For this spring 2019 granting cycle, economic development projects received 45% of the total funds, proposals for arts, culture, and education purposes received 27%, and human service projects received 28%. Economic development projects included capital projects for St. Ambrose University (\$40,000) and Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (\$50,000) that serve both economic development and educational purposes.

Over \$490,000 went to capital campaign and building improvement projects that will benefit the public. This included multi-cycle payments for the Downtown Davenport Public Library renovation (\$50,000), a new broadcast tower for WQPT- Public Television (\$50,000), and wetlands development with the Nahant Marsh (\$50,000) – as well as grants to safety and security projects for Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley (\$11,500), Café on Vine (\$7,235), Family Resources (\$16,750), and Friendly House (\$15,250).

A total of \$240,000 was awarded to support safety net services. This includes Bethany for Children & Families (\$25,000), Churches United (\$10,000), Iowa Dental Foundation for their Mission of Mercy event (\$10,000), Coats for Kids led by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Association (\$15,000), River Bend Food Bank (\$51,855), the Scott County Housing Council (\$100,000 paid over 2 cycles), and the Supplemental Emergency Assistance Program (SEAP – \$30,000). These grants help to increase access to food, housing, mental health care, oral health care, and clothing.

More than one-third of the total distributions for this cycle (\$483,000) went to fulfill prior commitments made to 10 organizations as part of multi-cycle awards for larger projects, including the Figge Art Museum for a sustainability initiative, QC Symphony for its Master Works programming, the Bi-State Regional Commission for its 2020 U.S. Census preparation, and Alternatives for Older Adults to support the development of a more comprehensive regional information and referral system.

“The RDA Board also reserved dollars to respond quickly to flood relief needs. We are participating in current community discussions about what will be needed – in the short term and long term by residents, nonprofits, and public spaces. It’s powerful to see how many people are stepping up to help and encouraging to see the careful planning for how to use relief dollars,” said Matt Mendenhall, RDA President/CEO. Flood relief grant decisions will be decided by the RDA Board of Directors and announced to the public like all RDA granting activities.

Finally, RDA will present information about new grant criteria on Thursday, May 30 at 8am and then again at 4pm. The purpose of the presentation is communicate improvements in how RDA will make grant decisions starting in the spring of 2020. This presentation, held at the Rhythm City Casino, will last no longer than an hour. This is open to the public.

A complete list of all grant recipients and amounts is included with this release.

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