Business Improvement Grant Program 2017

In 2013, ACDC introduced the Business Improvement Grant, designed to encourage development and growth of Atchison County businesses. In its first four years, this grant program has yielded some impressive numbers:

- **109 projects**, including infrastructure upgrades, façade/parking facelifts, and new equipment
- **$99,000** in county tax dollars reimbursed to businesses that invested in themselves
- **AT LEAST $170,000** spent locally

In 2017, ACDC is offering the Basic grant, which is a matching grant that will reimburse 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum of $1,000.

Applications are now being accepted **VIA MAIL ONLY**. Requests will be considered in the order they are received and will be awarded throughout the year until the $10,000 that was designated for this year’s program has been allotted.

Grant information is available on ACDC's website ([www.atchisoncounty.org/grant](http://www.atchisoncounty.org/grant)) or you can contact the office and request to have it mailed or emailed to you. Please contact ACDC Staff (660-744-6562; atchdev@rpt.coop) with questions.

Community Business Lunches in March!

Each spring, ACDC hosts complimentary lunches around the county that provide updates on current projects. **Please join us** at any of the following locations!

**Wednesdays, Noon-1 pm:**
- **Tarkio**: March 15  
  Tarkio Nutrition Center
- **Rock Port**: March 22  
  RP Country Club
- **Fairfax**: March 29  
  Fire Station Community Room

Please **RSVP** to the ACDC office (660-744-6562 or atchdev@rpt.coop) indicating which lunch(es!) you plan to attend.
About ACDC

ACDC was organized in the 1970s as a volunteer board. Since 1995, ACDC’s board and full-time staff have worked to improve the business climate in Atchison County. Today, ACDC staff provides support to community organizations and collaborates with county, regional and state groups to better our county.

The Mission of ACDC: to initiate, stimulate and facilitate opportunity in Atchison County through economic and community development.

ACDC Membership...

THANK YOU to more than 90 of you who have sent in your 2017 membership dues. We are predominantly able to do what we do because we are funded by a 1/4-cent sales tax, but your membership dues enable us to stretch those dollars even further.

Your membership support helps us to
→ assist local youth in their pursuit of education that will enable them to be productive here in Atchison County,
→ provide high school students with opportunities to connect with local employers,
→ assist businesses through our local Business Improvement Grant Program,
→ encourage our citizens to Shop Atchison County, and
→ support worthwhile community efforts.

In 2017, we will do everything we can to improve our home county, and we will continue celebrating all the ways #ACisAwesome. Thank you for your support!

Great Northwest Day 2017 Recap

GNW Day 2017 drew more than 300 residents from 19 northwest Missouri counties to Jefferson City to showcase our region on January 31 and February 1. This year’s priorities focused on creation of a rural policy office; investment in infrastructure to include broadband, transportation, water and wastewater; and investment in education, including both PreK-12 and higher education.

AC attendees visited Senator Dan Hegeman and Representative Allen Andrews at the Capitol and joined with the GNW delegation for an introduction on the House floor. Sheriff Dennis Martin lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem at the kick-off luncheon. Monica Bailey, ACDC Director and GNW Day Steering Committee member, coordinated the afternoon roundtable session, which included overviews of the GNW Day priority selection process, Certified Work Ready Communities, and Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri’s Communities of Excellence 2026 initiative.

The evening Mardi Gras event, designed to educate attendees about northwest Missouri, hosted 10 Senators, 90 Representatives, and more than 100 staffers and state office staff from over 25 departments.

Continued next page
Job Shadowing Days - March 29 & April 19

Raise your hand if you’ve heard (or felt) either of these two concerns:
1) There’s ‘nothing’ here for our kids. How can we get them to choose this place as their home?
2) So many of our skilled and essential business owners will be retiring in the next 5-10-15 years. How will we replace them?

At ACDC, we track existing businesses as best we can. Some of them are seasonal or side businesses, but we know that there are AT LEAST 300 places in this county where people are employed or self-employed. We need to share this information every chance we get, and more importantly, our kids need to SEE it!

Last year we coordinated a job shadowing day for AC seniors. This spring we’re expanding this program to two days, one for seniors and one for juniors. We’re working with our excellent high school counselors to match interested businesses with students who want to learn more about what they do. The goal is to get these students out into their county to learn a little something about what exists in their own backyard.

Thank you in advance to those of you who will be hosting our amazing students. Thank you for giving them your time, attention and guidance. Thank you most of all for showing them that Atchison County is a place where they can be successful in all aspects of their lives.

Thoughts from your ACDC Director…

I recently read a few quotes that, while intended for personal reflection, were actually pretty insightful in terms of the future of our county.

You attract what you are, not what you want.
If you want great, then be great.
-Unknown

IS this county great?
If so, talk about it.
If not, why not, and what can you do to fix it?

Imagine if we obsessed about the things we love about ourselves.
-Unknown

What do you focus on when you look around our county - things that make you crazy or things you love about this place? How would your perspective change if you obsessed about all the ways #ACisAwesome?

What we see depends mainly on what we look for.
-John Lubbock

Are you looking for the good here? Do you watch for and call attention to excellent customer service? Do you look for kids practicing good sportsmanship and exhibiting notable work ethic? Do you watch for community groups working together, or businesses doing something to better serve you?

Negativity begets negativity; optimism is contagious. Each is incredibly powerful. Guess which one results in a place worth celebrating?

~Monica

GNW Day 2017 Recap, cont.

AC’s theme for the event was Measuring the Ways #ACisAwesome, highlighting various County pride points. A great display (thanks WC Farmer!) and a highly interactive game (thanks Ginny and Jack Vernon!) brought attendees to the booth, where AC representatives were able to educate legislators from around the state on what comprises our county (and in several instances, where we are located!) and distributed mini measuring tapes touting ACDC’s website (www.atchisoncounty.org).

AC attendees included Carol Clark, Ginny Vernon, Jim and Regina Quimby, Crystal Woodring, Dennis and Phyllis Martin and several members of Atchison Holt Electric Cooperative, who attended this event in conjunction with the Missouri Electric Cooperative Legislative Conference.

GNW Day 2017 Recap, cont.
Upcoming Events
ACDC will be closed in observation of the following holidays:
Friday, April 14: Good Friday
Friday, May 8: Truman Day (state holiday)
Monday, May 29: Memorial Day

For a current list of community events, please visit our calendar at atchisoncounty.org/events

Coming Soon: Summer Fun in Atchison County
Watch our website for dates and details of events happening around the county this summer, including the Doug Summa Memorial Car Show, Tarkio Rodeo, Westboro Wildcat Days, Atchison County Fair and Parade, Fairfax Fair and Fourth of July festivities.

Rock Creek Wind Project Update
Thanks to Enel (EGP-NA) for providing the following update on RCWP:
“Since starting construction on the Rock Creek wind farm in October of 2016, EGP-NA has worked on the roadways and foundations. In the second quarter of 2017, we expect to continue construction of roads and foundations with turbine delivery and installation to commence. The project is moving along in accordance with our timeline and we expect the project to be operational by the end of 2017. We would like to thank Atchison County for welcoming us into their community and we look forward to continuing to be a long-term partner in the region for many years to come.”

REMINDER: if you have a rental available for RCWP workers, please contact ACDC (atchdev@rpt.coop; 660-744-6562) and we'll add you to the list we share with RCWP staff.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL (fill in the blank)
When it comes to uniting in times of crisis, AC is the very definition of awesome. We must also consciously support each other day in and day out. Whether it is a new business (look for these, happening all across the county; applaud their efforts!), a business that’s been around a while (our county could not exist without them; #ShopAC first!), or a significant venture like Tarkio College (expect good things; help when you can!), don’t be a naysayer. Your words and actions matter. In every conversation, build UP the efforts going on around you. Spread this message: #ACisAwesome.