



ATCHISON COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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ACDC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Business Improvement Grant Program

Since 2013, ACDC's Business Improvement (BI) grant has leveraged sales tax dollars to assist AC businesses as they invest in themselves by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing facades and parking areas, purchasing specialized equipment, and more. Funds remain in both 2021 BI grant programs:

- The **Basic**, a 50/50 reimbursable matching grant (\$1,000 max on a \$2,000+ project); **\$5,000 still available**
- The **2.0**, a 1/3-2/3 reimbursable matching grant (\$2,500 max on \$7,500+ project); **\$4,200 still available**

Applications are currently being accepted VIA MAIL ONLY. Requests are considered in the order they are received and will be awarded until all designated funds have been allotted. Contact us or visit our website for an application packet.

**Atchison County
Development
Corporation's
2021
Business
Improvement
Grant Program**

Youth Community Beautification Grant

ACDC's Youth Beautification Grant is open! Teams of at least 3 youth (5th-11th grade) may apply for a \$500 (minimum) grant for a project that will beautify an area not on school grounds. ACDC will fund a project in each school district area in AC, for a total of 3 grants. Project examples might include landscaping, art, recreation, or general clean-up. See below for details on the upcoming grant cycle.



Dates and deadlines for the 2021-2022 grant cycle:

Grant guidelines and info available: **April 1, 2021**

APPLICATIONS DUE: **August 31, 2021**

Grant award winners will be notified: **September 2021**
at the ACDC Annual Meeting

Projects must be completed by: **July 31, 2022**

Survey of Rural Challenges 2015-2021

Since 2015, over 1400 people have answered the Survey of Rural Challenges, created by Becky McCray and Deb Brown, co founders of SaveYour.Town. While many of us struggle to find value in articles and studies assuring us that rural America is dying (and here's why!), the results of this particular survey were refreshing because they align with the way many of us in rural America (and AC!) view our challenges.

The results showed significant disconnects between what rural people want and need, and what media, service providers, and policy-makers *think* we need. Services and assistance commonly offered to rural individuals and businesses don't seem to match up with what we say we want help with. Common themes in media coverage and policy conversations around rural communities don't line up with how we actually view reality.

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The Mission of ACDC...

to initiate, stimulate and facilitate opportunity in Atchison County through economic and community development.

Job Shadowing 2021: THANK YOU, BUSINESSES!

Each spring, ACDC compiles a list of businesses that are willing to host an AC Junior for our countywide job shadowing event. One of the main components of our career development programming, job shadowing is a way to get students out of their school (and community, in some cases) to interact with adults who show them what is possible right here in AC. Though we had fewer students participate this year due to some lingering Covid weirdness, we had just as many businesses who were willing to host.

We appreciate how supportive our business community is of our programs, and, more importantly, our young people.



You don't
need a ticket
to see some
of the best
baseball in the
world. You just
need to drive
one of the
players to the
game.

Unknown



Be on time.
Bust your butt.
Play Smart.
And have
some laughs
along the way.

Whitey Herzog

Survey of Rural Challenges (cont.)

The summary video and survey results can be found at SurveyOfRuralChallenges.com. But these were some of my takeaways.

- Rural America coverage by the media focuses on national political views; poverty, drugs, crime; and major blows to a community (plant closure, natural disasters). Survey responders did not indicate any of the above as top challenges.
- A common theory is that we need more jobs in our community. In the survey, five times as many people highlighted lack of available people in the workforce as a problem as those who mentioned an overall lack of jobs.
- A traditional view of small towns is that we just need more grants and outside money. Survey results showed that rural America has plenty of ideas and solutions, but the limiting factor is people (volunteers), not financial resources.
- A perception is that a lack of small business lending is a major factor in holding back rural businesses. However, survey results indicated that usable buildings are much more difficult to find than loans.

The biggest challenges reported in this survey were:

- Attitudes and behaviors that hinder progress: apathy, 'poor us' attitude, resistance to new ideas, conflict
- Population issues: loss of youth, aging population, lack of volunteers
- Lack of good employees
- Knowing how to market effectively: online competition, getting people to shop locally, keeping up with changes in marketing, etc.

I would encourage you to visit the website above and watch the video summary of the results. If nothing else, it may help you to see that our challenges are not unique to AC. Hopefully it will give you pause and encourage you to consider ways YOU could jump in and be a part of the solution to any issues you recognize.

Survey of Rural CHALLENGES

~Monica

ACDC Scholarship Recipients

ACDC's scholarship program assists Atchison County graduates with any post-secondary training and education programs that can help them create a life here. ACDC offers a \$1,000 award in two categories, for a total of two scholarships per school: career/technical training (Cayden, Joey, Jayden) and 4-year degree programs (Makenna, Ashlynn, Gena). ACDC is proud to honor this year's scholarship recipients, and we congratulate all our applicants on their hard work and achievements during their education in Atchison County.



Cayden Criger, Rock Port, son of Holly & Jeremy Huntley and Clint Criger, plans to pursue a Heavy Equipment Operations Certificate from NCK Tech. "Some of my life goals include returning home, owning my own house, and starting a family in Rock Port. My education will allow me to potentially start my own business."

Makenna Farmer, Rock Port, daughter of WC & Shauna Farmer, plans to obtain a BS in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at University of Missouri-Columbia. "During my experience as a patient [at CH-F], having a therapist I knew and could feel comfortable with allowed me to build a relationship...helping community members regain their health is something I want to be a part of."



Joey Herron, Rock Port, son of Kelley & Amy Herron, plans to complete the Diesel Ag Service Technician program at Southeast Community College. "My goal is to work on farm equipment or vehicles on the side [of my full time job], and after saving money, open a new business in AC."

Ashlynn Meyer, Tarkio, daughter of Jeff & Rachel Meyer, plans to double major in Marketing and Graphic Design at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "I have already had an outpouring of support from our small community, and could not think of a better place to have a business. I want to help the generations below me realize how great AC is."



Gena Mitchell, Fairfax, daughter of Anthony & Lisa Mitchell, plans to earn a BS in Secondary Mathematics at Southeast Missouri State University. "I hope to return to AC and teach in one of our amazing schools. The level of dedication that the teachers in our district have is something I strive to work towards."

Jayden Umbarger, Tarkio, son of Jeff & Melinda Umbarger, plans to earn a Master Pipe Fitting and Welding certification from the Missouri Welding Institute. "As soon as I graduate from MWI, I plan on going straight to work for anyone I can gain experience with...until I feel the need to return home and open a shop or continue with the family business in AC."



Thoughts from your ACDC Director...

It's 8-year-old baseball season in my house. In recognition of this time-honored tradition, I give you baseball quotes that happen to apply perfectly to the effort of sustaining and growing our amazing county.

Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games.

Babe Ruth

What an amazing history and heritage we have in AC. We'll always be proud of where we've been, but we can't hang on to the 'good old days' at the expense of today (or tomorrow!).

There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happened.

Tommy Lasorda

And in the case of small town life, maybe we add a fourth: those who complain when it happens. Which of these people are YOU?

It ain't over 'til it's over.

Yogi Berra

Ohhh friends, this is a big one. How many times have you heard one of your AC neighbors say something to the effect of, "there's nothing left here anyway." I have two words for you: NON. SENSE. Please contradict this kind of crazy talk when you hear it.

There's no crying in baseball.

Jimmy Dugan

It's easy to get sucked in to the 'poor me' cycle if we let ourselves. *If we let ourselves.* We choose to focus on either the good things happening in AC or the things that need to be fixed. There is a time for both, but a constant, underlying focus on the good is what gives us the motivation to fix what's broken. So stop crying about what's wrong, and play ball!

~Monica

ACDC Board & Staff

Directors:

- * Lori Seymour, President
- * Craig Corken, Vice President
- * Bob Alldredge, Treasurer
- * Eryn Stepp, Secretary
- * W.C. Farmer
- * Lydia Hurst
- * Roger A. Martin
- * Jeff Meyer
- * Scott Melvin

Staff:

- * Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
- * Carol Clark, Administrative Assistant

SUMMER FUN IN AC!

If you want something to do this summer, look no further than your own backyard!

UPCOMING EVENTS**June:**

- * **11-20: *The Sound of Music*.** Liberty Theatre, Rock Port.
- * **11-12: Tarkio Rodeo.** Opening Ceremonies Fri., Mutton Bustin' Fri-Sat, parade Sat.
- * **12: Doug Summa Memorial Car Show.** Niedermeyer Park, Tarkio.
- * **20: Father's Day Tournament.** Tarkio Golf Club.
- * **22-23: Youth Golf Clinic.** Tarkio Golf Club. Tournament on 6/24.

July:

- * **4: Rock Port 4th of July Celebration.** Fireworks, volleyball, games. City Park.
- * **16-18: 30th Annual Westboro Wildcat Days.** Softball tournament.
- * **17: Outdoor Triathlon.** NW Missouri Sportsman's Club, RP.
- * **19-24: Atchison County Fair.** Fairgrounds, Rock Port. Sat: Parade.
- * **24: Tarkio Parks & Rec Softball Tournament.** Tarkio Ballfield.
- * **24-25: Annual Ryder Cup.** Tarkio Golf Club.
- * **27-29: Physical Theater Workshop (3rd-8th Grade).** Tarkio Tech.

August:

- * **3: Back to School Fair.** Community Services office, Tarkio.
- * **20-21: Fairfax Fair.** Parade Saturday.
- * **21: Wingnuts Flying Circus Air Show.** Tarkio Airport.
- * **24: Graves-Chapple Research Farm Field Day**
- * **27-28: CH-F Golf Benefit Classic.** RP Golf & Country Club.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Ball Fields: Fairfax / Rock Port / Tarkio

Bowling: River Rock Lanes

Golf Courses: Rock Port Country Club / Tarkio Golf Club

Parks: Fairfax / Rock Port / Tarkio / Watson / Westboro

Pools: Rock Port / Tarkio

Get Outside: MO Dept of Conservation <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>

For locations and additional details, visit atchisoncounty.org/recreation

**Shop Local...Shop Small...#ShopAC!**

In April, ACDC hosted Springtime #ShopAC. Over 25 businesses participated in this mid-year effort to remind AC residents of all we have to offer. A huge THANK YOU to the businesses that participated in the event and to all that provide goods and services in AC!

We are gratified to look back on the past 15 months and see the evidence of local support for our businesses via our county's above average sales tax revenue. It is clear that, especially in a crisis, we purposely and diligently support our neighbors. Here are a couple of specific opportunities to continue that support!

- Please Save the Date for our annual #ShopAC event on November 18, held annually on the Thursday before Thanksgiving.
- On Facebook, please join the #ShopAC group. This is a dedicated space for our local businesses to share specials, changes in hours, or anything else that they want you to know! If you are a business and want to participate here, call/email/message us.



www.facebook.com/groups/shopac

Want to learn more about what we do or suggest how we can do better? Talk to us!

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