



ATCHISON COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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ACDC's 2023 Business Improvement Grant Program

Over the past decade, ACDC's Business Improvement Grant program has assisted with 160 different business improvement projects throughout our county. ACDC designed this grant to encourage growth and development of existing Atchison County businesses, but we've also seen an infusion of over \$312,000 back into our local economy in the form of goods and services from Atchison County vendors. Since 2013, grant recipients have invested in themselves and leveraged nearly \$167,000 in ACDC funds (county sales tax dollars) to complete \$883,000 worth of much needed improvements.

In 2023, ACDC will once again offer funding through this reimbursed matching grant program on projects that will improve aesthetics, safety and/or function of existing businesses. Two grant options are available.

- **BASIC:** grant will equal up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, maximum \$1,000. (If total project cost is \$1,200: ACDC's reimbursed grant is \$600 + business pays \$600. If total project cost is \$2,200: ACDC's grant is \$1,000 + business pays \$1,200.)
- **2.0:** grant will equal up to one-third of the cost of eligible improvements, maximum of \$2,500. (If total project cost is \$7,500+: ACDC's reimbursed grant is \$2,500 + business pays \$5,000+.)

ACDC could award up to \$20,000 in funds during the 2023 grant cycle. All application paperwork (including eligibility requirements) will be available by January 4, 2023. We will accept applications via mail only (P.O. Box 243, Rock Port, MO 64482) beginning February 1. Eligible projects must be approved prior to beginning work. Completed applications (including vendor bids and project estimates) will be considered in the order they are received (according to postmark). Applications will be accepted until all funds have been awarded. Contact ACDC for more information.

**Atchison County
Development
Corporation's**

**2023
Business
Improvement
Grant Program**

Attention Tarkio Property Owners: Tarkio Renewal has a grant for you!

In 2019, Tarkio Renewal (TR) established the Property Improvement Grant program to encourage and assist with visible property improvement in Tarkio. Since then, TR has assisted with 35 different Property Improvement Grant projects, including sidewalks, exterior painting, landscaping, porch replacement and more.

The Property Improvement Grant is a 50/50 matching reimbursement grant program, which reimburses up to \$1,000 per project. In 2023, TR may award up to \$10,000 in total grant funds. Projects must be approved prior to beginning work. TR's grant application packets will be available by January 4 (stop by the Avalanche or contact ACDC). Completed applications can be mailed to Tarkio Renewal (c/o ACDC, P.O. Box 243, Rock Port, MO 64482) after February 1. Applications will be date stamped upon receipt and considered at TR's regular monthly meetings.

The Mission of ACDC:

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

Take pride in your community - and let ACDC help!

ACDC spearheads and supports economic growth and vitality on many fronts. One of the best uses of our time and dollars is identifying individuals, groups and communities at work and joining them in their efforts, whether it's a business improving their building, a consortium working to address an infrastructure need, or a group working to revitalize their corner of our county. We have formal processes in place for many types of support and assistance, but something we work to promote is community pride. We can (and do!) encourage all manner of business and industry, but if our county is not a place people want to live, they simply won't choose this place as their home.

We have so many things going for us: farmers markets, community theatre, air shows, parks, pools, golf courses, downtown events, and parades. These are the things that bring life and character to our county. But what about in the off season, or the times when we aren't planning an event? How can we build pride and community in between events and ballgames?

Here's a challenge for you as we head into the New Year: take a tour of your town, and pretend you're a first time visitor. If you see anything, big or small, that brings you joy, brag it up and celebrate it! If you see anything that looks less than stellar, by all means call your city or county and complain, or, even better, air your grievance on social media. (The previous sentence was written in sarcasm font, in case you didn't catch it.) We have opportunities every day to use our words and actions to build up our community. See a problem? Don't wait for someone else to deal with it. Stop complaining. Be an active participant in the solution.

In 2023 we're adding a general grant for community beautification (separate from the Youth Beautification Grant that's still going strong - see below). Though the details are still being ironed out, the goal is to support ANY activity that cleans up or beautifies our county. As you take your tour through your community, be thinking about projects YOU could do to increase the level of pride. If there's a group effort already in motion (Tarkio Renewal, Restore Rock Port, Fairfax Improvement Foundation, etc.) and you love what they're doing, support them financially or join them! However, if committee work gives you hives and you want to take on a little project on your own, ACDC can help! Stay tuned for more information on this grant, and give us a call if we can help you brainstorm your ideas.

2022-2023 Youth Community Beautification Grant Projects

At our Annual Meeting in October, the following groups were awarded \$500 #MakeACBeautiful grants for the 2022-2023 school year:

- **Rock Port FBLA** will purchase a teeter totter for City Park playground and will assist with park cleanup.
- **Fairfax 6th Grade Guidance Class** will landscape around the two town welcome signs.
- **Rock Port Peer Counselors and Student Council** will replace the RP City Park sign and add landscaping.

ACDC created the Youth Beautification Grant Program to engage young people in the beautification of Atchison County. Projects are planned and carried out by groups of at least 3 young people aged 10-17 and must beautify an area not located on school grounds. While this program is structured around the school year, it is not restricted to any specific school or community group.



ACDC intends to fund a project in each school district area in AC each year and encourages groups to begin thinking about projects that can be carried out during the 2023-2024 school year.

ACDC's Fall Youth Career Programs: recap!

Aside from growing and creating businesses in our county, the effort we focus on most diligently is developing our emerging workforce. Our youth career programs are designed around two core beliefs:

- When students connect with local adults who have successfully created a life here and care about them, they see that a bright future is POSSIBLE here in Atchison County.
- When employers interact with students, they increase their chances of finding quality employees who are already invested in this county.

Youth Professionalism Workshop - Juniors

On November 10, we hosted our annual professionalism workshop. At this event, we assemble local employers, leaders and recent graduates to share their collective wisdom with AC Juniors. Special thanks to our amazing high school counselors (Tracy Cooper, Shauna Farmer, and Marisa Hedlund) and the following individuals who gave their time and wisdom to the students:

- Every Day is an Interview: Kent Fisher (Kent Fisher Insurance)
- How to/How NOT to Interview: Casey Martin, Mark Staten (THS)
- Major Employers: Ann Schlueter (Community Hospital-Fairfax), Doug Garrison (Advanced Pork Systems), Jason Watkins (Midwest Data)
- Customer Service: Rochelle Henegan (Rock Port Telephone)
- Starting a Business in AC: Paige Agnew (Paigstries), Hallie Pyeatt (Midwest Chic Boutique)
- Social Media Etiquette: Madison Dick (Joyful Biz Co.)
- Making a Life in AC: Crystal Woodring (NWMLC)
- Recent AC Grads: Trevor Brown (CH-F), Christina Hall (CH-F), Bella Hurst (Flower Mill/Buttercup), Dalton Jones (RPHS), Brady Minter (Minter Funeral Chapel).



Careers on Wheels - Freshmen

Careers on Wheels was held September 29. This "speed interview" event gives AC Freshmen the chance to learn about many AC careers that are performed outside of a building or office. THANK YOU to the following businesses and organizations that participated in this fun, interactive morning:

- Atchison County Sheriff's Office
- Atchison-Holt Ambulance District
- Atchison-Holt Electric Coop
- Community Home Health and Restorative Care
- Double M Towing
- Rock Creek Wind Farm (Enel/Vestas)
- Groovy's Grub
- Midwest Data
- Minter Funeral Chapel
- MO Department of Conservation
- Mo Valley Ag

ACDC Scholarship Applications: due February 28, 2023

ACDC's annual scholarship program was created to help outstanding AC graduates fund post-secondary education and training that can enable them to live, work and create a life here. ACDC offers a \$1,000 award to one student from each high school in each of the following categories, for a total of two scholarships per school:

- community college or technical training program
- 4-year undergraduate degree

Applications are available in each high school counselor's office and are due to ACDC by 3pm on Tuesday, February 28.

ACDC Board & Staff

Directors:

- * Lori Seymour, President
- * Craig Corken, Vice President
- * Bob Alldredge, Treasurer
- * Eryn Stepp, Secretary
- * Jill Davis
- * W.C. Farmer
- * Mary Ann Hull
- * Roger A. Martin
- * Jeff Meyer

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- * Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
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Great Northwest Day at the Capitol 2023

Great Northwest Day, an annual, cooperative event, is organized by the 19 counties that comprise the "Great Northwest." This is a unique regional effort that promotes our region in Jefferson City and pursues legislation that is beneficial to our citizens.

Great Northwest Day includes introductions on the House and Senate floors and a regional lunch, followed by an evening event with State legislators, department heads and elected officials, which showcases community booths that promote local projects and attributes.

Each year ACDC staff and AC citizens travel to the Capitol to join other regional leaders in educating legislators on what is happening in our corner of the state. If you want to learn more about Great Northwest Day 2023 (scheduled for **February 7-8**), visit www.greatnorthwestday.com or contact Atchison County Coordinator Monica Bailey at 660-744-6562 or director@atchisoncounty.org.



#ShopAC: RECAP + Facebook Group



ACDC coordinates one of Atchison County's most-anticipated shopping events every year: #ShopAC! Over 25 businesses participated on November 17, staying open till 8 p.m. Congratulations to the TEN shoppers who won gift certificates to AC stores of their choice!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the following businesses for participating this year:

1887 Bar & Grill, A Touch of Glass, Alma's Herbs, Avalanche Screen Printing & Signs, Burlap & Bows, CH-F Auxiliary Gift Shop, Daybreak Cafe, Do It Best, Flower Mill, Food Country, Groovy's Cuts & Tees, Groovy's Grub, Hidden Beauty, Hy-Vee, Jumpstart, KG Buds, MDT Market, Midwest Chic Boutique, Quilters Boutique, Rock Port Oil & Tire, Stoner Drug, The Walnut Shop, White Tee's and Wynn Dixie Glass.

Don't forget to follow our year round #ShopAC Facebook group!
www.facebook.com/groups/shopac/



Did you know ACDC supported these efforts in 2022?

If you aren't a regular attendee of our Annual Meeting where we highlight all kinds of information, you might not know this about us: we support nonprofit projects and efforts all around the county. Each year we provide the books for the cross county Battle of the Books event, support Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (one of our favorite partners when working with new and potential businesses!), and provide a scholarship to an AC resident to attend Leadership Northwest. In addition to those annual expenditures, we also supported Restore Rock Port's Main Street demolition project, Rock Port Golf & Country Club's kitchen remodel, Tarkio Golf tee box repairs and equipment upgrades, and Tarkio Tech's handicap accessibility project at Rankin Hall. We're proud to back the efforts of nonprofit organizations and volunteers in our county!