



# ATCHISON COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## ACDC's 2026 Business Improvement Grant Program

Through our Business Improvement Grant program, we've been able to assist with over 182 different projects throughout our county since 2013. We designed this grant program so that we would have a structured way to help local businesses, but we also wanted to encourage their continuation, growth, and development. Over the past 13 years, we've seen an infusion of over \$347,000 back into our local economy in the form of goods and services from AC vendors. Grant recipients have invested in themselves and leveraged nearly \$211,000 in ACDC funds (county sales tax dollars allocated to this office via the 1/4-cent economic development sales tax) to complete over \$1,068,000 worth of improvements!



We have loved utilizing this grant to assist our amazing businesses, and we need your help to promote this opportunity! If your business has benefited from this program, would you encourage a fellow business to reach out to us? If you know of a business with a project coming up, please remind them of this specific tool that is designed to assist with something that *they* need to better their business!

In 2026, ACDC will offer two levels of funding through this reimbursed matching grant program on improvement projects for existing businesses.

- **BASIC:** grant will equal up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, max. \$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, max \$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 2026 grant cycle. Applications will be accepted via mail (or at the ACDC office at 321 S. Main St. in Rock Port, via mail slot in door if the office is closed) after January 15, 2026. Eligible projects must be approved prior to beginning work. Completed applications will be considered in the order they are received. Contact ACDC for an application or more information.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

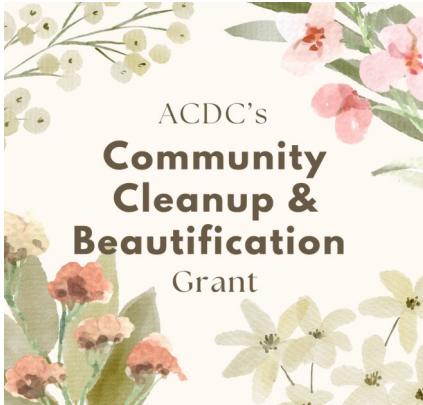
Margaret Mead



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

## Have an idea of how to improve your corner of AC?

Take advantage of our Community Cleanup & Beautification Grant!



This grant program assists with community cleanup and beautification projects in our county. So far, projects have included planting trees, installing a flagpole, and adding a swing in a new public flower garden spot, but the possibilities are endless!

Successful CC&B grant projects

- are carried out by community volunteers;
- utilize local businesses, vendors and services (whenever possible!);
- and beautify a visible, public area in AC.

ACDC will fund up to \$1,500 total in CC&B grants in 2026, with grant awards ranging from \$25 to \$500. This is a first-come, first-served grant, with applications considered in the order they are received. Contact us today for an application!

## Did you know ACDC supported nonprofit efforts in 2025?

ACDC supports nonprofit projects and efforts around the county. Each year we are the primary sponsor for the countywide Battle of the Books event, we support Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (one of our favorite partners when working with new and potential businesses!), and we provide a scholarship to an AC resident attending Leadership Northwest. In addition to those expenditures in 2025, we also supported projects with the Tarkio Board of Public Works and the Fairfax Fire Department.

We have a small grant program in place for the efforts of nonprofits and volunteers in our county, particularly for projects that add or retain jobs or services, increase tourism, or improve local recreation opportunities. If your organization has a project in mind, please contact us to see if we can help! We're proud to back the efforts of nonprofit organizations and volunteers in our county.

## ACDC Scholarship Applications: due March 27, 2026

ACDC's annual scholarship program was created to help outstanding AC graduates pursue post-secondary education and training that can help them to create a good life (here, if we're lucky!). 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 district area:

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

Applications are available in each high school counselor's office and online at [www.atchisoncounty.org/education](http://www.atchisoncounty.org/education). Applications (including a brief essay) and transcripts are due to ACDC by 3pm on Friday, March 27.

PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD about this scholarship opportunity. Ask the high school seniors you know (including homeschooled students in Atchison County) if they've applied for this yet. If you know of a student who needs assistance with the application or if you have any questions, please contact us!



## Great Northwest Day at the Capitol - February 3-4, 2026



Great Northwest Day originated as a project of the 2001-2002 classes of Leadership Northwest Missouri as a way to promote awareness of our region in Jefferson City. This unique regional education effort is organized by leaders from the nineteen counties in the best corner of the state, who work cooperatively to promote our region and pursue legislation that is beneficial to our citizens.

The event includes introductions of the delegation on the House/Senate Floors, education on legislative priority issues, and breakfast with a keynote speaker. Prior to the main event on Tuesday evening (where Atchison County will have an amazing booth!), the Northwest Missouri Reception will include regional legislator updates and the presentation of the Northwest Missouri Citizen of the Year Award.

Each year ACDC travels to the Capitol to educate legislators on the great things happening in Atchison County! To learn more, contact AC Coordinator Monica Bailey at [director@atchisoncounty.org](mailto:director@atchisoncounty.org) or 660-744-6562 , or visit [www.greatnorthwestday.com](http://www.greatnorthwestday.com).

## Thank you, Bob!

You may know that ACDC is funded by a 1/4-cent sales tax that was established in 1995. Did you know that a Board of Directors has been working to better Atchison County since ACDC was first incorporated in 1978? Mr. Bob Alldredge has been there from the start, a part of ACDC's discussions and decisions since its inception. For all 47 years of ACDC's existence, Bob has been the sole Treasurer of ACDC.

At the Annual Meeting in September, we celebrated Bob by donning ACDC LOVES BOB buttons and presenting him a Founding Board Member award, commemorating his "outstanding leadership, dedication, passion, and conscientious effort toward building and sustaining an effective organization dedicated to making Atchison County a better place to live." Board President Lori Seymour articulated how lucky ACDC is to have always had Bob's measured, calm, and wise voice in the room, and how he has influenced every decision we have made, weighing each one with eyes that always sought the common good. We were thrilled to honor Bob for his trustworthiness, integrity, accountability, and unmatched commitment to ACDC.



We are beyond grateful for everything Bob has given to ACDC over the years, and though we will not be the same without him, we promise to continue working diligently toward the economic and community development objectives he was committed to for nearly 50 years!



### Thoughts from your ACDC Director...

When my kid was in 4th grade and living his best Student Council life, he mentioned a younger student running for representative that year. I asked him if he thought she'd do a good job. He responded, "Well, she knows how to move chairs, so probably." How amazing to know at such a young age that one of the most important skills in leadership and volunteering is knowing how to move chairs! (Silly, but 100% true!) When I think about Bob Alldredge and what he has modeled throughout his life, I immediately thought of that conversation and how encouraging Bob has been to his pal Jack every time his mother has dragged him to meeting setups, Salvation Army board meetings, or ACDC errands. The thing about Bob is that he's the first guy in and the last guy out of every function, working as hard as anyone in the room - what an example for the Jack Baileys of the world to emulate! Thank you, Bob, for caring so deeply about our kids, our towns, and our county, and for showing how much you care through dedication, hard work, and action. Thank you for the stories, conversations, and guidance, and for always being a phone call or text away.

~Monica

## ACDC Board & Staff

### Directors:

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

### Staff:

- \* Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
- \* Stephanie True, Bookkeeper/ Receptionist

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[atchisoncounty.org](http://atchisoncounty.org)

Social media:  
[@atchisoncountydevelopment](http://atchisoncountydevelopment)

*ACDC will be closed in observance of the following holidays:*  
New Year's Day (Jan. 1) • Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 19) • Presidents Day (Feb. 16)

## ACDC Board

If you ever look at our board member list to left and wonder how it's comprised, here's the scoop! Our bylaws are structured to encourage a true cross-county representation: two from Fairfax, Rock Port, and Tarkio, and three at-large.

- Fairfax: Roger Martin and Josh Oswald (as of 1/1/26 - welcome, Josh!)
- Rock Port: Craig Corken and WC Farmer
- Tarkio: Mary Ann Hull and Eryn Stepp
- At-Large: Jill Davis, Jeff Meyer, and Lori Seymour

We are thankful for this group of thoughtful volunteers who work diligently to better their individual communities and our county!

## ACDC Membership

If you keep up with ACDC, you know that we spend your sales tax dollars working to create a better future for this place we are blessed to call home. We create and administer programs designed to help both new and existing businesses prosper (grants! #ShopAC!), connect our emerging workforce (our outstanding youth!) with local career opportunities, and celebrate all the ways #ACIsAwesome.

We hope you appreciate what you see from us. We are so encouraged when you support us with your membership, which enhances the economic and community development work we do on many fronts. Community enrichment projects supported by your dollars include Battle of the Books, scholarships for graduating Seniors, improvement projects around the county, and scholarships for our regional leadership program.

In 2025, we were grateful to the 137 members who supported us, including You With A New View, Linda & Rich Dewhirst, Kent Fisher Insurance and Kent & Barb Fisher. If you're interested in becoming a 2026 member, you too can be recognized on Facebook and in our newsletter (and receive one of our coveted, amazing stickers)! Please contact us ([acdc@atchisoncounty.org](mailto:acdc@atchisoncounty.org); 660-744-6562) if you are not currently on our mailing list, and we'll send you some information.

Thank you once again for supporting our businesses during our annual **#ShopAC** event in November. We received 125 completed passports from those of you who visited our 23 participating businesses and were glad to see so many of you out and about!



Please keep up with some of our amazing AC businesses throughout the year by following our #ShopAC Facebook group! [www.facebook.com/groups/shopac/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/shopac/)

