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DRA Awards Over \$1 Million in Core Grants to 52 Tri-State Organizations

Grant funding supports people attraction, tourism, and capacity-building efforts across Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Dubuque, IA – July 22, 2025 – The DRA, a leading gaming and entertainment organization in Dubuque, announced today the recipients of its 2025 Core Grant program, awarding more than \$1 million in grant funding to 52 organizations across the tri-state area. In total, \$1,070,248 will be distributed this year, with an average grant award of \$20,582 per organization.

The Core Grant program supports grant requests up to \$50,000 and focuses on people attraction initiatives – such as population growth, retention, and tourism – with a strong preference for capacity-building opportunities and essential material purchases.

“This is an exciting time for the DRA and our Core Grant program,” said Lori Thielen, Chair of the DRA Board of Directors. “We are proud to support the important work of these organizations that are making a real difference in their communities. By investing in programs that help strengthen the region’s long-term vitality, the DRA continues to fulfill its mission of creating a lasting community impact.”

This year, the DRA received 140 total requests, all of which underwent a thorough review by DRA staff and the grant committee before final funding decisions were made. Of the awarded grants 47 organizations are based in Iowa, four in Wisconsin, and one in Illinois. Five organizations received 100% of their original funding requests, while 12 received at least 50% or more of their requested amount.

“We are intentional about how we evaluate and award these funds,” said Mandy Miller, DRA’s Manager of Strategic Philanthropy. “This focus and strategic approach ensures that every dollar we distributed supports projects with strong potential for positive and permanent outcomes in the communities we serve.”

The Core Grant program continues to be a key part of the DRA’s overall philanthropic strategy, providing critical support to initiatives that help attract and retain people, enhance community amenities, and build capacity within local organizations.

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Continued:

Wendy Runde, Vice President and General Manager of the Diamond Jo Casino, emphasized the broader community impact of the DRA's efforts: "The DRA's commitment to giving back is made possible through the success of both Q Casino + Resort and Diamond Jo Casino. Together, we attract thousands of visitors each year from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and beyond – driving tourism and supporting the communities we proudly serve."

The DRA is the non-profit entity that owns and operates Q Casino + Resort and serves as co-licensee for Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque. Revenues generated by both properties directly support DRA's philanthropic initiatives across the region.

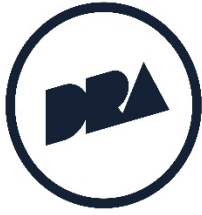
Since 1985, the DRA has awarded more than 5,500 grants, totaling over \$67 million, to well over 1,500 organizations in the tri-state area of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois.

For more information on DRA funding opportunities and news, including a list of the 2025 Core Grant recipients, please visit: <https://dradubuque.com/>.

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About the DRA

The DRA, through its gaming and entertainment facilities provides for social, economic, and community betterment – helping to lessen the burden on local government while contributing to the growth and viability of Dubuque area tourism. Established in 1985, the DRA has been a vital part of the community for four decades and is governed by a volunteer board of 21 directors who help guide the operations of Q Casino + Resort.



DRA 2025 Core Grant Award Fact Sheet

- 52 organizations were awarded \$1,070,248
- Organizations in Iowa were awarded 90% of the funds
- Organizations in Wisconsin were awarded 7.7% of the funds
- Organizations in Illinois were awarded 1.9% of the funds

The following communities received grants:

Iowa:

- Anamosa: 1
- Dubuque: 40
- Dyersville: 1
- Epworth: 1
- La Motte: 1
- Maquoketa: 2
- Sherrill: 1

Wisconsin:

- Darlington: 1
- Fennimore: 1
- Lancaster: 1
- Platteville: 1

Illinois:

- East Dubuque: 1

The following is the breakdown based on organization type:

Animal Welfare: 1 organization | \$20,000
Arts, Culture and Recreation: 11 organizations | \$130,500
Civic & Community: 15 organizations | \$335,070
Education: 7 schools/organizations/districts | \$228,000
Emergency Services: 1 organization | \$10,954
Health & Human Services: 16 organizations | \$340,794
Veterans: 1 organization | \$5,000

Organizations Receiving a New Multi-Year Grant Award:

Dubuque Black Men Coalition
Dubuque Irish Hooley Inc.
DBQ Air
Dubuque Childcare Collaborative LLC
River Bend Food Bank

Organizations in their Final Year of Their Multi-Year Grant Award:

Dubuque Area Labor Harvest
Dubuque Community School District
Dubuque Dream Center
Dubuque Jaycees
Holy Family Catholic Schools
Multicultural Family Center
Opening Doors
Presentation Lantern
Special Olympics of Iowa
St. Vincent de Paul
UW-Platteville Foundation

Organization Type	Organization Name	Project	# of Years	Amount Recommended
Health & Human Services	Crescent Community Health Center	Expanding Workforce Capacity for the High-Need Oral Health Field	1	\$35,000.00
Health & Human Services	Camp Albrecht Acres of The Midwest	Specialty Van Purchase	1	\$30,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque County Historical Society	Restoration of the Mathias Ham House	1	\$25,000.00
Animal Welfare	Dubuque Regional Humane Society	Enhancing Information Technology	1	\$20,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens	Building Capacity Through Identity, Infrastructure, and Accessibility Improvements	1	\$20,000.00
Civic & Community	Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dubuque	Shared Performing Arts Space	1	\$20,000.00
Civic & Community	Four Mounds Foundation	Four Mounds Site Expansion: Building Opportunities	1	\$20,000.00
Civic & Community	Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce	Dubuque Area Chamber Young Professionals Program	1	\$20,000.00
Education	Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council	Building Skilled Trades Career Exploration	1	\$20,000.00
Education	EAST DUBUQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT #119	Installation of Corridor - A Emergency Response System	1	\$20,000.00
Health & Human Services	Hills & Dales	Hills & Dales Developmental & Behavioral Health Clinic	1	\$20,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Childrens Zoo Booster	Room to Grow: Parking for Families & Future Visitors	1	\$18,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Museum of Art	Attracting New Audiences through an Organizational Rebrand	1	\$15,000.00
Civic & Community	Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation	Bright Beginnings Book-of-the-Month Literacy Box	1	\$15,000.00
Civic & Community	The Jackson County Economic Alliance	Promoting a Culture of Individual Excellence in Succession Planning in Jackson County	1	\$15,000.00
Civic & Community	Dyersville Area Community Foundation	Nature Trail for the Michael & Jean Knepper Child Care Center	1	\$15,000.00
Health & Human Services	Iowa Legal Aid	Technology Upgrades to Improve Service Delivery in Northeast Iowa	1	\$14,531.00
Emergency Services	La Motte Community Fire Department	Fundraising Equipment Upgrades of Tables and Chairs	1	\$10,954.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Chorale Inc.	Songfest26	1	\$10,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Grand Opera House	New LED Stage Lighting System	1	\$10,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	The Driver Opera House Restoration Inc	2025-2026 Driver Opera House Marketing Project	1	\$10,000.00
Education	Junior Achievement of the Heartland	Financial Literacy and Career Engagement for All Dubuque County Schools	1	\$10,000.00
Health & Human Services	Bethany Home	Outdoor patio renovation	1	\$10,000.00
Health & Human Services	Grant Regional Health Center, Inc.	Behavioral Health/Outpatient Counseling Program	1	\$10,000.00
Education	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Foundation	Pathways to Prosperity: Building Workforce, Retaining Talent, and Supporting Regional Growth	1	\$8,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Northeast Iowa School of Music	Books for Dubuque: Engaging Our Children Through Storytelling and Composition	1	\$7,500.00
Health & Human Services	Moms Connect Dubuque	Moms Connect Program Development	1	\$5,300.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Fine Arts Society Inc.	From Foundation to Flourish: Growing the Impact of DCFAS and Its Creative Network	1	\$5,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Bell Tower Productions	Office Efficiency Project	1	\$5,000.00
Civic & Community	DuRide	Office Printer Replacement	1	\$5,000.00
Civic & Community	Fraternal Order of Eagles #3866	Acquisition of Funds for the Purchase of a Central Air Conditioner	1	\$5,000.00

Health & Human Services	People In Need (PIN)	Avoiding Eviction	1	\$5,000.00
Veterans	American Legion John White Post 650	Epworth Veterans Memorial Plaza and Statue	1	\$5,000.00
Health & Human Services	Anamosa Lunches for Youth	Weekend Food Program	1	\$4,000.00
Health & Human Services	Dubuque Childcare Collaborative, LLC	Bright Minds Campus Childcare and Training Center	2	\$46,962.50
Civic & Community	DBQ Air	Save Our Service (SOS) for Economic Prosperity	2	\$40,000.00
Health & Human Services	River Bend Food Bank	All Hands on Deck	2	\$10,000.00
Arts, Culture & Rec	Dubuque Irish Hooley Inc.	20th Annual Dubuque Irish Hooley Music Festival	2	\$5,000.00
Civic & Community	Dubuque Black Men Coalition	School Mentoring and Post-Education Career Preparation	3	\$5,000.00
Civic & Community	Presentation Lantern	New Initiatives Helps Dubuque Refugees & Immigrants	2 / 2 Years	\$40,000.00
Civic & Community	Multicultural Family Center	Cultural Events and Teen Programming	2 / 2 Years	\$25,000.00
Education	Dubuque Community School District	Strategic Initiative Fund	3 / 3 Years	\$125,000.00
Civic & Community	Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque	Grant Writer	3 / 3 Years	\$75,000.00
Health & Human Services	United Way Dubuque	Community Impact on Poverty	3 / 3 Years	\$75,000.00
Health & Human Services	St. Vincent de Paul Dubuque	Back2Work Workforce Training Program	3 / 3 Years	\$35,000.00
Education	UW-Platteville Foundation	Attracting, Recruiting, and Retaining Diverse Populations	3 / 3 Years	\$25,000.00
Civic & Community	Dubuque Jaycees	3rd of July Fireworks and Airshow	3 / 3 Years	\$20,000.00
Education	Holy Family Catholic Schools	Student Impact Fund Growth	3 / 3 Years	\$20,000.00
Health & Human Services	Special Olympics Iowa	Iowa Winter Games	3 / 3 Years	\$20,000.00
Civic & Community	Dubuque Dream Center	Keeping the Dream Alive	3 / 3 Years	\$15,000.00
Health & Human Services	Dubuque Area Labor Harvest	Food Giveaways, Hot Breakfasts, and Grocery Delivery Program	3 / 3 Years	\$10,000.00
Health & Human Services	Opening Doors	On My Own - Permanent Supportive Housing	3 / 3 Years	\$10,000.00

\$1,070,247.50

NOTE: Anything in blue is in it's final year of a multi-year grant