

JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

January/February/March 2022

2022 Outlook

Jones County Economic Development is ready to say adios to 2021 and start looking ahead to all of the great projects and goals we want to accomplish in 2022. From finishing projects started in 2021 to new projects on the horizon, JCED is eager to work with our community partners and businesses to make 2022 another successful year!



Compadres Building work in Monticello.

Some of the projects looking to get completed or wrapped up in 2022 are the two Community Catalyst projects. One of the \$100,000 grant projects is the Compadres building in Monticello, which will take the previously vacant space and turn it into a restaurant connected to the neighboring Glass Tap. Once the exterior envelope and lower story are complete, the goal is to start working on three downtown upper story apartments.

The second \$100,000 grant project is the Lalo's Mexican restaurant project in Wyoming. The restaurant opened in late 2021 once the roof systems and exterior masonry was completed. The restaurant opened to great reviews and continues to add to the downtown ambiance of Wyoming. Later this year, the goal is to do some work in the upper story apartments.

Another project that will be wrapping up in 2022 is the Community Development Block Grant program in Anamosa. This project helped rehabilitate ten historic facades in downtown Anamosa and should be finished up

in May 2022. Not only will this make a huge difference to the appearance of the downtown, there is hope that it will inspire more building owners to take the step to keep their properties repaired and in better condition, regardless of if they are vacant or occupied. And with this project set to wrap up in May of this year, progress has already begun on Phase 2!

Phase 2 of the Anamosa downtown project will focus on the north side of Main Street. The City of Anamosa has already gone through an RFQ process and rehired Martin-Gardner Architecture out of Marion for the second phase. Additionally, the City recently approved passage of an agreement with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) for grant-writing and administration assistance on the next round. Starting this month, the architects will begin meeting with interested property owners to start getting design ideas for the second phase and moving forward. ECICOG will start doing the downtown slum and blight survey and starting necessary documentation for the grant application. At the moment, it looks like this round will be similar to the last with the application being due in the summer of 2022, award notices in the fall of 2022, bidding in the winter of 2022/23, and the project starting in the spring of 2023 with a year to complete. (Continued on Page 2)

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While some renderings were completed for the first round of the CDBG project, some of the owners have changed and there might be renewed interest in adding features back in that had been originally scrapped due to cost concerns, etc. JCED will be working with the City of Anamosa, Martin-Gardner Architecture, the State of Iowa, and the property owners downtown to make sure this project is as successful as the current one has been. Updated progress pictures of the current project can be seen on Page 3.

Jones County Economic Development has also been working on more long-range planning that can help move Jones County forward. Working with ECICOG, JCED has been instrumental in the regional Community Economic



Development Strategies (CEDs) update. By working within a regional context and utilizing local working groups, ECICOG is working on a ten year plan to help advance the region forward as well as projects and goals for individual counties. Barring any changes to the current timeline, that final plan should be ready for distribution in March.

Finally, JCED worked last year to determine the need for childcare in the county. With the assistance of the local partners and a consultant, data was collected that showed nearly 71 families are looking for childcare options in Jones County. JCED held public meetings and work sessions with families, school officials, public officials, businesses, and childcare providers to see what was causing the lack of available spaces. By and large, the main concern with keeping viable childcare spaces open and operational came down to the lack of qualified workforce. When digging deeper, it was learned that the workforce was missing due to lack of quality wages and benefits.

The childcare effort will continue to be one of our main concerns headed into 2022. We will be working to see what can be done to help alleviate or offset the employment expense for local providers and help encourage more people to consider working in the childcare sector. Please stay tuned to our newsletter, Facebook page, etc. for more updates as we move forward on this important endeavor.

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ECICOG Revolving Loan Fund Offers Key Gap Financing

When businesses need money to help start a business or expand one, there can often be many hurdles in their path, including financial ones.

ECICOG can help businesses through their Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The RLF was established to help new and existing businesses within the six county ECICOG region develop and expand.

Businesses can apply online and their application will be sent to a review committee. If approved there, it will go on to the ECICOG Board of Directors for final approval.

While these funds are able to assist, they are NOT meant to fully fund any project. The maximum loan that can be received is \$500,000, but the average loan is approximately \$100,000. Depending on what the money is needed for, the loan terms can vary between five and ten years. Businesses will pay interest on the loan and there will be a 2% closing fee.

If you have questions, you can reach out to Robyn Jackson, Contracts Administrator at ECICOG. You can reach her at 319-289-0069 or via [email](#). You can apply online at

ecicogrlf.org

2021 CDBG Progress Pictures



2022 Outlook (Continued from Page 2)

Aside from the normal day-to-day operations that will keep JCED busy in the next year, we will also be working on some more long-range plans, including but not limited to: affordable housing opportunities in Jones County; continuing our outreach to business prospects while still working on expansion projects with local businesses; working to develop a comprehensive regional trail plan that can connect with existing trails, especially with the last leg of the Wapsipinicon Trail being started this year; and much more!

As always, we will our proud to have good working relationships with our public institutions. Even though 2022 will see changes in the public sector, we would like to thank everyone that has worked with us in the past and thank them for their dedication to their communities and Jones County. We are also very excited to work with the new Councils across the County and hope we will continue to have great working relationships.

We will also continue working with our business membership investors to see what is on their mind and ways that JCED might be able to help partner. As we continue to move forward through uncertain times with the pandemic, supply chain issues, and workforce worries, JCED wants to be seen as a trusted resource for Jones County where ideas can be generated and solutions developed. If we all work together to move Jones County forward, there is every reason to believe that we can grow even stronger and more successful in the years to come.

If you ever have questions or concerns about Jones County Economic Development or would like to learn more about what we do and how to be involved as a membership investor, please visit our website at:

<https://jonescountydevelopment.com>



Wapsipinicon Trail Phase 1

Jones County Economic Development Legislative Forums

Friday, January 28th at 12pm
Monticello City Council Chambers

Friday, February 25th at 12pm
Anamosa (Location to be determined)

Friday, March 25th at 12pm (If needed)
Location will be determined closer to time

All forums will have in-person and Zoom components.
No lunch will be served.

Contact Us

Jones County Economic Development has two convenient offices:

107 S. Ford Street in
Anamosa inside City Hall

200 E. 1st Street in
Monticello inside City Hall

Our Executive Director, Derek Lumsden, can also be reached by Phone at 319-480-7446 or by [email](#).



Jones County Young Professionals enjoy a holiday social and business meeting to close out a first successful year!

Year in Recap!

The Jones County Young Professionals (JCYP) closed out their first year with a holiday social and business meeting at JoCo Local. Food and fellowship was had by all as outgoing President, Kristen McEvoy, looked back over the year and the activities that the group had done.

The business meeting included ideas on how to stay more active in our Jones County communities and get new members on board. Many of our current members are actively recruiting so our group should expand greatly in the coming year!

The business meeting discussed changing the meeting date and time since the 2nd Thursday of every month was not always possible as well as doing some time changes. So in 2022, the group is going to meet on the 10th of every month. Some months this will be an evening activity and some will be afternoon activities that are also family-friendly. We want to make sure that we are being as inclusive as possible to any young professional that lives or works in Jones County! If you are interested, reach out to Trevor Hullett at F&M Bank in Anamosa or by emailing us at jonescounty.youngprofessionals@gmail.com to learn more!

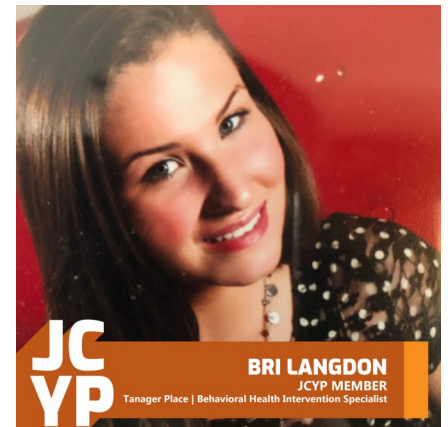
Finally, we elected new members to the leadership team. McEvoy and Amber Droessler, our 2021 Treasurer, aren't going anywhere, but their lives are changing and they wanted to encourage new leaders to step up and take part in this great organization. Bri Langdon and Katie Ryan will be added to the leadership team along with Veronica Groesbeck as Treasurer. They will join Membership Chair, Trevor Hulett and JCED Liaison Derek Lumsden.

Meet the Member!

I'm Bri Langdon and I am a Behavioral Health Intervention Specialist in Jones County for Tanager Place. I have worked there the last 3 (going on 4) years helping children with mental health diagnoses and behavioral issues and their families. I also work on the weekends doing SCL and respite while working on my Masters of Social Work. Yes things have been very busy lately!

In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends/family and anything outdoors like hiking, kayaking, sand volleyball and so much more.

I joined JCYP to network with other professionals in the area and to volunteer, as I love helping others and the community when I can. Hope to see you at a JCYP meeting soon!"



UP NEXT:

Monday, January 10th

Join us to volunteer at the
Monticello
Animal Shelter at 5:30pm

Social to follow at La Hacienda
in Monticello at 6:30/6:45pm

Drawing for a Casey's gift card!

**Follow us on Facebook at
Jones County
Young Professionals!**



JONES COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

WHAT WE DO

Jones County Young Professionals (JCYP) is an organization focused on developing networks and friendships among community members. JCYP concentrates on fulfilling this through three main pillars:

- **Socials/Networking**
- **Education/Professional Development**
- **Volunteerism**

BECOME A SPONSOR

Partner Level (\$1,000)

- Get priority pick to be premier sponsor of one event, such as Movie in the Park.
- Reserved seating at professional development events.
- Unlimited JCYP memberships for eligible employees.
- 1 time annual use of movie equipment.
- All benefits below:

Platinum Level (\$750)

- 1 professional development speaker sponsor.
- 4 JCYP memberships for eligible employees.
- Business spotlight in JCYP section of the Jones County Economic Development newsletter.
- All benefits below:

Gold Level (\$500)

- 1 community event sponsor.
- 3 JCYP memberships for eligible employees.
- Business spotlight on JCYP Facebook page.
- All benefits below:

Silver Level (\$250)

- Business logo included in JCYP section of the Jones County Economic Development newsletter.
- 2 JCYP memberships for eligible employees.
- All benefits below:

Bronze Level (\$100)

- Business name listed on Facebook page and JCYP displays.
- 1 JCYP membership for eligible employee.

OUR STORY

JCYP has gone through a recent transition and is looking to build a strong and resilient group of members that is dedicated to bringing enthusiasm and thoughtful ideas to Jones County.

Our goal is to be a comprehensive organization focusing on both social and personal growth for every member, and for the communities in which we live and work.

We meet the second Thursday of every month. We will be varying the towns and meeting times to make JCYP accessible to ALL young professionals in Jones County!

Join today and get a say in how young professionals can help make Jones County a better place for living, working, and growth. You can either fill out the membership side of this brochure, or get your employer to become a sponsor of the organization. Memberships are included with each sponsorship level.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is \$25 per year and is good for one calendar year (Jan-Dec). Membership includes admission to all events and activities as well as updates through newsletters, social media, etc.

Questions about becoming a member?

Contact Trevor Hulett.
(319) 329-7291
thulett@fmbank.biz

GET IN TOUCH!

Follow us on Facebook!
Jones County Young Professionals

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