

JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

October/November/December 2026

Jones Regional Medical Center Invests in the Future of Rural Health Care

UnityPoint Health - Jones Regional Medical Center (JRMCC) is investing in the future of rural health care by bringing more advanced services and technology closer to home. Over the past year, the hospital has made significant investments in diagnostic imaging and surgery that will benefit the local community.

In late 2025, JRMCC completed a \$5 million project to establish an in-house Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) suite. MRI scans are essential for diagnosing a wide range of conditions, including sports injuries, joint problems, neurological conditions, and cancers. The new MRI suite allows JRMCC to provide MRI services six days a week, greatly increasing the number of appointments available.



JRMCC continued that momentum in early 2026 with the announcement it would receive funding through Iowa's Rural Health Transformation Program to acquire a da Vinci surgical robot to enhance the hospital's surgical capabilities. The robot was delivered in June and will become operational for surgeries this fall.

For a rural hospital, bringing robotic technology to the community is a significant milestone. Robotic-assisted surgery allows surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures using specialized instruments and a magnified, three-dimensional view of the surgical area. Depending on the procedure, patients may experience smaller incisions, less blood loss, shorter hospital stays and a faster recovery.



The da Vinci system will initially be used for procedures such as hernia and gallbladder surgeries, with opportunities to expand the types of procedures offered as the program grows. JRMCC currently offers over 75 on-site general surgeries with board-certified surgeons in Eastern Iowa.

"The addition of a da Vinci surgical robot is a major advancement for our hospital and our patients. The opportunity to acquire this equipment aligns perfectly with our vision to bring the highest quality care to the people we serve," said Eric Briesemeister, president of Jones Regional Medical Center.

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MANUFACTURING 4.0 GRANTS OPEN IN JANUARY 2027!

The Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program provides grants that assist small- and mid-sized enterprises with the adoption and integration of smart technologies into existing operations in the state.

Grants offered through this program are aimed at helping manufacturers increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness. They may be used for the purchase of equipment and specialized hardware or software in the Industry 4.0 technology groups. Eligible projects include

Manufacturing Innovation Equipment:

- Machinery acquisition, such as a 3D printer
- Specialized equipment for automation, such as collaborative robotics
- Advanced and autonomous robotics
- Equipment for process improvements

Manufacturing Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Infrastructure:

- IIoT infrastructure hardware, such as enhanced server equipment to enable more cloud computing
- Cybersecurity software
- Predictive maintenance software
- Sensor integration into industrial tools and shop floor machinery to determine wear or flaws
- Industrial wearable technology integration to prevent injury
- Data analytics software/engineering
- Data visualization software
- Augmented reality equipment
- Sensor-driven transmission of real-time information from factory-floor to customers or suppliers
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging software and equipment to track inventory

Companies can apply for **up to \$75,000 over the lifetime of the business** and a 1:1 match is required. Prior to applying, an Industry 4.0 assessment provided by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) will be required and must be submitted with the application. The assessment window is open now, but the last day to request an assessment will be November 20, 2026. For more information, visit the [CIRAS website](#).

To be eligible, Iowa manufacturers must be incorporated or authorized to do business in Iowa. The businesses must employ a minimum of three and fewer than 125 full-time employees across all locations. Businesses must be designated with an NAICS code falling between 31-33. Manufacturers must derive a minimum of 51% of their revenue from the sale of manufactured goods. Finally, businesses must have been operating for at least three years.

More information can be found on the following
[Manufacturing 4.0 Fact Sheet](#).

JCED STRATEGIC PLANNING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Over the next couple of months, Jones County Economic Development (JCED) will be embarking on a new strategic planning and feasibility study to help guide the organization for the next three to five years.

As part of this process, JCED has contracted with consulting firm RDG to help refine the scope and implementation objectives. RDG will be reaching out on our behalf to schedule confidential interviews with local and regional businesses.

These discussions will be a chance for businesses to talk candidly about the economic development environment in Jones County; what they like and do not like about local conditions; to suggest ideas on how to improve the culture around local economic development; and to learn more about the local organization.

These discussions are 100% confidential and completed by out-of-town consultants. The final data is all aggregated into one final report that will help Jones County Economic Development plot out the next three to five years of economic development.

Jones County Economic Development will be posting the information online, in our newsletters, at our annual meeting, and more. The more that people know about what we are working to do, the more partners we can expect to have in that regard.

The Board of Directors greatly appreciates any and all help in this regard and is eager to hear what everyone has to say and get started on implementation in the years to come!

ECICOG HAS TWO PROGRAMS TO HELP CURRENT AND FUTURE HOMEOWNERS!

The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) is focused on helping current and future homeowners in the region be able to afford housing and needed repairs. Currently, this assistance falls into two different grant programs: First-Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program & the Lead Hazard Reduction Program. Both of these programs are for eligible people in Jones County.

The First-Time Homebuyer Program is currently accepting applications. Assistance is available for low-to-moderate income households and can also include minor rehabilitation on the property. The program offers up to \$35,000 in assistance. The money is in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

Eligibility requirements include:

- The home purchased must be the buyer's primary residence.
- The buyer must agree to own and occupy the home as their primary place of residence for 5-10 years, depending on the amount of assistance awarded.
- Buyer must obtain a fixed-rate mortgage with a term of at least 15 years.

More details, including ECICOG contact information, is on Page 5 of the newsletter. You can also contact Emma Harkins at ECICOG: [\(319\) 289-0931](tel:3192890931) or emma.harkins@ecicog.org.

The Lead Hazard Reduction Program helps low-to-moderate income families in older homes abate lead-related issues in those homes. As can be seen in the graphic to the left, many homes older than 1978 are more likely to have some form of lead paint in them that can be hazardous to people living there, both on the interior and exterior of the homes.

Improvements may include: New windows; new doors; radon mitigation; and interior and exterior paint. The program may also address additional health and safety concerns beyond lead-based paint hazards. Homes will be subject to inspection, lead/radon testing, and environmental review.



Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Homes must be constructed prior to 1978 to qualify for assistance.
- The home must have a child five years of age or younger who either resides in the home or visits the home on a frequent basis.
- Agreeable to a 3-year forgivable mortgage placed on the property.
- Rental housing is also eligible. However, there will be a match requirement from the property owners.
- The annual household income must be at or below 80% AMI for homeowners. The annual household income must be at 50% or below for rental applicants.
- Must be current on mortgage payments, property taxes, and have a current homeowner's insurance policy.

Information on this program can be found on the ECICOG website under housing. A flyer on the program is available on Page 6 of the newsletter. Finally, you can reach out to Nicole Beuc at 319-289-0074 or via email at Nicole.beuc@ecicog.org

JRMC TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT *(Continued from Page 1)*

Investing in new technology is about more than what happens in the operating room. It is also about making sure patients have access to the services they need throughout their care and recovery. At JRMC, patients can access inpatient nursing care, laboratory and pharmacy services, as well as therapy and rehabilitation. Together, these services help support patients from their procedure through recovery and help reduce the need to travel outside the community.

Looking ahead, JRMC's focus on innovation will continue into 2027. The hospital is looking at additional ways to strengthen rural health care, including improvements to its Center for Healthcare Education and Simulation, which provides hands-on training for health care workers in partnership with Purdue Global.

By expanding services and capabilities locally, JRMC is helping ensure patients throughout Jones County and surrounding communities have access to high-quality care close to home.

The acquisition of the da Vinci 5 is made possible through funding from Iowa's participation in the Rural Health Transformation Program, a federal initiative administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Iowa received \$209 million in the program's first year through its Healthy Hometowns proposal, becoming the first state to distribute awards. JRMC's support comes from the proposal's Hometown Connections initiative, which focuses on strengthening rural health care and expanding access to essential services.

Looking for care or healthcare services provided at Jones Regional Medical Center? Stop by the hospital at 1795 East Hwy 64 in Anamosa or check out their website at:

[Jones Regional Medical Center](https://www.jonesregional.com)



SAVE THE DATE!

The Northeast Iowa Stem Festival will be on Thursday, October 8th from 4pm-7pm at the Youth Development Center in Monticello.

Come and enjoy a night filled with fun and engaging STEM activities. A great night of fun/learning for the whole family, especially kids in kindergarten through 8th grade.

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 at:
director@jonescountydevelopment.com

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The IFA Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program is to provide down payment assistance and minor rehabilitation to low-to-moderate income first-time homebuyers in Benton, Iowa, Jones & Washington Counties.

**ASSISTANCE UP TO
\$35,000**

ELIGIBILITY



The home purchased must be buyer's primary residence.



Buyer must continue to own and occupy the home as their primary residence for 5-10 years dependent on amount of assistance.



Buyer must obtain a fixed-rate mortgage with a term of at least 15 years.



Income limits apply: Must be at or below 80% Area Median Income for family size. Documentation for verification must be complete and will remain good for 12 months.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Return a complete and accurate application with the required income documentation.
- Obtain mortgage preapproval from a qualified lender.
- Homes will be subject to inspection, lead/radon testing, and environmental review.

Questions may be directed to:
Emma Harkins at
(319) 289-0931 or
emma.harkins@ecicog.org



Please visit ECICOG.org for full details and other eligibility requirements.



County	1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person	5-person	6-person	7-person	8-person
Benton	\$62,100	\$70,950	\$79,800	\$88,650	\$95,750	\$102,850	\$109,950	\$117,050
Iowa	\$56,100	\$64,100	\$72,100	\$80,100	\$86,550	\$92,950	\$99,350	\$105,750
Jones	\$56,750	\$64,850	\$72,950	\$81,050	\$87,550	\$94,050	\$100,550	\$107,000
Washington	\$53,100	\$60,700	\$68,300	\$75,850	\$81,950	\$88,000	\$94,100	\$100,150

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM



The Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program provides funding to help low-to-moderate income homeowners make their homes safer by identifying and addressing lead-based paint hazards in Benton, Iowa, Jones, Johnson, Linn & Washington Counties.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Return a complete and accurate application with the required documentation.
- Homes will be subject to inspection, lead/radon testing, and environmental review.

Questions may be directed to:
Nicole Beuc at
(319) 289-0074 or
nicole.beuc@ecicog.org

Please visit [ECICOG.org](https://www.ecicog.org) for full details and other eligibility requirements.

ELIGIBILITY



Homes must be constructed prior to 1978 to qualify for assistance.



Must have a child five (5) years or younger who either resides in the home or visits on a frequent basis.



Rental housing is also eligible - there will be a match requirement from property owners.



3 years forgivable mortgage is placed on the property.



Annual household income must be at or below 80% AMI, 50% for rental applicants. Please contact ECICOG for more details.



Must be current on mortgage payments, property taxes and have a current homeowners insurance policy.

Effective 5/1/2026

County	1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person	5-person	6-person	7-person	8-person
Benton	\$63,350	\$72,400	\$81,450	\$90,500	\$97,750	\$105,000	\$112,250	\$119,500
Iowa	\$56,950	\$65,100	\$73,250	\$81,350	\$87,900	\$94,400	\$100,900	\$107,400
Johnson	\$68,000	\$77,700	\$87,400	\$97,100	\$104,900	\$112,650	\$120,450	\$128,200
Jones	\$54,750	\$62,550	\$70,350	\$78,150	\$84,450	\$90,700	\$96,950	\$103,200
Linn	\$59,000	\$67,400	\$75,850	\$84,250	\$91,000	\$97,750	\$104,500	\$111,250
Washington	\$52,750	\$60,250	\$67,800	\$75,300	\$81,350	\$87,350	\$93,400	\$99,400