

Through the Better Together Fund, the Community Foundation has provided key grant funding to community projects, serving needs and opportunities that make Greater Des Moines greater. The Better Together Fund makes Community Foundation Leadership Grants possible and has included investments such as:

Organization	Purpose	Amount
6th Avenue Corridor	Supported the transformation on 6th Avenue through the streetscape project, which is referenced as being the longest and most economically sustainable streetscape enhancement ever carried out in the metro.	\$200,000
Anawim Housing Foundation	Supported the construction of Monarch Apartments, which will provide 40 permanent supportive housing units to individuals and couples experiencing homelessness.	\$200,000
Anawim Housing Foundation	Through a four-phased project, Anawim provided the opportunity for new housing options and revamped the neighborhood served.	\$100,000
Ballet Des Moines	The Campus for Arts and Education will establish a new permanent home for arts and education programming, creating a shared resource for arts and community organizations from across the region.	\$100,000
Blank Park Zoo Foundation	The new, climate-controlled 10,000 square-foot facility allows for a variety of uses for year-round access, including: traveling exhibits, camp and educational facilities and an event space.	\$25,000
Broadlawns Medical Center Foundation	Funding supported the Mental Health Starts With Me Project, the inpatient and outpatient mental health care components of a capital campaign at Broadlawns. This project included the renovation of current space as well as an expansion of inpatient beds, bringing the number of individuals served to the maximum for licensure.	\$250,000
By Degrees Foundation	Connecting the Dots at North High School extended the Dreamer Academy model to deliver college and career programming to students at North High School, part of a network that includes Findley Elementary and Harding Middle School.	\$25,000
Capital Crossroads	Funding supported a community-wide planning process necessary for Capital Crossroads 2.0, which is defined as a bold, but achievable, vision that serves a 50-mile radius surrounding the State Capitol.	\$35,000
Center at Sixth	The Center at Sixth will be a mixed-use commercial space in one of Des Moines' most ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Funding supported the creation of a nonprofit Black and Brown main street business incubator within this 12,000 square feet facility to help and serve small business owners of color.	\$150,000
ChildServe	Invested in a new facility that will expand the capacity from serving 60 children with specialized healthcare needs to 600, dramatically reduce waitlists and expand services.	\$100,000
Community Youth Concepts (CYC)	This project included the development of the first accessible ropes course in the Midwest at Stowe Elementary School. The course is managed by CYC, a youth development organization that engages middle and high school youth in programming directed at healthy behaviors, life skills and sense of purpose.	\$25,000
Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART)	This grant supports an on-demand micro-transit service within the 50314 zip code. This innovative program seeks to respond to the community's expressed needs by offering affordable transportation opportunities to improve individuals' financial stability and wellness.	\$20,000
Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)	This grant supported DMARC's new headquarters and warehouse project located at the former Iowa Medicaid building on Army Post Road.	\$100,000
Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)	This benefited DMARC by increasing storage space for its food inventory and realized cost savings through the ability to receive palletized deliveries, centralized operations and savings related to owning a facility	\$25,000

Des Moines Heritage Trust	This grant supported the renovation of the 1909 Des Moines Union Depot and created a community event center adjacent to the depot resulting in the Des Moines Heritage Center.	\$75,000
Des Moines Parks and Recreation Foundation	Funding supported the Riechardt Community Recreation Center, a 40,000-square-foot facility that will serve families and individuals in the heart of Des Moines' north side. It features spaces supporting STEAM-oriented activities, an interior NBA-sized gym space, and a family-oriented indoor aquatic facility.	\$250,000
Des Moines Public Schools	This grant supported Des Moines Public Schools in its efforts to create an online high school called Virtual Academy, the first of its kind in Central Iowa. This increased access for a variety of learners and seeks to ensure graduation for individuals with barriers.	\$100,000
Des Moines Water Works Park Foundation	Funding supported the capital campaign effort of Phase 1 for the transformation of Des Moines Water Works Park. Elements of the first phase included the underpass to Gray's Lake, welcome plaza and amphitheater.	\$250,000
Disaster Recovery Fund	The Community Foundation seeded the Disaster Recovery Fund during its first activation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$200,000
DMACC - Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families	This grant supported the Evelyn K. Davis Center's relocation to a larger facility, in the same neighborhood, that allowed for the expansion of services and increased the number of clients served annually.	\$250,000
Easterseals Iowa	The grant supported construction of a new facility to house the Child Development Center. The new location provides increased amenities as well as doubles capacity for the number of children who can be served.	\$75,000
Easterseals Iowa	The purpose of this grant was to support the capital needs related to launching the Crisis Stabilization Center at Camp Sunnyside to support families facing a mental health crisis.	\$75,000
Ellipsis	The Place For Girls project will result in a continuum of care for system-involved youth that will close 100% of the gap on services for girls in Supervised Apartment Living and provide appropriate spaces that support healing and increased opportunities for real-world skill-building to improve well-being and long-term self-sufficiency.	\$110,000
Food Bank of Iowa	Supported the Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope capital campaign to expand their facility.	\$100,000
Great Outdoors Foundation	Funded the activation of more than 150 miles of water trails to positively impact water quality, further drive tourism and economic development in addition to expanding quality of life for residents.	\$250,000
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity	Supported the Framing our Future campaign to acquire land for equitable affordable housing in Central Iowa. Through this campaign, Habitat aims to strengthen the community and provide low-income families with a safe place to call home.	\$100,000
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity	Supported the Pocket Neighborhood Project which provides affordable homeownership options in the Birdland neighborhood in Des Moines.	\$75,000
Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc.	Supported the Vision 2020 capital campaign to establish a revolving loan fund to acquire land, pay pre-development costs and assist in lowering financing costs for families purchasing homes.	\$100,000
House of Mercy	Supported efforts to reimagine and repurpose an existing wing at House of Mercy into a Mental Health Center for current clients and the community at large.	\$100,000
Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation	Supported the capital campaign for the expansion project that improved the backstage area of the theater and expanded patron areas to make them accessible and ADA compliant.	\$100,000

Hunger Free Polk County	Funded the Partnership for a Hunger Free Polk County and its goal of eliminating hunger in Central Iowa.	\$50,000
Iowa Center for Children's Justice	Funding supported the launch of a program to provide free and low-cost advocacy and legal services ensuring children have a voice in high-conflict custody cases, educational workshops and joint parenting sessions.	\$75,000
Iowa Healthiest State Initiative	Supported the launch of the Polk County Produce Prescription Program pilot to provide access to nutritious food and quality patient care through systemic efforts that support families, people of color and low-income individuals disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This program is implemented in partnership with Broadlawns Medical Center.	\$50,000
Iowa Homeless Youth Centers	Supported the capital campaign to bring to life the innovative Rooftop Garden project in our community.	\$50,000
Iowa Homeless Youth Centers	Iowa Homeless Youth Centers' (IHYC) 6th Avenue Flats is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Central Iowa, embedding mental health support into an affordable housing setting. Funding supported the addition of on-site mental health services for residents of the 42-apartment complex and the broader community.	\$80,000
Oakridge Neighborhood	The Teen Tech Center creates opportunities for students and young people to engage in a variety of fine arts through hands-on activities, workshops, and artists-in-residence.	\$100,000
Orchard Place	This grant provided funding for Crisis Care Coordinators; a critical staff role in the overall implementation of mental health care for youth.	\$175,000
Orchard Place	Funding supported the development of a comprehensive master plan for the structure and implementation of a full range of children's mental health services in an effort to drive appropriate and cost-effective care with positive outcomes.	\$50,000
Primary Health Care (PHC)	Funding supported the extension of the University Medical Clinic, which provides a variety of services to the community including a full-time dental clinic, pharmacy, homeless support services program, Polk County Centralized Intake, and an HIV care and treatment clinic. The expansion will provide 16 additional exam rooms.	\$150,000
Proteus, Inc.	Supported the expansion of the successful model of providing a medical home and wrap around services for farmworkers to serve meat processing workers.	\$50,000
The Beacon	Funding housing and support for women who have a history of homelessness and/or incarceration through the purchase of The Beacon Village facility which features 32 individual apartments and a community-centered approach.	\$250,000
The Director's Council	Funded the implementation phases of The Director's Council's One Economy work. Focus was placed on providing culturally-specific, responsive and concentrated financial well-being efforts for African Americans and individuals of African descent in Polk County.	\$100,000
United Way of Central Iowa	Supported Central Iowa's Bridges to Success Program, a comprehensive community-wide program to support adult learners. The program offers enhanced course curriculum to adults seeking a high school equivalency diploma.	\$100,000
WesleyLife	Supported the renovation of an existing University Avenue building to provide a sustainable home for Meals on Wheels and triple its capacity to serve, provide meals and offer wellness checks for those who need them most.	\$100,000
YSS	The vision of Ember Recovery Campus is to transform lives by bringing to life Iowa's first trauma-informed, nature-based behavioral health campus, just 1.2 miles north of Polk County. YSS expects to serve 300 youth annually (30% or more of which are BIPOC) and expand treatment to individuals ages 18-24.	\$100,000