

State approves community grants

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CASPER — The State Loan and Investment Board approved more than \$14.5 million for Business Ready Community grants and more than \$5.6 million for Community Facilities grants at a meeting last week in Cheyenne.

The board decided to fully fund the following Business Ready Community requests:

- Baggs, \$34,492 to help beautify the town. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$34,493.
- Chugwater, \$471,271 to install infrastructure to create industrial and business-ready lots. The community cash and in-kind match is \$62,224.
- Cody, \$730,223 to purchase a building and land to attract manufacturers. The community match is \$81,135.
- Evansville, \$1.5 million for infrastructure to create business-ready lots in a 74-acre business park and to improve existing infrastructure for the town. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$595,509.
- Guernsey, \$112,594 to construct walking trails near the downtown's historic plaza along the Platte River. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$113,341.
- Laramie County, \$1.5 million to construct a building for Cheyenne LEADS. The in-kind match is \$601,128.
- Lovell, \$330,598 for the Lovell business incubator facility. The in-kind match is \$75,245.
- Lyman, \$1.5 million in partial funding for a building on three downtown lots to provide usable space for four to five businesses. The in-kind match is \$186,663.
- Natrona County, \$1,493,580 for improvements to Morgan Street located within the airport's business park. The community match is \$165,533.
- Powell, \$450,000 to construct a building to help expand Gluten Free Oats. The community match is \$50,000.
- Ranchester, \$489,500 to enhance the town's entryway and downtown. The Business Council Board also approved \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant money, which does not have to be approved by the State Loan and Investment Board. The community match comes from \$44,500 in-kind funds and another \$145,000 in Mineral Royalty funds.
- Washakie County, \$1,937,133 to develop the Fair View Industrial Park. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$215,126.
- Weston County, 500,000 to construct a building for an events center. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$569,000.
- Teton County, \$455,715 to develop mountain biking and hiking trails for the Jackson Hole Trails Project.

The State Loan and Investment Board also provided partial funding for a Dubois assisted-living facility (\$1.5 million) and for Laramie's Basic Beginnings Early Learning Center (\$1.5 million).

The board approved the following Community Facilities grants:

- Encampment, \$1,005,158 to renovate the historic Grand Encampment Opera House. The in-kind match is \$318,095.
- Rock Springs, \$1,493,946 to renovate a city-owned structure and make it a multiuse, performing arts and cinema venue. The community match, cash and in-kind, is \$661,830.
- East Laramie County Joint Powers Board, \$1,498,500 to update the former Pine Bluffs High School building for continued use as a community center. The in-kind match is \$395,000.
- Lincoln County, \$1,300,451 to rehabilitate and convert a vacant school in Etna into a community center. The in-kind match is \$366,000.
- Sublette County, \$320,690 to renovate the Daniel Schoolhouse for community use. The in-kind match is \$208,056.