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Almost six million in CARES Act funds given to Crow Wing County communities

Crow Wing County has distributed nearly \$5.9 million in CARES Act funds to local small businesses, non-profits, schools and organizations since the county received the Federal funds in July.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, is the US governments \$2.2 trillion package to help businesses, workers and our health care system staggered by the pandemic. Minnesota local governments and counties received CARES funding based on population to spend on government and economic assistance to businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19. Crow Wing County was given 8 million dollars and the county board specified with the goal to give as much to local businesses and organizations that have struggled since COVID-19.

“We did not have a big time frame to get CARES funding into the hands of those that need it. I’m so glad we were able to quickly collaborate, communicate and promote to keep this funding in our local communities”, said County Board Chair Steve Barrows. “Our board remains very concerned about the economic impact to our communities during the pandemic. Our small businesses and nonprofits provide important jobs and critical services to our residents. I’m so grateful we could provide some relief during this stressful time.”

Crow Wing County offered 2 rounds of grant opportunities for small businesses and nonprofits to apply. Phase 1 grants were approved 10/13/20. Phase 2 grants were approved 11/3/20.

Breakdown of Crow Wing County CARES Act Funds:

- \$1,486,900 for Broadband
- \$2,887,815.20 for Small Businesses
- \$790,527.40 for Local Nonprofits
- \$727,697.96 for Local Schools and YMCA

“The decisions that the Crow Wing County Commissioners made to put the amount of funds in to grants for our small businesses, and non-profits, is not being taken for granted by those who received the funds. BLAEDC is very proud to have played a role assisting the county with the CARES Act grant program that has had a very positive impact at a time of real need”, said Tyler Glynn, Executive Director of Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation (BLAEDC)

Our Vision: Being Minnesota’s favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

The breakdown of grants by small businesses and community:

Location	# Grants	Total Amount Approved
Baxter	70	\$ 674,419.00
Brainerd	80	\$ 753,756.45
Breezy Point	5	\$ 50,000.00
Crosby	14	\$ 140,000.00
Crosslake	33	\$ 308,500.00
Crow Wing County	18	\$ 178,000.00
Dagget Brook Township	1	\$ 10,000.00
Deerwood	10	\$ 89,887.76
Emily	5	\$ 44,775.00
Fort Ripley	1	\$ 10,000.00
Garrison	9	\$ 87,000.00
Ironton	1	\$ 10,000.00
Jenkins	3	\$ 30,000.00
Lake Shore	1	\$ 10,000.00
Merrifield	4	\$ 40,000.00
Nisswa	28	\$ 271,801.14
Oak Lawn Township	1	\$ 10,000.00
Pequot	25	\$ 229,383.95
Unorganized	1	\$ 10,000.00
	310	\$ 2,957,523.30

Local Cities and townships that did not spend all of their CARES Act dollars were required to send any balance back to Crow Wing County before November 15 to keep funds in our communities.

“I appreciate the collaboration from so many of our partner agencies. Our highest priority was to keep these funds in Crow Wing County,” said County Administrator Tim Houle. “The pandemic led to a sudden shift in our daily lives and everyone swerved together to make this a true team effort.”

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