



**Mitchell County**  
Economic Development Commission

# The County Cover

Your MCEDC Quarterly Update — Fall/Winter 2023-24

## Childcare Coalition & Wage Enhancement Program

I want to express my gratitude to all those who came together to support the Mitchell County Childcare Coalition Wage Enhancement Program. Initially we set a goal to raise \$200,000 as that was the amount determined we needed to begin with to make the program meaningful. Because our community worked together, we easily surpassed that goal - our grand total of funds raised for the first year is \$333,367.00!!!

We found out about the childcare solutions funding that was available through the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services in September. We only had until the end of October to obtain pledges, so it was a very quick turnaround. All of you made this easier for us by working and coming together to achieve this common goal. I am excited to be leading this childcare initiative for Mitchell County and want to thank Sheri Penney with the Iowa Woman's Foundation for working with us to make this happen here in Mitchell County.

We are on target to receive the state award of 2:1 matching funds. Out of the other communities participating in the childcare program Mitchell County received the highest award from the state so this really goes to show how much our businesses stepped up.

We are excited and proud to be part of a county that is taking action to help the childcare crisis.  
THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

*Jenny Backer*  
Executive Director

# Thank You!

The following businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals helped support the Mitchell County Childcare Program and raised \$333,367 for local childcare needs!

A to Z Drying, Inc.	Patterson Seed
Absolute Energy LLC	Popp Excavating, Inc.
Cooper's Osage Auto, Inc.	Regenerative Food Processing LLC
CUSB Bank	Scharper Services LLC
Enterprise Journal	St. Ansgar State Bank: St. Ansgar - Stacyville
Faith Lutheran Home	Valent BioSciences LLC
First Citizens Bank	Wold Rim & Wheel
Fox River Mills	Foundation for the Enhancement of Mitchell Co.
Grain Millers, Inc.	ROCK Foundation
Heartland Power Cooperative	Jean A. Brumm
Home Trust & Savings Bank	Dave & Kathy Falk
Klapperich Farm Systems	Paul & Barbara Groth
Kolbet Realtors - Kevin, Janean & Phil Kolbet	Anonymous
LR Falk Construction	Betty McCarthy
MCRHC - Mitchell Co.	Jim & Shannon Paulus
Regional Health Center	Jason & Katie Penfold
Milkhouse Candle Company	Jim & Deb Wherry
Murphy, Coe & Smith PLLC	Mark & Beverly Hendrickson
Osage Development Corporation	City of Osage
Osage Economic Betterment Company	
Osage Municipal Utilities	

Thank you to the following for their assistance:

Iowa Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Iowa Women's Foundation  
Mitchell Co. Childcare Coalition



## 2023 Year in Review

The following are projects and events that MCEDC has worked on or has been involved with over the past year:

- Initiated the Mitchell County Childcare Wage Enhancement Program.

### *With local pledges and the state award over \$1,000,000.00 was raised!*

- Mitchell County became a Home Based Iowa Community
- Mitchell County Job and Career fair
- Mitchell County Construction Loan Program: 3 loans, \$20,000 each for total of \$60,000 at 0% interest
- Revolving Loan Funds (RLF): 3 loans totaling \$100,000
- A-Z Drying 23-million-dollar expansion
- Scholarships available for the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center-Venture School
- Lunch & Learn Workshops
- Employer/Employee Gap Education
- FEMC support to help grant over \$114,000 to area non-profits
- In-Fill lot program: An additional \$50,000 has been allocated to the Derelict/In-Fill housing program. (The initial \$100,000.00 allocated for the program was used and more funds were needed to continue the program.)

*11 Derelict/In-Fill projects are either completed or in the process*



## 2024 Focus and Goals

Our focus for 2024 is to help retain and attract a quality workforce to support the thriving communities and businesses of Mitchell County and to keep it a place people want to live and work. We know that housing and childcare still are an issue and we are continually looking for ways to address these concerns by researching new programs and ideas that will help local residents, businesses and those that may be planning to come to our area.

### ***Our 2024 Goals:***

- Explore new housing opportunities.
- Continue with Derelict/In-Fill Lot program
- Continue with the Spec Building program.
- Continue with new childcare investments.
- Market the childcare wage enhancement program and childcare providers
- Monitor new rounds of childcare funding
- Create a Mitchell County Directory
- Host an annual Mitchell County Job and Career Fair
- Assist industries with business viability
- Continue to offer Revolving Loan Funds
- Assist with workforce efforts
- Offer scholarships for NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center-Venture School
- Promote economic development programs offered by NIACC

*It has been said that...*

**Mitchell County is  
Rural Iowa's Gem and  
the Envy of North Iowa**

*... and we strive to keep it that way!*

## MCEDC FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

*MCEDC is able to support and help move forward the communities in Mitchell County*

Thanks to the investments from the following:

Mitchell County Board of Supervisors  
City of Osage  
City of Riceville  
City of St. Ansgar  
City of Stacyville  
1st Security Bank & Trust  
CUSB  
Farmers State Bank  
First Citizens Bank  
Home Trust & Savings Bank  
St. Ansgar State Bank  
Alliant Energy  
Black Hills Energy  
Heartland Power Coop  
Interstate Power & Light  
Omnitel Communications  
Osage Municipal Utilities  
A to Z Drying, Inc.

### MCEDC Board -

Chair:

Sam Heimer

Vice-Chair:

Todd Frein

Treasurer:

Harlan Bisbee

Members:

Roger Hemann

Mark Jensen

Randy Marcks

Larry Mork

Shelly Russell

### STAFF -

Executive Director:

Jenny Backer

Mktg & Admin. Asst:

Tracy Scharper

## Check out our digital resources:

Website: [www.mcedciowa.com](http://www.mcedciowa.com)

Facebook: [Mitchell County Events & Announcements](#)

[Mitchell County / Come Join Us](#)

and [Mitchell County Jobs](#) pages

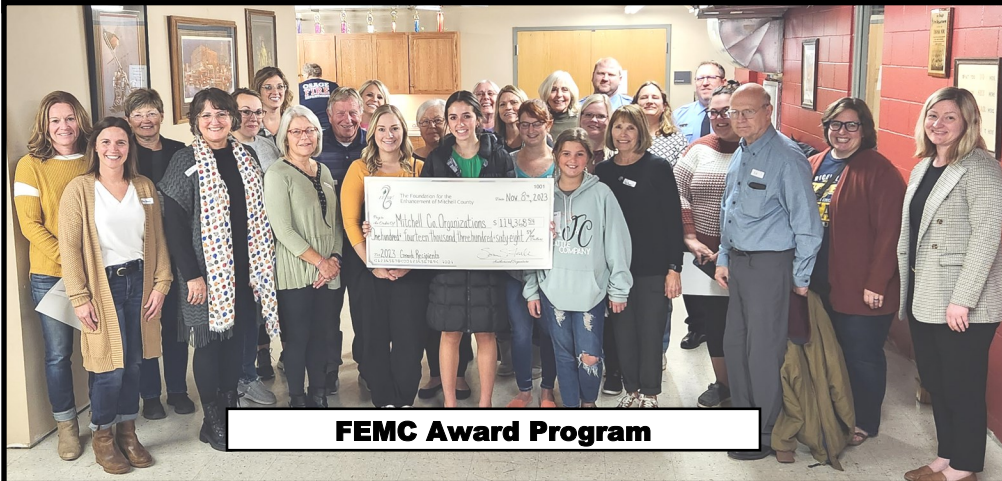
*\*If you have a job you would like us to post on our facebook page or website for free— email information to: [mcedc@mcedciowa.com](mailto:mcedc@mcedciowa.com)*



# 2023 Year in Review



**Childcare Enhancement Program**



**FEMC Award Program**



**Ashley Hinson visit**



**Workforce Workshops**



**Home Base Iowa Program**





## Businesses & Organizations Participating in Career/Job Fair:

- A to Z Drying
- Buena Vista University
- CUSB
- Ellsworth Community College
- Fox River Mills
- Grain Millers INC
- Hawkeye Community College Admissions
- Iowa Central Community College
- Iowa Select Farms
- Job Corps
- Kibble Equipment
- Klapperich Farm Systems
- LR Falk Construction
- McNeilus an Oshkosh Corporation Company
- Mitchell County Home Health & Public Health
- Mitchell County Regional Health Center
- Murphy, Coe & Smith PLLC
- North Iowa Area Community College - Pappajohn Center
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Osage Community Schools
- Pickar-Oulman Plumbing, Heating & Electric Inc.
- RR Donnelley / RRD
- S & S Meats and Spirits
- Stacyville Community Nursing Home
- Taste By Uncs Cheesecake
- US Airforce
- US Army
- Valent BioSciences
- Viafield Cooperative/Northern Country Cooperative
- Waldorf University
- Wold Rim & Wheel

