

Dear Residents of Gibbon,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to provide you with important information about an upcoming event that holds significant potential for our beloved city. Our community has been making impressive strides towards creating a more vibrant and thriving atmosphere, and this next step will undoubtedly contribute to our shared goal.

We have the opportunity to pursue a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant. This grant is focused on our downtown revitalization plan, a comprehensive strategy designed to breathe new life into the heart of our city. Our aim is to develop a clear roadmap that will guide us in making strategic decisions to enhance our downtown area, improve accessibility, and create more appealing spaces for everyone.

Last year, we embarked on this journey, but the challenges posed by handling both the CDBG and CCCFF grants simultaneously were quite demanding. However, I'm pleased to share that our hard work paid off, and we successfully secured the CCCFF grant for the community center. With this accomplishment under our belt, I am confident that we are now ready to forge ahead with our plans for downtown improvements.

I'd like to shed light on the financial aspect of this endeavor. While the CDBG Planning Grant provides a substantial opportunity, there is a commitment on our part to contribute 20% of the grant amount. Our application seeks \$50,000, which translates to approximately \$10,000 from the city's budget, in addition to any potential overages. This investment, I believe, will yield substantial returns in terms of a more vibrant downtown and enhanced community spirit.

The application process will be guided by the experienced South-Central Economic Development District team, with Lori Ferguson as our dedicated representative. Their expertise will ensure that our application is well-prepared and that we have the best chance of securing the grant. Their involvement reflects our commitment to ensuring that the planning process is informed, thorough, and community driven.

The scope of our planning covers various aspects, including improving ADA compliance for downtown sidewalks, upgrading streets, and potentially enhancing business frontages. This holistic approach will not only make our downtown more aesthetically appealing but also create an environment that is inclusive and accessible to everyone.

Whether we choose the CDBG public works infrastructure or the CDBG Downtown Revitalization route, the result will be a well-informed document that will enable us to make decisions that align with our vision for Gibbon's future.

As I reflect on the progress we've made thus far in our community, I am convinced that these projects are bringing us closer to our goal of creating a more vibrant, inviting, and connected community. Each step we take is a testament to our shared dedication and the remarkable potential that lies within our city.

Together, we can shape the future of Gibbon and ensure that it remains a place we are all proud to call home.

Until Next Time,

Matt Smallcomb City Administrator, Gibbon