



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FARIBAULT COUNTY EDA

HIGHLIGHTS

- EDA granted COVID Relief to 100 businesses
- EDA awarded \$2 million grant to deploy fiber
- EDA awarded Targeted Brownfield Assistance Grant
- EDA hosted Countywide Job Fair



STATE OF MN COVID RELIEF GRANTS

At the beginning of the pandemic, non-essential businesses were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many Faribault County businesses including restaurants, bars, gyms, bowling alleys, and event venues their businesses were closed for several weeks throughout the year. Near the end of 2020, the State of Minnesota shut down bars and restaurants. With this shut down, came additional funding in early 2021. The County received \$263,135 which was made available for COVID Relief.

100 GRANTS FUNDED

\$263,135.00

TOTAL DOLLARS GRANTED

KIESTER FOOD N FUEL MPCA GRANT

The Kiester Food n Fuel Site is a tax forfeited property with underground fuel tanks. The EDA secured a Minnesota Technical Brownfields Assistance Program (MNTBAP) Grant to conduct a Phase I Environmental Review of the Property. The study is complete and the County is looking into removal of the underground tanks or possible sale.

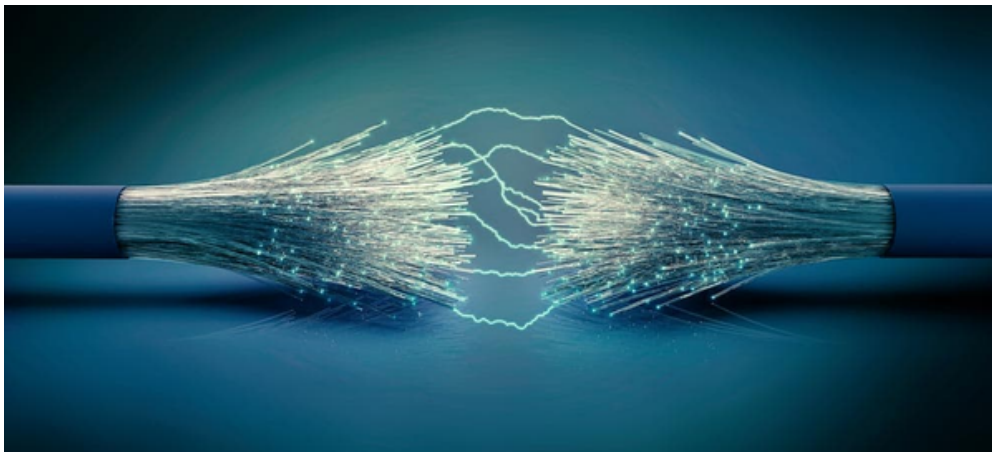
MURPHEY OIL LOAN

Ryan Murphey purchased the Minnesota Lake Food n Fuel Building in late 2020. He worked with the EDA in 2021 to secure loan funding to make improvements to the site and add more convenient hot and ready food options. The pictures below show the addition being added to make room for the new food options.



CDBG-CV BROADBAND GRANT

In May, the State of Minnesota launched the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Grant Program. This program was made available with CARES Act funding, to respond to the needs of the pandemic. The EDA authored and was awarded a grant for \$2,886,206 to deploy a fiber optic network in Bricelyn, Delavan, Elmore, and Frost. In early 2022 an Internet Provider will be selected for the project, and construction will begin.



COUNTY FAIR

In July, the EDA hosted a booth at the County Fair to engage with farmers and ag businesses. The EDA formulated a survey to see if there were technical assistance gaps that could be filled. The EDA handed out pens and window clings to promote their services including business planning, gap financing, and succession planning. The survey was available via QR codes or a paper format. While the survey did not get as many responses as hoped, it was a good opportunity to promote the EDA and its services to one of the County's largest economic sectors.

SBDC MARKETING EVENT

In August, the EDA partnered with the SBDC to host a marketing event focusing on marketing strategies for different generations. The event was led by SBDC Consultant Hannah Bretz and was a lighthearted, and funny presentation called Boomers vs. Millennials. The EDA also invited the Faribault County Register and KBEW to present about their marketing roles. The event was held in person with a virtual option, and there were 16 attendees.

JOB FAIR

The pandemic exacerbated the workforce shortage and rural businesses are facing the effects. The EDA hosted a job fair in October to bring workers and businesses together to match the needs of workers and businesses.

The job fair was advertised thoroughly in the local newspapers and on the radio. Flyers were distributed to grocery stores, and social media was used to encourage people to attend.

The event was held in the early afternoon into the evening so that shift workers could attend. The EDA also brought in a couple of food trucks to make the event feel more inviting.

The job fair was well received by employers who came out to the Ag Center in Blue Earth for the event. There was a wide variety of businesses from across the County, and a wide selection of different occupations.

The EDA tracked 45 attendees that signed in to look for job opportunities, which is almost two new leads per business. Deibel Labs in Blue Earth reported that they received 15 applications as a result of the event. Another business reported hiring two people as a result of the job fair.



Faribault County Economic Development Authority

JOB FAIR

BRING YOUR RESUME

Free to attend

TUESDAY, OCT. 5, 2021

3 PM - 7 PM

AG CENTER

415 S. Grove St. • Blue Earth, MN

Local employers are now hiring!
Find a new job, or explore a new career opportunity with area businesses

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

- Bangor - Blue Earth
- Cabin Coffee - Blue Earth
- Cedar Lake - Blue Earth
- Cooking International - Blue Earth
- Cutsa David & Paper - Waukegan
- Cutsa Packaging - Waukegan
- Farm's Doughnut Kitchen - Blue Earth
- Greenage - Winnebago
- Heartland Global - Winnebago
- Heartland Senior Living - Waukegan
- Kable Equipment - Blue Earth
- McClelland's - Blue Earth
- MET Machine - Winnebago
- Papa John's - Blue Earth
- PDM Heartland - Blue Earth
- Heartland Packaging - Blue Earth
- Kuma Pizzeria - Waukegan
- St. Louis Lutheran Care Center - Blue Earth
- Tabor - Blue Earth
- Tabor - Blue Earth
- Thruway Foodmart - Blue Earth

STOP AT THE

FOOD TRUCKS

Berry Baggie • B-Le Zero Sino Cones and Cubic Coffee will be available inside

Faribault County
Economic Development Authority

415 S Grove • St #4,
Blue Earth, MN 56013
(507) 526-6275
www.feda.net

 New Hiring Seasonal and part time cashiers and stockers for the holiday season. Room for upward advancement	 New Hiring Baristas	 New Hiring CDL Drivers	 New Hiring Lab Technician and Lab Aide
 New Hiring Diesel Mechanics (two positions)	 New Hiring Heavy Equipment Operators and Truck Drivers	 New Hiring Production Workers, Assemblers, Metal Fabricators and Material Handler	 New Hiring Fulltime Line Line Cooks
 New Hiring Process Operators, Boiler Operators and IT Technician	 New Hiring RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Resident Assistants, Dietary Cooke and Aides, Housekeeping and Laundry Aides	 New Hiring Territory Sales Manager and Service Technician	 New Hiring
 New Hiring	 New Hiring	 New Hiring Direct Support Professional	 New Hiring Sales Department, Front Office and On-Air. Women and Minorities encouraged to apply.
 New Hiring Electrition, Plumber, HVAC Installer and HVAC Tech	 New Hiring Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, CNA's, Dietary Assistants, House Keepers and Universal Workers	 New Hiring Welders, Weld-Fitters, Painters and Assembly Technicians	 New Hiring Food Service Director, Cashier/Clark/Food Prep, Food Service Aides & Food Service Substitutes
OUR LOCAL EMPLOYERS ARE NOW HIRING! Many of these businesses are hosting on site interviews, and even offering hiring bonuses! * * * For complete company descriptions and more information please visit foad.net and check out the Fairbault County EDA Job Fair Event on Facebook! SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: The Fairbault County Register, KBEW and Blue Earth EDA.			

MADE IN FARIBAULT COUNTY

Over the past year, the Made in Faribault County Facebook page has continued to grow. The page now has 507 likes. The goal of the page is to spread news about Faribault County business and help increase local business's social media presence.

The majority of the page's content is shared posts from local businesses and non-profits. In December, we promoted local businesses by hosting live Facebook videos at area retail businesses. These videos highlight feature items at the stores.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

The EDA will continue to focus on three main goals. A more comprehensive list is available by request.

- 1) Administer the broadband grant for fiber development in Bricelyn, Delavan, Elmore, and Frost
- 2) Assist entrepreneurs looking to start or purchase a business
- 3) Assist City EDA's with the attraction and retaining of large employers