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## **First National Bank of Omaha Awards \$834,000 in Community Development Grants**

OMAHA, Neb. May 15, 2017. – First National Bank of Omaha, which also operates as First National Bank Fremont and First National Bank North Platte, has awarded a total of \$834,000 in community development grants to 47 organizations in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and South Dakota, announced Alec Gorynski, Vice President, Corporate Philanthropy and Social Responsibility. The grants support programs focused on stable housing, vibrant neighborhoods and strong local economies.

“At First National Bank, we know that our success is dependent upon the success of our communities and we therefore strive to set a standard in banking that serves the greater good,” said Gorynski. “Our community development grant program is one example of that standard as we direct our investments with community partners who are working to create positive impacts where need is greatest and results are best realized.”

### **Nebraska**

In Nebraska, First National Bank awarded \$580,500 in community development grants to 26 organizations across the state. Grants for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization programs will enable the bank’s community partners to build, rehabilitate or finance 484 homes and provide 654 individuals with home ownership education and foreclosure prevention services. These include:

- \$40,000 – Holy Name Housing Corporation (Omaha): provides support to continue affordable housing construction in North Omaha.
- \$40,000 – Rebuilding Together Omaha (Omaha): provides home repairs, rehabilitation and modifications for low-income homeowners in Omaha/Council Bluffs.
- \$35,000 – Omaha Municipal Land Bank (Omaha): accelerates redevelopment efforts in Omaha through the acquisition and demolition of blighted and abandoned properties.

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- \$35,000 – Habitat for Humanity Omaha (Omaha): supports Habitat Omaha’s affordable housing work and neighborhood coalition-building activities in Kountze Park.
- \$30,000 – Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (Omaha): addresses safety and health hazards in homes with children.
- \$30,000 – The 712 Initiative (Omaha): provides pre-development funding related to the development of affordable rental housing in Council Bluffs.
- \$25,000 – Midwest Housing Development Fund (Omaha): provides technical and capacity building assistance to create affordable housing.
- \$20,000 – GESU Housing, Inc. (Omaha): supports construction of five homes for qualifying buyers in Omaha.
- \$20,000 – Nebraska Housing Developers Association (Omaha): increases the availability of quality affordable housing and homeownership education, and provides home modifications and down payment assistance for low or moderate income individuals.
- \$15,000 – NeighborWorks (Lincoln): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$13,000 – Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity (Fremont): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$10,000 – Rebuilding Together Platte Valley East (Fremont): provides funding for roof repair or replacement.
- \$15,000 – Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity (Kearney): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$7,500 – Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska (Kearney): provides essential home repairs, upgrades and testing to address health and safety issues.
- \$15,000 – Neighborworks Northeast Nebraska (Columbus): provides funding for property inspections, environmental reviews, homebuyer education, and down payment and closing cost assistance.
- \$15,000 – Habitat for Humanity of Columbus (Columbus): supports the development of Habitat's New Hope subdivision.
- \$10,000 – Building a Better Tomorrow (Columbus): assists in the completion of a mixed income subdivision with rental and owner occupied housing.
- \$10,000 – Lincoln County Community Development Corporation (North Platte): support home buyer education and affordable housing rehabilitation.

- \$10,000 – Western Nebraska Housing Opportunities (North Platte): provides funding to rehabilitate affordable housing units.
- \$7,500 – High Plains Community Development (North Platte): provides support for the agency's affordable housing work.

Grants supporting economic development initiatives will create or retain 362 jobs and assist more than 635 small businesses in Nebraska. These include:

- \$45,000 – Catholic Charities of Omaha (Omaha): promotes economic development opportunities and self-sufficiency through training, technical assistance and micro-loans for low-income entrepreneurs.
- \$40,000 – Nebraska Enterprise Fund (Omaha): expands small business training and mentoring to reach a greater number of diverse businesses.
- \$40,000 – Iowa Western Community College Small Business Development Center (Omaha): provides free technical assistance and training for small businesses and start-ups.
- \$30,000 – Nebraska Business Development Center (Omaha): supports one-on-one consulting to business owners in planning, financial analysis, financing options and general business practices.
- \$20,000 – Grameen America, Inc. (Omaha): supports micro-lending that provides affordable microloans, credit building, asset building, financial education and peer networking services to low-income women entrepreneurs.
- \$2,500 – Gage Area Growth Enterprise / NGage (Lincoln): supports downtown Beatrice revitalization and development.

## **Colorado**

In Colorado, First National Bank awarded \$140,000 in community development grants to 11 organizations. Grants for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization programs will enable the bank's community partners to build, rehabilitate or finance 342 homes and provide 106 individuals with home ownership education and foreclosure prevention services. These include:

- \$10,000 – Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley (Longmont): supports affordable housing construction.

- \$10,000 – Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity (Fort Collins): supports affordable housing construction in partnership with high school students.
- \$10,000 – Loveland Habitat for Humanity (Loveland): provides funding for the construction of a two-bedroom home in Loveland.
- \$10,000 – Flatirons Habitat for Humanity (Boulder): provides funding for the construction of six housing units.
- \$10,000 – Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity (Greeley): supports affordable housing construction in partnership with high school students.
- \$10,000 – Mile High Community Loan Fund (Fort Collins): provides technical assistance to address affordable housing needs.

Grants supporting economic development initiatives will create or retain 1,948 jobs and assist more than 2,645 small businesses in Colorado. These include:

- \$40,000 – Rocky Mountain Innosphere (Fort Collins): accelerates job creation and entrepreneurship through specialized resources and access to capital.
- \$10,000 – Accion Colorado (Denver): increases access to capital and business support for entrepreneurs in Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld counties.
- \$10,000 – Colorado Enterprise Fund (Denver): supports small business lending, development and technical assistance to low income and minority business owners in Weld, Larimer, Boulder, Broomfield and Adams counties.
- \$10,000 – Larimer County Small Business Development Center (Fort Collins): provides small businesses financial consulting, workshops/trainings and connection to resources.
- \$10,000 – East Colorado Small Business Development Center (Greeley): provides consulting services to small businesses and startups in eastern Colorado.

## **Illinois**

In Illinois, First National Bank awarded \$75,500 in community development grants to seven organizations. Grants for affordable housing programs will enable the bank's community partners to build, rehabilitate or finance 46 homes and provide 126 individuals with home ownership education and foreclosure prevention services. These include:

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- \$10,000 – Habitat for Humanity of Boone County (Belvidere): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$7,500 – Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley (Elgin): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$6,500 – Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County (McHenry): supports affordable housing rehabilitation.
- \$6,500 – Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity (Aurora): supports affordable housing construction in partnership with local high school students.

Grants supporting economic development initiatives will create or retain 2,029 jobs and assist more than 554 small businesses in Illinois. These include:

- \$25,000 – Fox Valley Entrepreneurship Center (Batavia): provides free training and planning for small businesses.
- \$15,000 – DeKalb County Economic Development Center (Sycamore): support to accelerate the attraction of investment jobs, businesses, and tax revenue in DeKalb.
- \$5,000 – Accion Chicago: provides support, training and capital to help grow businesses and create jobs in Boone, Kane, McHenry, DeKalb, and Kendall counties.

### **Kansas**

In Kansas, First National Bank awarded a \$10,000 community development grant supporting economic development initiatives. The grant will create or retain 275 jobs and assist more than 635 small businesses.

- \$10,000 – America's Small Business Development Center at Johnson County Community College (Overland Park): supports education, consulting and networking services for small businesses.

### **South Dakota**

In South Dakota, First National Bank awarded \$28,000 in community development grants to two organizations. Grants for affordable housing programs will enable the bank's community partners to build, rehabilitate or finance nine homes and provide five individuals with home ownership education. These include:

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- \$15,000 – Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity (Mitchell): supports affordable housing construction.
- \$13,000 – Habitat for Humanity of Yankton (Yankton): supports affordable housing construction.

First National Bank expects to announce additional community development grants in the fourth quarter of this year that will support initiatives that strengthen the workforce. In 2016, the bank awarded a total of \$1.84 million in community development grants to organizations across its seven-state service area. To view First National Bank’s “First in the Community Impact Report” and learn more about the full extent of its 2016 community contributions, please visit: [First National Bank 2016 Community Impact Report](#).

First National Bank of Omaha is a subsidiary of First National of Nebraska. First National of Nebraska is the largest privately owned banking company in the United States. First National of Nebraska and its affiliates have more than \$21 billion in assets and 5,000 employee associates. Primary banking offices are located in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.

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