



Building Stronger Communities Through Strategic Investment

1:00 – 2:00 pm

DISCOVER

THE

DIFFERENC

*Embracing creative solutions to build a
stronger Dodge County*

E



DODGE COUNTY
W I S C O N S I N



WHY WE ARE HERE

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
FUND**

**LOCAL INVESTMENT. LASTING
IMPACT.**

DODGE COUNTY AT A GLANCE



9

1



1

2

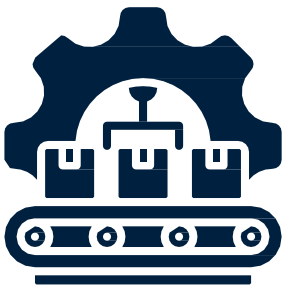
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CITIES VILLAGES TOWNS



Population: ~ 89,100



Top Industry: Manufacturing



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dodge County grant program that provides financial resources to local communities to help move impactful community and economic development projects forward



**BRIDGE
FINANCIAL
GAPS**



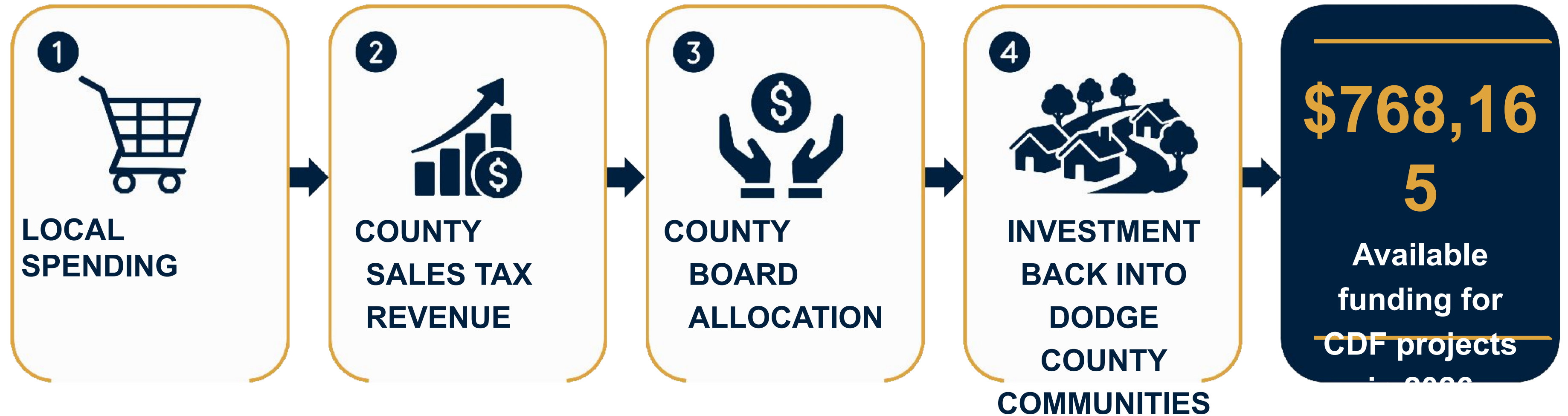
**LEVERAGE
LOCAL
INVESTMENT**



**STRENGTHEN
DODGE
COUNTY**

HOW IS THE CDF FUNDED?

Turning local economic activity into community investment



The concept is simple: local economic activity generates sales tax revenue, and a portion is reinvested into projects that support Dodge County communities

WHY WE CREATED THE FUND

The Challenge for Communities

Communities often have ideas - but lack flexible funding to move them forward.

Program Objectives:

Foster Positive Partnerships

Collaborate with communities to support business, housing, and community asset developments

Welcoming Business Climate

Creative financial tool to attract new business investments and support existing business expansion efforts

Support Workforce Growth

Address workforce needs by supporting new and diverse housing developments

Built for Dodge County Communities:



Activate shovel-ready, high-impact projects



Maximize local resources for long-term public benefit



Enhance quality of life and support sustainable countywide growth

THE PROCESS TO GET HERE



2020

Developed Concept:

Use County Funds to Invest in Communities



2021

Revolving Loan Fund Closeout:

Funded \$1.6 Million in 3 Communities - Showing Potential and Need



2022

ARPA: County Shared ARPA Dollars with Communities

Dodge County received \$17 Million in ARPA Dollars, Over \$2 Million Community Grants were Awarded - Community Grants Showed What Successful Partnerships Can Look Like



2023

Shared Concept with County Board

County Board Instructed Staff to Scope Out Formal Program



2024

Developed Program with 3 County Board Supervisors Guidance

Received Program Approval and Budget Approval



2025

Implementation!

HOW THE FUNDWORKS

1



Community Awareness & Education

Application Period

2



Initial Review

Dodge County Team:
Eligibility Check & Complete Application

3



Review Process

Advisory Committee:
Application Review

4



Committee Recommendation

Executive Committee:
Final Decision

5



Funding Awarded

Corporation Counsel & Community Development:
Grant Agreement

BUILDING THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



WHY WE CREATED IT

Bring outside perspective into the review process



HOW IT IS STRUCTURED

1 Executive Committee Member
+
4 Economic Development Professionals Outside of



WHAT IT DOES

Review applications and provide recommendations to Executive Committee



THE GOAL: Create a review process that is thoughtful, consistent, and informed by both internal and external perspectives.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The County's final decision making body for CDF awards



WHY THEY'RE INVOLVED

Provide County oversight and accountability.



WHAT THEY REVIEW

The applications + Advisory
Committee recommendations



WHAT THEY DECIDE

Make the final CDF funding
decision

2025PROJECT AWARDS

Community Award Amount Project Overview

City of Beaver Dam	\$350,000	Infrastructure for 16 lot single family development
City of Fox Lake	\$100,000	Infrastructure for 8 lot single family development
City of Horicon	\$386,436	Infrastructure for 8 duplex-style housing units in Phase 1 & downtown revitalization. Phase 2-3 infrastructure funded by developer reimbursements from Phase 1.
City of Watertown	\$100,000	Infrastructure to extend Wilbur Street for 2 housing developments (36 housing units)
City of Waupun	\$894,545	Infrastructure to complete Shaler Dr. to support 39 single/two-family units, 72 multi-family units, & commercial development
Village of Iron Ridge	\$120,000	Two \$60K projects enhancing parks

2025 Fund Overview

	Total Funded: \$1,950,981
	Leftover of 2025: \$49,019
	2026 Allocation: \$768,165



LESSONS LEARNED

1

Keep the process simple

Easy to understand guidelines encourage participation and timely applications.

2

Flexibility matters

Every community and project is different. Flexibility helps us meet unique local needs.

3

Ebb and flow

Project pipelines change. Stay patient and keep the conversation going.

4

Celebrate successes publicly

Recognize progress and partnerships to build support for future funding.

5

Small wins build momentum





QUESTIONS?

For questions or more information please reach out to:



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Thank you!