

SHOWCASE COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

The Community Of Superior Works Toward Growing Nebraska For Its Current And Future Residents

National Community Development Week is an annual event that acknowledges the towns and cities across the nation who improve the lives of their current and future residents. All efforts and achievements made by those communities are recognized and celebrated during this week.

For Nebraska, the Showcase Community Award is an annual award for recognizing the community who has demonstrated the best efforts and accomplishments during a five-year period, with a primary focus on state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. In 2016, the Showcase Community Award was given to Superior (population 1,918). Superior achieved many goals of community development over the past five years, implementing both growth and success.

One success for Superior came from the installation of a new storm sewer system in 2011. Superior was awarded \$217,000 in a Public Works Grant to begin construction. The new sewer system was located in the downtown, along streets that lead to various locations in town such as the movie theatre and the grocery store.

Superior is planning for the future of their community. They have received, in total, \$120,000 in various CDBG Planning Grants. These grants have been awarded for a comprehensive plan, a utility study, a solid waste management study, and a downtown revitalization, phase I. These plans laid the foundation for a better community including a cleaner city, a more vibrant and resilient downtown, and improvements in utilities.

A huge accomplishment for the city of Superior was becoming a Certified Leadership Community in 2015. They were the sixth community in the state to achieve this. This achievement was made possible because of Superior's excellent planning, collaboration with multiple government agencies, and unified efforts throughout the community. Some of the work completed to earn this was

rehabilitating homes and buildings, building a Casey's General Store and a Dollar General, and leveraging Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding to build the Superior East elevator and Kingswood Court, an assisted living facility.



Superior officials receive the Showcase Community Award from Governor Pete Ricketts.

Some of Superior's non-CDBG-related successes included an \$8.2 million expansion to Brodstone Memorial Hospital, the demolition of a blighted downtown office building, restoring the movie theatre and city auditorium, and the use of LB 840 funds to improve upon the facades of 11 local businesses. These projects have had positive impacts on the community, and improved the quality of life in Superior.

Superior has taken a comprehensive review of their community, and initiated and completed the steps to make their plans a reality. They were creative in leveraging a variety of resources to accomplish community goals. Congratulations are in order for Superior, as this was a well-deserved award. Because of the proper planning and implementation, the community has a very bright future ahead of it.

Red Cloud also showed commendable community development efforts. They were second in consideration for the Showcase Community Award. Red Cloud demonstrated remarkable planning and collaboration that made them 2016's Honorable Mention. The Republican Valley Child Development Center project created a lot of excitement for the community and is designed to ensure that children receive high quality care and education. The project raised around \$1.1 million in private donations, received \$250,000 in CDBG Public Works funding, and \$65,000 from the city. Some of the other project highlights in Red Cloud include the construction of the Cherry Corner Estates Assisted Living Center, restoration and additions to the Auld Public Library with more than \$750,000 in personal donations and grants from multiple organizations, including DED, the Kiewit Foundation, the Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation, and Glenwood Communications. Through these projects, Red Cloud exhibited a commitment to creating an improved quality of life for the residents of the community.