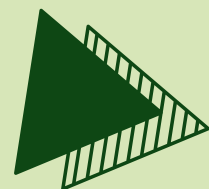
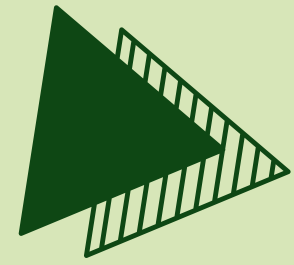


COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Pathfinders RC&D, Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities



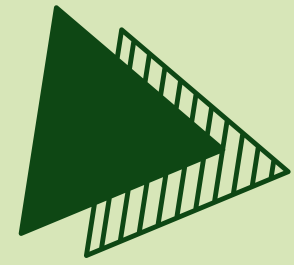
Pratibha Khatri, Josh Studer, Eli Copeland, Kate Beeman, Thomas Knudsen



ISSUE STATEMENT



The lack of personnel to access, develop, and execute funding initiatives.

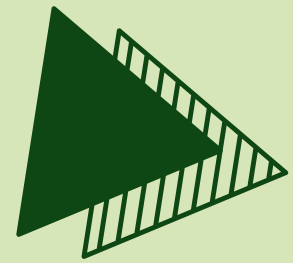


PATHFINDERS ASKED US TO...

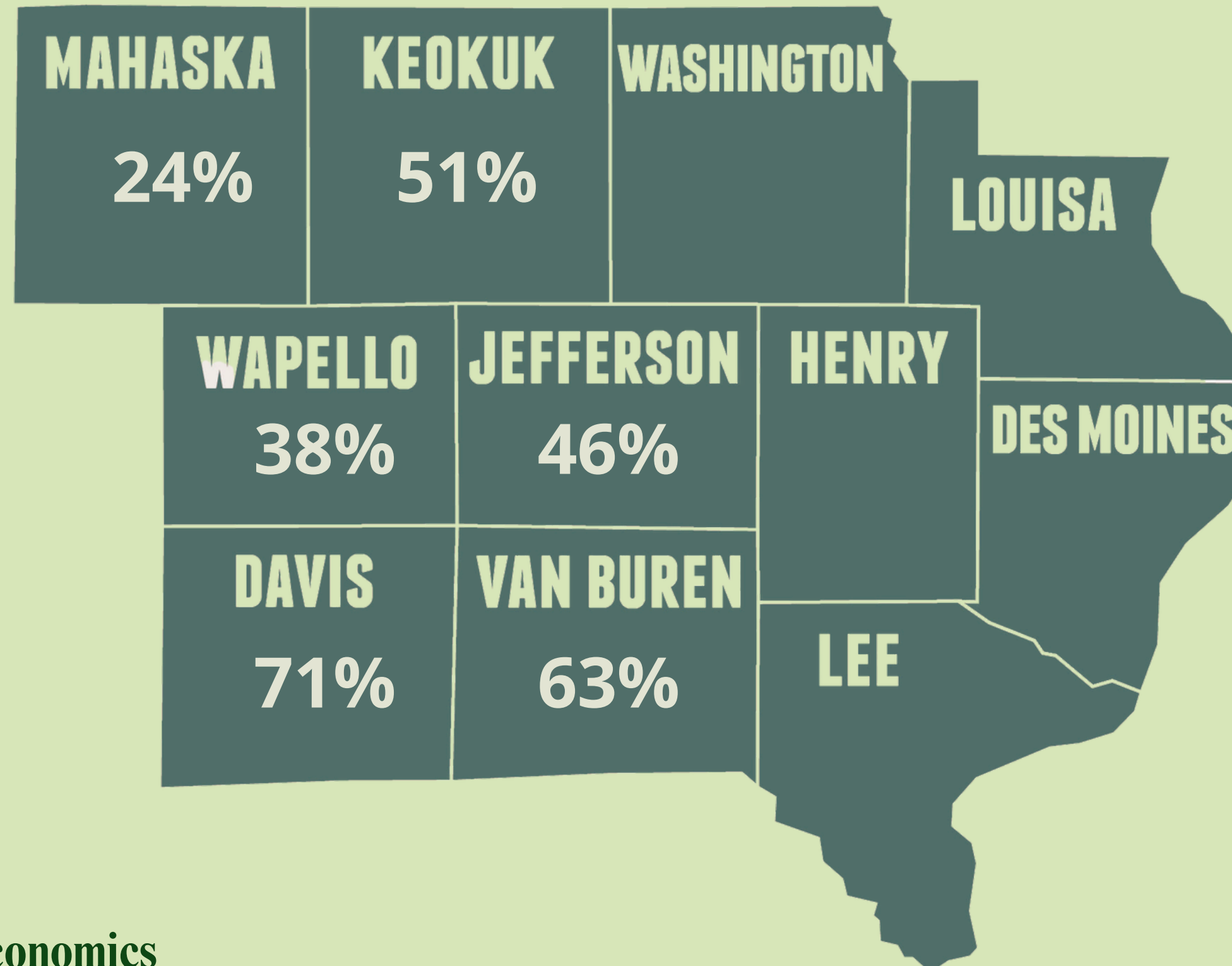
Increase administrative **capacity**

Access additional **funding** streams

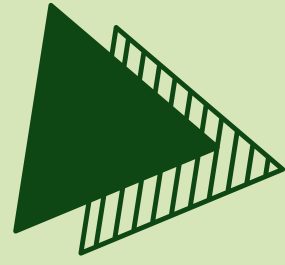
Invest in the community's **youth**



% US COUNTIES WITH HIGHER CAPACITY



Data From: Headwaters Economics



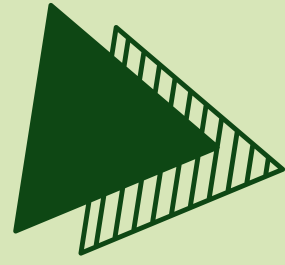
Policy Recommendation 1A

External Grantwriter



Project Scope

- Professional grant writer
- Grants for local city transportation and beautification
- City grants with a **fee of service**



Policy Recommendation 1A

External Grantwriter



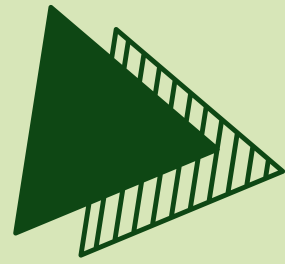
Project Scope

- Professional grant writer
- Grants for local city transportation and beautification
- City grants with a **fee of service**



Personnel

- Accessible grants (e.g., Traffic Safety Improvement Program)
- Nonprofits in the service area
- \$45,000 initial investment for Pathfinders



Policy Recommendation 1A

External Grantwriter



Project Scope

- Professional grant writer
- Grants for local city transportation and beautification
- City grants with a **fee of service**



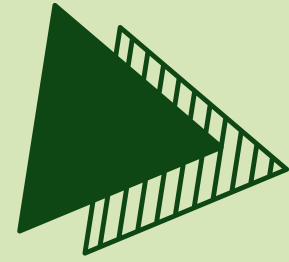
Personnel

- Accessible grants (e.g., Traffic Safety Improvement Program)
- Nonprofits in the service area
- \$45,000 initial investment for Pathfinders



Implementation

- Request for proposals (RFP)
- Bidding process managed by AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
- Start work around Mar. 2025



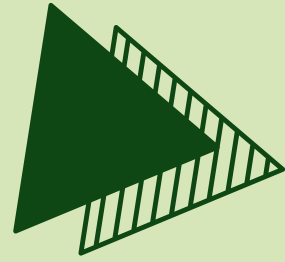
Policy Recommendation 1B

AmeriCorps Vista



Become a Host-Site

- Applications begin in December
- The process is straightforward
- Vista staff provides guidance



Policy Recommendation 1B

AmeriCorps Vista



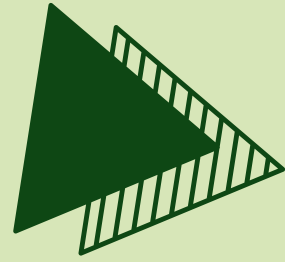
Become a Host-Site

- Applications begin in December
- The process is straightforward
- Vista staff provides guidance



Increase Personnel

- The volunteer will help with:
- Grant writing
- Request for proposals
- Youth Co-Design
- General assistance



Policy Recommendation 1B

AmeriCorps Vista



Become a Host-Site

- Applications begin in December
- The process is straightforward
- Vista staff provides guidance



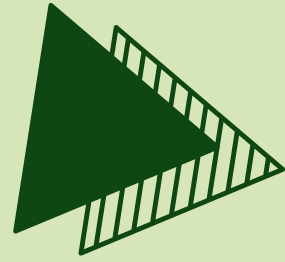
Increase Personnel

- The volunteer will help with:
- Grant writing
- Request for proposals
- Youth Co-Design
- General assistance



Cost Effective

- \$5,000 / Member / Year
- 5-10% of supervisor's time expected on oversight



Policy Recommendation 2

Website Database and Template

Grant Database

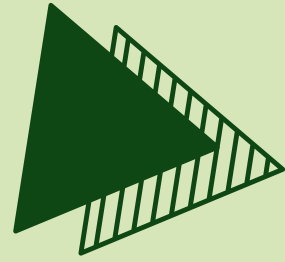
Master List

Eligible Rural Iowa Grants

Federal, State, and Local Grants

Foundations and Corporate Grants





Policy Recommendation 2

Website Database and Template

Grant Database

Master List

Eligible Rural Iowa Grants

Federal, State, and Local Grants

Foundations and Corporate Grants



Grant Guide

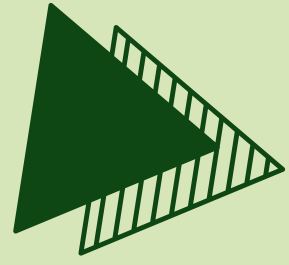
Grant Database

What is Needed

Grant Application Process

Grant Writing Basics

Resources List

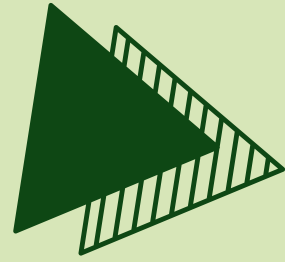


Policy Recommendation 3A

Website Database and Template

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 2 pager highlighting current efforts
- Targeted at community decision makers
- Tailored approach for each county



Policy Recommendation 3A

Youth Co-Design Expansion



Youth Co-Design Program

Youth Co-Design is an innovative approach that empowers young people to collaborate with adults in designing and implementing community-driven solutions. The process emphasizes experiential learning, relationship-building, and leadership development, allowing youth to take ownership of initiatives that address real-world challenges. By focusing on co-creation, the program bridges the gap between intention and action, ensuring projects are meaningful and impactful for all stakeholders.

7 Youth

\$90K Invested

14 + Partners

3 Career Pathways

The youth co-designer program significant progress in its first year, overcoming initial challenges and achieving key milestones. The grant from the Legacy Foundation has been instrumental in supporting these efforts, and the program is on track to meet its goals for the upcoming year. Seven youth participated, over fourteen partners were engaged, three career pathways were explored in industries the high school had not provided career exploration for (Economic Development, Non-profit, Government). Additionally youth co-wrote grants securing \$90,000 for their initiatives.

5 Skill Areas

[County] at a Glance

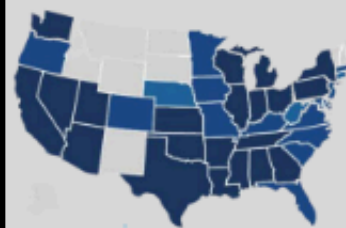
- Research and Evaluation
- Logistics and Event Planning
- Marketing and Media
- Grant Writing and Management
- Strategic Planning and Facilitation

Why Co-Design?

BLACK YOUTH

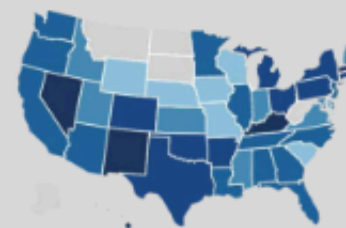
LATINO YOUTH

WHITE YOUTH



IOWA

17.3% OF BLACK YOUTH ARE DISCONNECTED



IOWA

8.4% OF LATINO YOUTH ARE DISCONNECTED



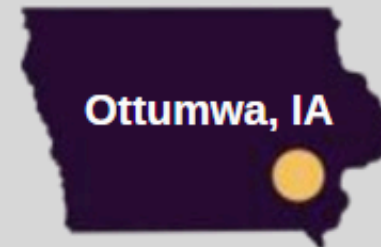
IOWA

9.5% OF WHITE YOUTH ARE DISCONNECTED

Program Success

1. Ottumwa Youth City Council Formation

Seven students were appointed to the city's first Youth City Council, giving them a direct role in influencing local policies and youth-focused initiatives.



2. Legacy Youth Alliance Collaboration

Partnered with the Legacy Youth Alliance to fund and execute projects addressing literacy, mental health, and post-secondary education, enhancing youth engagement in community development.



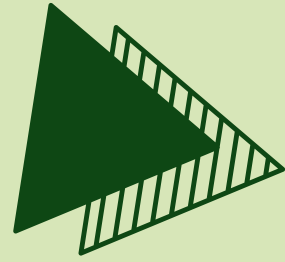
3. iJAG Program Integration

Aligned with Ottumwa High School's iJAG program to provide students with career readiness experiences and opportunities to contribute to meaningful community service projects.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 2 pager highlighting current efforts
- Targeted at community decision makers
- Tailored approach for each county



Policy Recommendation 3B

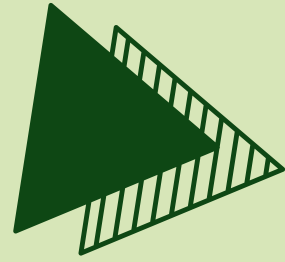
Youth Co-Design Expansion

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 2 pager highlighting current efforts
- Targeted at community decision makers
- Tailored approach for each county

LOCAL SCHOOL DATABASE

- ✓ Covering all schools in the 6-county area
- ✓ Contact information for principals and superintendents
- ✓ Implementation Guide for Replication



Policy Recommendation 3B

Youth Co-Design Expansion

45 local schools

35% high school aged

90 updated contacts

PATHFINDERS
resource conservation
& development, inc.

Youth Co-Design Implementation Guide

Step 1: Program Preparation

- 1. Establish Leadership:**
 - Designate a Program Coordinator to oversee implementation and serve as the point of contact.
 - Recruit Adult Allies (educators, counselors, community members) to mentor students.
- 2. Secure Resources:**
 - Facilities: Reserve meeting spaces for workshops, team discussions, and events.
 - Funding: Identify grants, school funds, or community sponsorships to support program costs.
- 3. Build Partnerships:**
 - Collaborate with local organizations, government agencies, and businesses for funding, mentorship, and project support.

Step 2: Student Recruitment

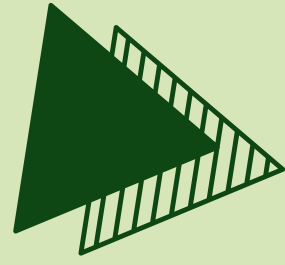
- 1. Target Participants:**
 - Recruit 10-15 students from diverse backgrounds and grade levels.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 2 pager highlighting current efforts
- Targeted at community decision makers
- Tailored approach for each county

LOCAL SCHOOL DATABASE

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Policy Recommendation 3C

Youth Co-Design Expansion

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

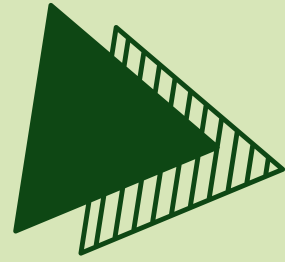
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LOCAL SCHOOL DATABASE

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- Implementation Guide for Replication

FLYER & APPLICATION

- Distribute electronically and physically
- Fillable PDF



Policy Recommendation 3C Youth Co-Design Expansion

FAIRFIELD

YOUTH CO-DESIGN PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Made up of students that are dedicated to using education, volunteerism, and grant-making to develop leadership skills, to act as role models, and to improve their community.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Weekly meetings
- Learn about youth needs and assets in our community
- Participate in community service projects
- Make decisions about granting funds to youth projects

BENEFITS

- Be involved in decisions that impact your community
- Advocate for issues you care about
- Volunteer credit

APPLY HERE  

MORE INFO: [<<CONTACT>>](#)

IowaWORKS
A proud partner of the American Job Center network
South Central Workforce Area

Youth Co-Design Program Application Form

Applications must be submitted by xx/xx to <<email>>. A letter of recommendation from an unrelated adult must also be included with the form along with their contact information.

For additional information, please contact:

General Information (please print or type)

Date of Application: _____

Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names: _____

Street Address: _____

City, Zip: _____
(List an email address you check regularly or you may miss important communications.)

Email Address: _____

Preferred method of communication: email Text

School: _____

Age: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

The Youth Co-design Program will meet monthly from August – May. Can you commit to attending monthly meetings as well as other events throughout the year? Yes No

Organizations & Activities

How have you become involved in your community? Please list school, religious, social, athletic or other activities or organizations in which you have participated during high school and will continue to remain involved in while serving on the Youth Co-Design Program.

Why are you willing to take the extra time to join the Youth Co-Design Program?

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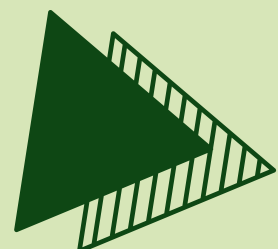
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Thank you!