

Pottawattamie County Community Foundation

Dawn Hovey from the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation spoke about the foundation. It began in 2007 with four members with the purpose of promoting philanthropy in the county and to help donors. A community foundation provides tax benefits because the IRS gives an additional 20% tax benefit for endowments, in addition to the normal charitable tax deduction.

The Pottawattamie County foundation gives grants twice a year, in March and September. The maximum grant is \$2500 and can be given to any charity. They are affiliated with the national Council of Foundations and can receive legal advice there. However, community foundations cannot lobby.

The Iowa West Foundation is funding operation of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation for five years. They are also providing matching funds for up to five years for endowment funds.

The foundation also has a Strengthening Neighborhoods Grant program. The purpose of these grants is to promote positive relationships among residents in neighborhoods in Pottawattamie County. The grants can be up to \$500 to residents or up to \$5000 for organizations.