

Letters of Support

The attached documents provide Letters of Support from organizations that will be involved in the implementation of the CPRG grant program.

1. 1000 Friends of Iowa
2. BlueGreen Alliance of Iowa
3. Center for Energy and Environmental Education, University of Northern Iowa (UNI)
4. Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund
5. City of Alleman
6. City of Ames
7. City of Ankeny
8. City of Clive
9. City of Des Moines
10. City of Grimes
11. City of Johnston
12. City of Johnston City Council, Parks Board, and Tree Board
13. City of Urbandale
14. City of Waukee
15. City of Windsor Heights
16. Dallas County
17. Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)
18. Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
19. Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART)
20. Drake University
21. Environmental Law and Policy Center
22. Grow Solar Iowa Coalition
23. Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency
24. IMPACT Community Action Partnership
25. Iowa Energy Fund
26. Iowa Environmental Council
27. Iowa League of Cities
28. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)
29. Jay N. Darling Institute
30. Johnston Climate Change Committee
31. Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
32. Mid-Iowa Health Foundation
33. Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development
34. Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC)
35. Polk Clean Energy District
36. Polk County Climate Team

37. Polk County Conservation
38. Polk County Housing Trust Fund
39. Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District
40. RDG Planning and Design
41. Region XII Council of Governments
42. Southern Iowa Council of Governments
43. Story County
44. Story County Housing Trust Fund
45. Urban Land Institute

1000 Friends of Iowa



3106 Ingersoll Ave
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-288-5364
www.1000friendsofiowa.org

March 22, 2023

Dear Ms. van Pelt,

1000 Friends of Iowa is pleased to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

1000 Friends of Iowa is a statewide, membership-based organization based in Des Moines, IA. We focus on responsible land use, clean transportation and the intersection of climate change. For the past eight years we have been working with community members and decision makers across central Iowa to move forward equitable climate action and sustainability efforts in their own communities.

Through the work we have done, one of the biggest concerns in the transition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a clean energy future, is ensuring that the most vulnerable community members are not left behind and how we prioritize these communities to reduce and eliminate existing harms. The Central Iowa Priority Climate plan, that was submitted to the USEPA on March 1 highlights the extent of the issues.

The Phase II Implementation grant has solid and much needed solutions for how to address the inequities. This proposal focuses on reducing energy burden and helping low-income families and those most impacted. This proposal is critical for central Iowa. In 2018, state legislation gutted our energy efficiency programs through Investor-owned utilities, leaving a big gap and an even greater need in central Iowa.

This proposal will bridge the gap through a holistic approach to reduce energy burden, expand efficiency, electrification and clean energy, and expand workforce development.

1000 Friends of Iowa, along with numerous nonprofit organizations and other partners are ready to help support and move the implementation process. We are excited for the opportunity to support Polk County's proposal. Thank you.

In Gratitude,

Kari Carney,
Executive Director



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 25, 2024

Dear Ms. Van Pelt,

The BlueGreen Alliance of Iowa writes to express our intent to collaborate on Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

The BlueGreen Alliance unites labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a clean, thriving, and equitable economy. Our partnership is firm in its belief that Americans don't have to choose between a good job and a clean environment—we can and must have both.

Since 2021, the BlueGreen Alliance of Iowa has been building support for clean energy and infrastructure projects in communities across the state. Polk County's proposal recognizes the inequitable gap in climate action in low-income residential housing. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently.

We anticipate and expect that Polk County and stakeholders will work with relevant workforce development organizations, including building trades unions and affiliated registered apprenticeship programs, to build on the plan and identify workforce pipelines. Any future planned development should address training curriculum and certification requirements, and work with all interested parties to support recruitment and retention of trained workers. We feel strongly that building trades registered apprenticeship programs should be utilized to the fullest extent and that living wages based on, at least, federal prevailing wage rates, should be provided to ensure that jobs created by the grant lead to positive economic outcomes for the community.

BGA has extensive subject matter expertise in policies surrounding the decarbonization of buildings, as well as the development and practice of high-road labor standards, community benefits plans, and Justice40 and equity provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act. Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low- and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal and look forward to partnering with Polk County.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wishman
President
Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO

William Gerhard
Business Development Coordinator,
Iowa LECET
Member, Laborers Local 43

Ryan Drew
Regional President, Southeast Iowa
Building Trades
Operating Engineers Local 150

Steve Falck
Senior Policy Advocate
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Katie Rock
Chair
Polk Clean Energy District

John Zakrasek
Treasurer, Clean Energy Districts of Iowa
Board Member, Linn Clean Energy District



March 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write this letter of support for Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan and their application to the US EPA Region & funding opportunity. The Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) at the University of Northern Iowa has been working in the energy efficiency and environmental education space for 30 years with the last 15 years focused on serving the residential energy efficiency needs of low-income households.

The CEEE is also program headquarters for the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program who engages over 75 individuals a year in environmental and energy focused technical training and expertise to serve communities throughout Iowa, many of which serve in the Central Iowa region. Polk County and those in Central Iowa are critical partnerships for the Center and program work, engaging members serving in the region in hands on climate action planning, outreach, and residential energy efficiency services.

The Center is excited to increase the impact of our collaboration and believe the leadership in the Polk County Sustainability team is well positioned to meet the goals and objectives of the EPA funding through this project. Our Center and AmeriCorps program offer our full support, continued collaboration, and leadership to the effective implementation of this proposal. If you have any additional questions about our support or participation I can be reached via email at Ashley.Coffin@UNI.edu or via phone at 319-273-7273.

Sincerely,

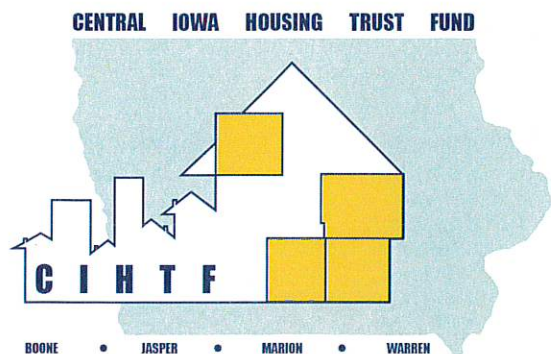
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Coffin".

Ashley Coffin, Assistant Director

Center for Energy & Environmental Education

University of Northern Iowa

319-415-7327 // Ashley.Coffin@uni.edu



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 18, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund (CIHTF), I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The CIHTF was organized with the goal of advancing affordable housing in a four-county region and the efforts outlined in the proposal will provide much needed assistance to low-income households.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II.

In partnership,


Lucas Young
Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 8, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Alleman, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Robert O Kramme

Robert Kramme, Alleman Mayor



March 26, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Ames, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The City of Ames was invited to join the central Iowa planning effort, and we endorse a regional approach to carbon reduction.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Weatherization assistance programs are underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, this proposal includes strategies for workforce development by continuing to engage with educational and labor institutions in developing necessary skills for a green economy. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of central Iowa.

In partnership,

John A. Haila, Mayor
Ames, Iowa



March 18, 2024

Polk County Public Works
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Re: *Letter of Support – US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant*

Dear Polk County Public Works staff:

This letter is written in support of Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The proposed implementation strategy by Polk County will support Central Iowa's broader regional climate action goals as well as support the surrounding region by:

- Expanding upon existing energy audit and weatherization programs;
- Fund energy auditor and contractor training and certification programs;
- Conduct neighborhood assessments of Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities and plant diverse native trees and shrubs to sequester carbon and reduce heat island effects; and
- Partner with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning on training programs for energy audits and follow-up services.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Polk County's proposal provides action-ready strategies to accelerate the pace of assistance provided to low-income households across Central Iowa, as well as ensure capacity to do so, through existing agency programs.

The City of Ankeny appreciates Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and supports Polk County's application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Holm".
4C9E47CBE956471...

Mark E. Holm
Mayor

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Clive, Iowa, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development

component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'E'.

John Edward
Mayor, City of Clive, Iowa





Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 28, 2024

Ms. Van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Des Moines, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, demonstrates low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to equitably reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

The planning process revealed that low-income housing rehabilitation assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Many existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety, while facing increasing energy burdens.

This inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County, along with other eligible entities, including the City of Des Moines created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize homes, while maximizing the potential of Iowa's abundant renewable energy supply.

The plan's support for expanding clean energy capacity, primarily solar photovoltaics, will be critical to reducing local climate pollution, enabling more communities serving Central Iowa residents to access emissions free generation resources, reduce energy costs, and increasing energy resilience.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen our local workforce. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop or strengthen pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development

March 28, 2024

Page 2

component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,



Scott Sanders
City Manager
City of Des Moines



101 NE Harvey, Grimes, Iowa 50111
515.986.3036 Fax 515.986.3846

March 8, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Grimes, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jake Anderson
City Administrator

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313



March 26, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Johnston, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

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In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Mike Pogge-Weaver, AICP, ICMA-CM, City of Johnston City Administrator

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

The following members of the City of Johnston city council, the Parks Board, and the Tree Board along are writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

We are not only dedicated public servants of the City of Johnston we are also residents of our beautiful city. We can see the harm that climate change with its extreme weather events can cause to our parks and trees and because of those events the costs to replace our lost infrastructure falls on the citizens of Johnston. But the greatest burden of those climate change related storm events will fall on those residents who can least afford it. People with low- or fixed-income households do not have the resources to purchase the most energy efficient appliances, the best insulation, or the highest grade of thermal windows. Their lawns get the bare minimum amount of topsoil all in the name of making homes more affordable. To get their vegetable gardens to grow or even to get healthy green lawns, these homeowners will be required to bring in amended soil and spend hundreds of dollars on fertilizer treatments. All of this effects the greater community. Poorly built homes become a nuisance to the city, our dumps get filled with cheap appliances that wear out quickly and rainfall runs off those compacted clay lawns and causes floods downstream to other neighborhoods and cities.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Johnston Councilman, Suresh Reddy

Johnston Councilwoman & Chair of the Beaver Creek Watershed Management Authority, Rhonda Martin

Park Board Member, Julie Hill

Tree Board Members, Virginia Soelberg, Diane McElroy, Neil Barrick, Rachel Delzell, Keith Petersen.

Submitted By:

Rhonda Martin

5501 Garrison Ct.

Johnston, Iowa

Ph: 515-326-2675

Email: rhondamartiniowanative@gmail.com

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the City of Urbandale, Iowa, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

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In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.



We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,


A.J. Johnson
City Manager



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Ms. van Pelt:

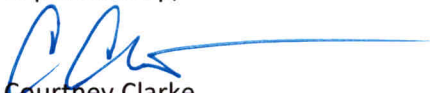
On behalf of the City of Waukee, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy. We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,



Courtney Clarke
Mayor



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 18, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of The City of Windsor Heights, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship

opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,



Mike Jones, Mayor of Windsor Heights



DALLAS COUNTY OFFICE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kim Chapman
Brad Golightly
Mark Hanson

March 26, 2024

Polk County Public Works

Attn: Allison van Pelt

5885 NE 14th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 26, 2024

Ms. Van Pelt:

On behalf of Dallas County, Iowa I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in

training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Golightly", with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Brad Golightly, Chairman
Dallas County Board of Supervisors

902 COURT ST. ADEL, IA 50003 | PHONE 515.993.5806 | WWW.DALLASCOUNTYIOWA.GOV
melinda.harney@dallascountyiowa.gov, brad.golightly@dallascountyiowa.gov
kim.chapman@dallascountyiowa.gov, mark.hanson@dallascountyiowa.gov.



Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

DMACC is a primary educational provider for many of the types of professions that can support weatherization, home modifications, and electrical upgrades. We offer a variety of short-term training credentials in areas such as Electrical Trades, HVAC, Renewable Energy, Building Maintenance, and more. As such, we would be eager to partner with and support Polk County Public Works' time and energy in this program to help meet its goals, including strengthening Iowa's workforce in these areas. We can aid Polk County Public Works in identifying and addressing gaps in training curriculum and certification requirements, support in the development of pathways and scholarship opportunities, and aid in the retention of students as they prepare for such credentials. DMACC is committed to advancing these career opportunities and supporting this initiative.

Sincerely,
Erica Spiller
DMACC Vice President of Student Affairs



Erica Spiller *(she/her)*
Vice President of Student Affairs

E :: elspiller@dmacc.edu | O :: 515-964-6622
2006 S Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50023
[linkedin.com/in/erica-spiller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/erica-spiller) | dmacc.edu



420 Watson Powell Jr. Parkway, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Phone: 515.334.0075
Email: info@dmampo.org
www.dmampo.org

March 21, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Allison:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR POLK COUNTY APPLICATION FOR EPA CPRG PHASE II

On behalf of the Des Moines Area MPO, I am writing to support Polk County's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

Dylan Mullenix, AICP
Executive Director



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

Ms. Van Pelt:

On behalf of Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART), I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

**Des Moines
Area Regional
Transit Authority**

620 Cherry Street
Des Moines, Iowa
50309-4530

515-283-8100
Fax 515-283-8135
ridedart.com



We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "AMANDA WANKE". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Wanke, CEO
Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART)

**Des Moines
Area Regional
Transit Authority**

620 Cherry Street
Des Moines, Iowa
50309-4530

515-283-8100
Fax 515-283-8135
ridedart.com



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 13, 2024

Dear Ms. van Pelt:

I am writing on behalf of Drake University to express support for Polk County's (Iowa) application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that presently serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing.

Central Iowa's proposal also includes strategies for workforce development. Specifically, the plan will identify and address gaps in training curriculum and certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

Earl F. Martin
President

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 21, 2024

Subject: Support for Polk County's Application for CPRG Phase II Implementation Funding

Dear Ms. van Pelt,

We express our full support for Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) on behalf of the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, underscores the urgent need for investments in low-income residential housing to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for vulnerable households, and enhance the efficiency and resilience of homes and communities. Through the planning process, it became evident that existing weatherization assistance programs are insufficient, leaving thousands of low and fixed-income households underserved. Moreover, upfront costs render existing rebate and cost-share programs inaccessible to many disadvantaged households, exacerbating the disparity in climate action.

Polk County's proposal acknowledges this gap and presents a comprehensive solution to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. By addressing both energy efficiency gains and housing electrification, the program not only reduces energy costs for families with a high energy burden but also maximizes the utilization of Iowa's renewable energy potential, thereby significantly reducing fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

Furthermore, Polk County's proposal integrates workforce development strategies, engaging with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines and advance career opportunities in the clean energy economy. This holistic approach addresses immediate environmental concerns and contributes to long-term economic sustainability and community resilience.

The Environmental Law and Policy Center fully endorses Polk County's proposal and commends its commitment to equity, efficiency, and sustainability. We believe this initiative will benefit low-income households in Central Iowa and serve as a nationwide model for equitable climate action.

We appreciate your dedication to addressing climate change and advancing environmental justice in Polk County. We stand ready to support Polk County's application to CPRG Phase II and look forward to witnessing this initiative's positive impact on the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Falck".

Steve Falck
Sr. Policy Advocate
Environmental Law & Policy Center
505 5th AV, Suite 333
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Mandelbaum".

Josh Mandelbaum
Sr. Staff Attorney
Environmental Law & Policy Center
505 5th AV, Suite 333
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 25, 2024
Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Grow Solar Iowa Coalition that includes leadership support from the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), The Nature Conservancy in Iowa, and 1000 Friends of Iowa, we are writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). Collectively over the last six years, Grow Solar programming has left a lasting footprint in Iowa by working with 24 municipalities across the state, hosting 141 educational events and connecting with more than 2,300 Iowans on solar energy.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan aligns with key initiatives our coalition views as essential in building community ownership and creates the enabling conditions that are necessary to accelerate the implementation of low-impact clean energy projects in Iowa.

Additionally, the plan highlights the urgent need for investments in low-income residential housing to reduce emissions and maintain affordability. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal, developed through stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, offers a feasible solution to overcome financial barriers and enhance energy efficiency in low-income households. This initiative not only reduces energy costs but also ensures the advancement of Iowa's renewable energy potential, contributing to a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the proposal includes workforce development strategies to address training gaps and provide career opportunities in the clean energy economy.

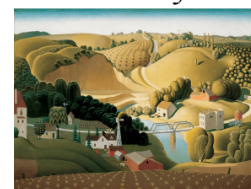
We endorse Polk County's holistic approach and proudly support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In solidarity,

The Grow Solar Iowa Coalition



1000 Friends of Iowa



Donor: 1000 Friends of Iowa
Citizens United for Responsible Land Use



Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency HIRTA Public Transit

Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren Counties

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 21, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Julia Castillo, Executive Director
Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313
March 21, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

I am writing on behalf of IMPACT Community Action Partnership to endorse Polk County, Iowa's request for funding under Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Polk County's proposal acknowledges a significant need for investment in reducing emissions and enhancing the efficiency of low-income residential housing, while ensuring affordability for vulnerable households. As a provider of weatherization programs, we recognize that they are effective but are underfunded, leaving many families on waitlists for services that only reach a fraction of those in need. Moreover, existing financial assistance programs are often inaccessible to low-income families due to high upfront costs, depriving them of potential savings and improved living conditions.

The proposal from Polk County recognizes these challenges and proposes feasible solutions. Through collaborative efforts and stakeholder engagement during Phase I of the CPRG process, the county has developed a comprehensive plan to address financial barriers and improve energy efficiency in low-income homes. This initiative also aims to build capacity for increased electrical usage, thus future-proofing housing infrastructure. The program not only reduces energy expenses but also taps into Iowa's renewable energy potential effectively, contributing to a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to focusing on energy efficiency and capacity building, Polk County's proposal prioritizes workforce development. It has actively collaborated with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines, identify training gaps, and create pathways for career advancement in the clean energy sector. This approach not only meets local talent needs but also fosters economic growth and opportunities in the burgeoning clean energy industry. We commend Polk County for its comprehensive approach to addressing climate action and proudly support its application for CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Bacon", written over a horizontal line.

Anne Bacon, Chief Executive Officer



Iowa Energy Fund

March 26, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Ms. van Pelt,

The Iowa Energy Fund is a new non-profit that was formed last year to ensure Iowa fully leverages the benefits of federal dollars to reduce the utility burden for Iowans, of which the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant is one part of that opportunity.

While the focus on leveraging these federal dollars is often on the environmental benefits, our focus is leveraging these dollars to be a “gap” filler to help expand the availability of affordable housing throughout our state. We have a diverse board that includes individuals involved in banking, economic development, affordable housing, and energy efficiency organizations. As a result, we have a keen understanding of the challenges to rehabbing not just “low-income” housing, but workforce housing in general. These housing units, where the individuals can least afford the utility bill, are the most energy inefficient.

When you drive down utility bills through energy efficiency improvements, you reduce a tenant or homeowner’s utility bill. This increases the loan capacity to invest in further housing upgrades. It helps fill the “gap” that currently exists in financing the rehabilitation of affordable housing.

We are excited that Central Iowa is stepping up to ensure this region of the state is able to leverage the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant to help expand quality, energy efficient housing. The proposal’s additional focus on workforce development is to be highly commended. Ensuring we have the trained workforce is a critical element in the puzzle. We strongly endorse Central Iowa’s holistic approach to solving this complex challenge.

On behalf of the Iowa Energy Fund, I am writing to support Polk County’s application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Sincerely,

Bob Rafferty
President of the Board



505 Fifth Ave Suite 850
Des Moines IA 50309
515.244.1194
iaenvironment.org

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

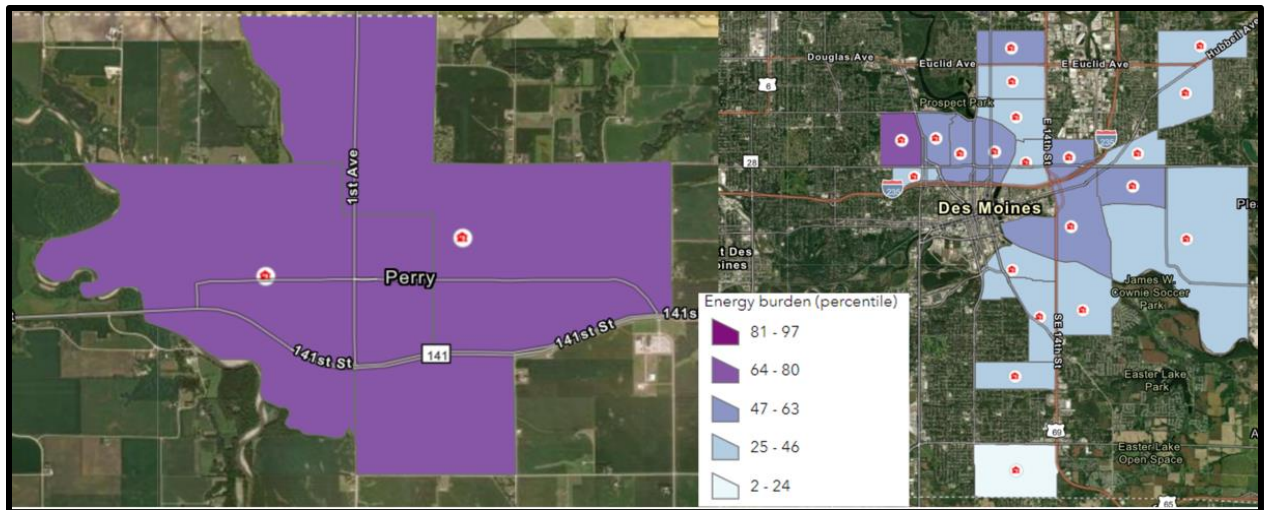
March 25, 2024

RE: IEC Letter of Support for Central Iowa Priority Climate Action Plan

On behalf of the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) I am pleased to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the U.S. EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). For more than 25 years, the IEC has been the largest environmental coalition in the state, leading the way in addressing urgent concerns impacting people and the planet. We are a nonpartisan alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working together. IEC's mission is a just, healthy environment and sustainable future for all Iowans.

We commend Polk County for its robust stakeholder engagement process in developing this plan and look forward to continuing our support of Polk County as it works toward implementation through our role as the Iowa-based partner for EPA's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) program. We believe the strategic choice to focus on reducing home fossil energy use, cutting carbon emissions through residential energy efficiency programs, and providing ecosystem services for low-income households in Central Iowa will effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the energy burden for low-income households. As seen in data from the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, Central Iowa households in disadvantaged communities face a significant energy burden (see figure on page 2).

Since the passage of Senate File 2311 in 2018, Central Iowa's largest electric utilities have invested significantly less in low-income weatherization and other energy efficiency and electrification programs. The passage of this law has left low-income households without proper resources to grapple with rising energy costs, reduced our energy efficiency workforce, and led to thousands of households being waitlisted when applying to existing programs. Given the high demand for energy efficiency and electrification assistance, the refusal of our state to participate in this planning process, and the short timeline for plan development, we are impressed by this impactful plan to equitably lower energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and believe Polk County and its partners have demonstrated their ability to collaboratively implement it.



We believe the plan outlines effective strategies to bolster existing energy efficiency programs, implement nature-based carbon sequestration solutions, and build a properly trained workforce that is necessary for Iowa to thrive in the clean energy transition. Orienting investment to fill the gaps in workforce development, including prioritizing the training and certification of workers, especially energy auditors, will alleviate a major constraint for helping low-income households in Central Iowa access resources to lower their energy burden and greenhouse gas emissions. Their demonstrably strong relationships with educational institutions and labor partners will accelerate the impact of these efforts and help navigate the energy transition more equitably.

As Iowa continues to face more frequent and extreme natural disasters, including extreme heat, floods, and droughts, investments in energy efficiency, electrification, and urban tree canopies are crucial for helping low-income households build climate resilience. As energy prices fluctuate, largely driven by volatile gas prices and massive investments in the distribution grid by investor-owned utilities, the investments outlined in this plan will benefit low-income households in Central Iowa tremendously by stabilizing and/or lowering their energy burden.

Looking forward, IEC is confident that Polk County's priority climate action plan has identified many of the most urgent barriers prohibiting the lowering of energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions in Central Iowa. We remain committed to providing technical assistance and support to accelerate implementation of the plan across the region.

Sincerely,

Michael Schmidt
Interim Executive Director
Iowa Environmental Council



March 19, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Ms. van Pelt:

The Iowa League of Cities supports the Polk County, Iowa application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We are proud to support Polk County's application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan W. Kemp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" and last name "Kemp" clearly legible.

Alan W. Kemp
Executive Director



Insurance Exchange Building Suite 444
505 Fifth Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515-288-1846
Fax: 515-288-0137
e-mail: lhein@inhf.org
www.inhf.org

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 28, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of

housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McGovern", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe McGovern
President



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 19, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Jay N. Darling Institute at Drake University, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith S. Summerville".

Keith S. Summerville
Paul and Claudia Schickler Executive Director, Jay N. Darling Institute
Drake University
515-271-2265

To whom it may concern,

The Johnston Climate Change Committee is pleased to submit a letter of support for What's Next, Central Iowa.

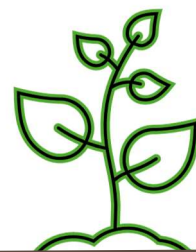
Johnston Climate Change Committee is a group of community members in the City of Johnston (Polk County) that is concerned about the impacts of global climate change. With climate change comes extreme heat events, severe storms, water scarcity, and heavy rainfall events resulting in flooding. Central Iowa Communities are already experiencing these effects of global climate change, and these impacts challenge our quality of life, our economy, our future, and the future of our children and grandchildren. As a city that lacks the resources to support a full-time sustainability position, we are excited to see Central Iowa communities come together and grow into a leader in sustainability.

The primary focuses of our group are advocacy and education; we would like to see our city, our region, and our state do more when it comes to mitigating our environmental impacts and contributions to climate change. This grant would offer communities – especially low-income neighborhoods – in Central Iowa the chance to take advantage of educational opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impacts. Climate Change is the most significant issue that humans have caused and must now face, but we are up to the challenge.

We encourage U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff to accept What's Next Central Iowa's proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johnston Climate Change Committee





Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

815 E. Highway 92
Winterset, IA 50273
(515) 462-4884 ext. 3
www.Madison-SWCD.org

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 20, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development

MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Commissioners:

Tom Moss - Jason Hirsch - Tim Palmer - Frederick Martens - Don Eyerly, Jr.

Madison County SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,



Tom Moss, Chair
Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Commissioners:

Tom Moss - Jason Hirsch - Tim Palmer - Frederick Martens - Don Eyerly, Jr.

Madison County SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 26, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for EPA Carbon Pollution Reduction Phase II Grant application

Dear Ms. van Pelt,

On behalf of Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, I am writing to share our organization's support for Polk County, Iowa, as the lead agency in the Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area, application to the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Phase II Grant program. As a private, non-profit foundation focused on addressing the social determinants of health, and serving our central Iowa community for 40 years, we understand the significant impacts pollution has on community health. Central Iowa's most recent community health needs assessment identified respiratory disease, physical activity, and chronic diseases such as heart disease and stroke among the top five community priorities of concern – all conditions that are exacerbated by pollution.

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal seeks to:

- Establish a program to prepare low-income households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently.
- Include strategies for workforce development through strengthened workforce pipelines. Specifically, identifying and addressing gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, developing pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and supporting retention of trained workers.

As our most recent central Iowa community health needs assessment data identified that low-income community members and communities of color experience the greatest disparities in poor health status, we appreciate Polk County's Phase II focus on low-income residential housing. As an organization committed to health equity, we look forward to partnering with Polk County and other MSA members to strengthen the health equity approach to their Phase II effort.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nalo Johnson
President & CEO



Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development
420 Watson Powell Jr. Way · Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50309 · 515-334-0075
midiowaplanningalliance.com

March 21, 2024

TO: Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

RE: Polk County CPRG Phase II Project Application

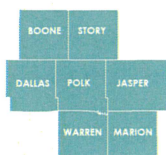
Dear Ms. Van Pelt:

On behalf of the Mid Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce



Supporting Economic Development in
Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk,
Story, and Warren Counties.



Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development
420 Watson Powell Jr. Way • Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50309 • 515-334-0075
midiowaplanningalliance.com

development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Collings".

Andrew Collings
Principal Planner



Supporting Economic Development in
Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk,
Story, and Warren Counties.



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 12, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC), I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

NFC participated in the planning process, and agree that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. As a provider of affordable loan product that provides energy improvements for homeowners, we see every day that loan programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households because often there is not the capacity to receive a loan. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

4908 Franklin Ave
Des Moines, IA 50310
Telephone: 515-246-0010
Fax: 515-246-0112
www.neighborhoodfinance.org

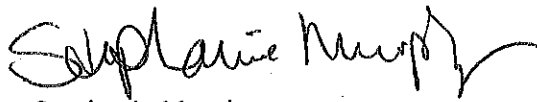


™Trademark of the Neighborhood
Finance Corporation
©Copyright 1994 by Neighborhood
Finance Corporation

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development and increasing capacity for energy audits. Again, as a provider of energy improvement lending, NFC sees this need in our community. NFC is pleased that this effort has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Murphy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Murphy
NFC Executive Director

Polk Clean Energy District
(515) 243-0745

P.O. Box 175
Des Moines, IA 50318



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 21, 2024

Dear Ms. Van Pelt,

The Polk Clean Energy District (PCED) is proud to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). PCED engages all residents of Polk County to promote an inclusive and prosperous clean energy future, as part of a growing energy district network in Iowa. PCED was created to strengthen communities by leading, implementing, and accelerating the local owned clean energy transition while building up local expertise on energy issues.

Several of our board members have engaged with city and county officials in Polk County for years to pass strong emission reduction goals and carbon-free energy standards, including Des Moines' leading target of 100% carbon-free energy, 24/7 by 2035. While Iowa has led in shifting to clean energy, our state has become a laggard on clean building standards.

We are excited to engage with Polk County to lead on its goals for home energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in line with the Justice40 Initiative. Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, as submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

Clean Energy Districts of Iowa has led in providing these services in its rural districts, and PCED is eager to expand this work in urban Iowa. Since state legislation passed in 2018 restricting energy efficiency programs by investor-owned utilities, there is a dire need to train energy auditors. PCED aims to fill that gap in partnership with Polk County.

In Gratitude,

Katie Rock, Co-chair

The Board of the Polk Clean Energy District:

Katie Rock, Co-chair
Steve Falck, Co-chair
Kari Carney, Treasurer
Kevin Nordmeyer

Cody Smith
Dan Warfel
Kristen Weaverling
Arnold Woods Jr

Polk Clean Energy District is a 501(c)3 organization (ID # 88-2232458). No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Your gift is tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor regarding this contribution if you have questions for tax purposes. Retain this letter as receipt of your donation.

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313
March 8, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Polk County Climate Team, we are writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local

talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Kim Hagemann

Shari Hawk

Kari Carney

Emma Colman

Katie Rock

Carolyn Uhlenhake-Walker

Members of the Polk County Climate Team



Leading You Outdoors

www.leadingyououtdoors.org | pccb_info@polkcountyiowa.gov

12130 NW 128th Street | Granger, IA 50109 | Phone (515) 323-5300 | Fax (515) 323-5354

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 18, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Polk County Conservation, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, prioritizes feasible energy efficiency improvement measures for community members throughout Polk County. This program will not only assist in reducing the inequitable gap in climate action for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and looking at alternate energy sources such as electrification/solar. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

Polk County Conservation is embarking on similar adventures related to climate change mitigation through our recently completed Sustainability Plan. Actions within this plan include finding alternate energy sources and reducing energy consumption through improved energy efficiency. Through our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) program we are also working towards reducing the equity gaps related to education about and access to our natural resources throughout the county. We feel the actions carried out through this grant will enhance these efforts already occurring throughout the county.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Richard Leopold, Director



POLK COUNTY
**HOUSING
TRUST FUND**

Basic Needs | Powerful Solutions

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

RE: Supporting Polk County's Phase II US EPA Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, includes discussion of the need for funding so that low- and moderate-income households in our region can participate in weatherization programs that are proven to reduce emissions while also making homes healthier and assisting with repairs and upgrades that maintain the affordability people and families need so they can remain in their homes.

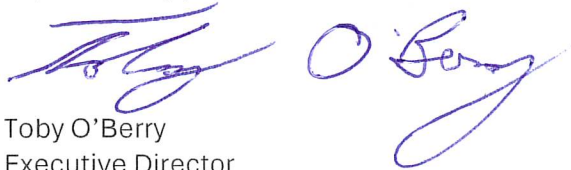
The Polk County Housing Trust Fund is an independent 501c3 organization that allocates state, local, and private funds to improve housing and related services in Polk County, Iowa. Currently, the Polk County Housing Trust Fund allocates \$600,000 each year to support owner occupied repair of homes in Polk County, ultimately contributing to better housing for hundreds of local households annually. We have been long-time funding partners to Polk County's emergency home repair and weatherization programs. Our support of weatherization work has helped assist homeowners beyond what the scope of the federal funds allocated are able to accomplish. Each year, we lament that thousands of local families could benefit from weatherization assistance but stay on the wait list due to a lack of resources. Polk County, Iowa's application for this grant program is a major and important step to address that backlog and improve the climate resiliency of our region.

It is essential that low- and moderate-income people are not left behind in our community's climate response actions, and these funds will be essential to improving the equity and inclusiveness of our region's current efforts. Like many areas in the Upper Midwest and Rust Belt, Polk County has an aging housing stock, particularly in our urban core neighborhoods that are disproportionately home to communities of color and residents experiencing poverty. Maintaining the viability, safety, quality, accessibility, and indeed climate resiliency of this housing is a critical need for our area.

In August 2020, our region and communities east and north of us were impacted by a powerful derecho – effectively an inland hurricane that produced maximum winds as high as 140 mph. The event was a high-profile wake-up call that the consequences of extreme weather and climate change are impacting lowans today. Media reports abounded with stories of low- and moderate-income renters who were displaced from their housing or had difficulty affording the cost of repairs to stabilize and repair their housing. The derecho laid bare the risk of climate inequity affecting our community and urgent action is needed now to prevent vulnerable lowans from experiencing greater harm in the future.

The weatherization effort proposed in this grant application is a vital and beneficial investment in emissions reductions to reduce future climate change as well as ensuring vulnerable people are included in the reduced energy savings and other livability benefits associated with home weatherization. Weatherization programs also support quality local jobs that are another needed lift to our communities. We urge your favorable consideration of the grant request.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toby O'Berry', is written over a faint, larger blue ink signature that also appears to read 'Toby O'Berry'.

Toby O'Berry
Executive Director
Polk County Housing Trust Fund



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 18, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Mathis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chip Mathis, Chair
Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 8, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of RDG Planning & Design, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

RDG had the honor of assisting the City of Des Moines to develop their Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and we are thrilled to see continued momentum expanding beyond city limits.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.W. Justin Platts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

G.W. Justin Platts, Principal
RDG Planning & Design
301 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



REGION XII

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

March 21, 2024

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Region XII Council of Governments (COG) I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety. Our housing trust fund and other periodic housing programs provide only a small percentage of the funding needed to help low and moderate income families with energy efficiency and other projects which will keep their homes decent, safe, and sanitary.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Hunsaker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard T. Hunsaker
Executive Director



SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

101 E. Montgomery St.
Creston, Iowa 50801-2406

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Representative
Jodie Geist,
Private Sector
Representative
Raelynne Risser,
Private Sector
Representative
Meggen Roan,
Private Sector
Representative
Wayne Pantini,
Member-At-Large

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 27, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Southern Iowa Council of Governments, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows an unprecedented priority for low-income residential housing investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed underfunded or inaccessible weatherization assistance, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households. This unmet need creates thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal, through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, creates a feasible, impactful plan to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. This program will reduce energy costs for low-income households and help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

Beth Waddle

Beth Waddle





**STORY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LATIFAH FAISAL
LINDA MURKEN
LISA HEDDENS**

Story County Administration
900 Sixth Street
Nevada Iowa 50201
515-382-7200
515-382-7206 (fax)

Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 19, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Story County, we are writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa K. Heddens", with a stylized, flowing script.

Lisa Heddens, Board Chair
Story County Board of Supervisors
900 6th Street
Nevada, IA 50201



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 18, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of the Story County Housing Trust (SCHT), I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

The SCHT's mission is to improve affordable housing in Story County and Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Through regional stakeholder discussions in Phase I of the CPRG process, Polk County created a feasible, impactful proposal to overcome financial barriers and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The program would also prepare those same households to increase electrical capacity—future-proofing housing infrastructure. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Young', is written over the printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lucas Young
Story County Housing Trust



Polk County Public Works
Attn: Allison van Pelt
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

March 25, 2024

Ms. van Pelt:

On behalf of Urban Land Institute Iowa, I am writing to support Polk County, Iowa's application for implementation funding through Phase II of the US EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Central Iowa's Priority Climate Action Plan, submitted to the US EPA on March 1, 2024, shows low-income residential housing requires unprecedented investments to reduce emissions, maintain affordability for low and fixed-income households, and enhance the efficiency and resiliency of homes, neighborhoods, and communities. The planning process revealed that weatherization assistance programs are presently underfunded or inaccessible, leaving thousands waitlisted for programs that serve only a few hundred households each year. Existing rebate and cost-share programs are out of reach for low-income and disadvantaged households due to significant upfront costs. This unmet need means thousands of vulnerable families are missing out on significant savings and improved health and home safety.

Polk County's proposal recognizes that this inequitable gap in climate action is not insurmountable. Not only will this program reduce energy costs for low-income households, but it will also help ensure Iowa's vast renewable energy potential will be used efficiently. Central Iowa can significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by coordinating action on two parallel strategies: increasing energy efficiency gains and accelerating the electrification of housing. By simultaneously pursuing both strategies, the region can rapidly and equitably decarbonize and leverage our abundant renewable energy resources.

In addition to increasing efficiency and capacity, Central Iowa's proposal includes strategies for workforce development. It has already and will continue to engage with educational and labor institutions to strengthen workforce pipelines. Specifically, it will identify and address any gaps in training curriculum or certification requirements, develop pathways for sponsorship and scholarship opportunities, and support retention of trained workers. The overall workforce development component will fill local talent needs while advancing career opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

We appreciate Polk County's holistic approach to this proposal, and we are proud to support its application to CPRG Phase II on behalf of Central Iowa.



Urban Land
Institute

Iowa

In partnership,

Lawrence E. James Jr.

Larry James, Jr.

Chair, Urban Land Institute Iowa