

**Black Hills Power, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy  
2020 Economic Development Grant Report**

**Grant Recipient: South Dakota Agricultural & Rural Leadership Program**

Grant Amount:

\$3,750 – Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant:

Promote the agricultural industry in South Dakota. The leadership program brings young leaders within the agricultural community to participate in 12 seminars over an 18-month period.

Benefit of Grant:

BHE supports all industries within its service territory. Agriculture is a major economic driver for South Dakota. Growth in the agricultural industry leads to rural community development and job creation for industries further down the supply chain that are dependent on agriculture.

**Grant Recipient: Custer Area Economic Development Corporation**

Grant Amount:

\$3,000 – Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant:

Sponsor the Small Business Basics led by the SDSU Extension services. CAEDC is offering six sessions on small business basics. Funds will be used to pay for the cost of offering classes and includes meals and materials.

Benefit of Grant:

BHE supports career development that increases education for business owners in their service territory, which includes the Custer region.

**Grant Recipient: Deadwood - Lead - Central City Economic Development**

Grant Amount:

\$9,000 – Community Development

Purpose of Grant:

DLEDC remodeled a large facility in Lead, South Dakota that will be used for a new business. Providing adequate facilities to accommodate this new business has the potential to create up to nine new career opportunities in the Lead region.

Benefit of Grant:

BHE has always believed that new business is crucial to the development of its service territory. New businesses bring numerous benefits to the local economy and to the surrounding regional economy.

**South Dakota School of Mines Student Business Plan Competition**

Grant Amount:

\$3,000 – Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant:

To reward students attending the South Dakota School of Mines that strive to be entrepreneurs. Following in the true spirit of entrepreneurship, students present their business plans to local business leaders and entrepreneurs including representatives from BHE. The competition introduces students to training, mentors, and public speaking experience outside an academic setting. Winners receive cash awards to assist in transforming their concepts into companies.

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Benefit of Grant:

Retain talented and young individuals who are currently located in the Rapid City area. Prize money has been used to build prototypes, conduct market research, and create new businesses. The grant benefits the service territory by promoting the South Dakota School of Mines and creating new businesses.

**Grant Recipient: Southern Hills Economic Development Corporation**

Grant Amount:

\$805 – Professional Development

Purpose of Grant:

The Webinar course was centered around business and marketing attraction. Topics covered were numerous, including how to create a community marketing plan and brand, engaging social media, and website design for targeting specific markets. Also covered during the course were how to make the most out of direct investment efforts, benchmarking, and the evaluation and monitoring of marketing initiatives.

Benefit of Grant:

BHE sponsors marketing and business attraction opportunities. The development of executive professionals in the communities BHE serves is one of the many ways to improve the area. The webinar course also covers how to attract new manufacturing and retail companies.

**Grant Recipient: Spearfish Economic Development Corporation**

Grant Amount:

\$6,000 – Cooperative Marketing

Purpose of Grant:

To support Spearfish Economic Development Corporation's (SEDC) ongoing marketing efforts to attract additional outdoor product manufacturing companies to Spearfish.

Benefit of Grant:

To promote new business appeal for the community of Spearfish, South Dakota. Job creation benefits both Spearfish and BHE from growing the local economy.

**Grant Recipient: Sturgis Economic Development Corporation**

Grant Amount:

\$120 – Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant:

Partner with the SEDC to organize the Sturgis Brown High School Career Day. High school students were given tours of the Sturgis manufacturing locations. Students also had the opportunity to tour SDHS Machine Tool Technology classroom to learn about available courses to students.

Benefit of Grant:

Promotes the career development and education to high school students within the Black Hills Energy's service territory.

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**Grant Recipient: Whitewood Economic Development Organization**

Grant Amount:

\$5,000 – Community Development

Purpose of Grant:

Whitewood Economic Development Organization (WEDO) needed to obtain a commercial appraisal for the Whitewood Technical Campus to complete the purchase of the property.

Benefit of Grant:

A partnership between BHE and WEDO that supports the development to the city of Whitewood, SD. Whitewood is currently pursuing a growth strategy through new business developments resulting from capital projects.

**Grant Recipient: Ellsworth Development Authority: Embrace the Base**

Grant Amount:

\$10,000 – Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant:

Ellsworth Development Authority and Embrace the Base were seeking a sponsor to support 10 major events endorsed by the EAFB Commander and community leaders. The events are specific to create a positive relationship with businesses that support the quality of life for military personnel and families.

Benefit of Grant:

BHE benefits from the Ellsworth Air Force Base expansion from job creation and population growth. Supporting the quality of life improvements for military personnel and families is crucial to achieve growth within the BHE service territory.