

YOUTH RETENTION HIGHLIGHTS....

JASON LAWLESS - FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL

Jason currently attends Mid-Plains with the assistance of funding from Fairbanks International. He intends on working in the Fairbanks Lexington store upon graduation.

TARA BARKMEIER - DAWSON AREA DEVELOPMENT INTERN

Tara is attending Mid-Plains and is working for the Rural Development Commission and plans to return to Dawson County to pursue a career in community development.

AMANDA HANSEN - DAWSON PUBLIC POWER

Amanda Hansen recently completed an internship at Dawson Public Power where she developed documented skills to prepare her for college as well as entering the workforce.

STEPHANIE LARSON - COLORADO BIOLABS

Stephanie is a graduate of G.H.S. and holds a master's degree in Biology. She is a Quality Assurance & Regulatory Compliance Associate. She and her husband Chris reside in Lexington.

ABLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Fifteen students will construct a house in Lexington in the 2007-2008 school year. ABLE, The City of Lexington, Jerry Dannehl, and area schools are partnering on the project.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TOUR

Over 250 students from Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Eustis-Farnam, SEM, Overton, and Elwood visited over 35 Dawson County businesses in November of 2006.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

Dawson County, Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Eustis, Farnam, Overton, Sumner, Eddyville, Miller, Elwood, and Gothenburg, Cozad, Lexington, SEM, Overton, Elwood, and Eustis-Farnam Schools.

DAWSON AREA DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark McKeone - Chairman	Mike Bacon	Dean Kugler	James Leggott
Bruce Clymer - Vice Chairman	John Fagot	Roger Bauer	
Joe Peplitsch - Treasurer	Carl York	David Stenberg	



FRONT PAGE IMAGE CREDITS: 1. Lexington Junior High School
2. Leadership Class, Robert Henri Museum, and 100th Meridian Museum
3. Colorado Biolabs 4. Monroe 5. Lexington Business Center
6. Area Students Tour Eilers Machine and Welding



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Dawson County Area Communities, Leaders, and Businesses...
2007 was a year of significant change and growth in the DAD office.

As a true Nebraskan, I probably exhibit too much humility when it comes to touting success, even though I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the DAD office, the staff, and the board of Directors. Every success story is part of a collaborative effort of our local economic development groups, communities, and individual leaders. I really have seen a change from the attitude of "What have you done for us lately?" metamorphosed into "Help us Help Ourselves!" The greatest joy has been watching the communities support each other in terms of new projects, and new initiatives.

Some of the Success Stories in the past twelve months in which DAD has played an important role include:

Former Lexington Grocery Store is now the new Lexington Business Center: A 30,000 square foot building has started to be renovated and will house Dawson County's newest employer, CRT. The Call Center will eventually employ between 60 and 72 individuals and will begin hiring in July. The operation will occupy 7,000 s.f. of the Lexington Business Center, and will be operating in August of 2007.

The Dawson County CROWN project is halfway through the hurdles of becoming a reality. The grant money needed to construct 18 new homes has been awarded, however we are still trying for the NIFA tax credits. We will continue to apply for tax credits, and are optimistic that the needed tax credits will be awarded in the fall.

Tabora Farms Nebraska is the new owner of the former Evans Bakery. Within their first month of operation, Tabora Farms had met their employment requirements of employing 28 full-time individuals. Since February of 2007, the plant has tripled production due to the entry into markets, and more hiring is expected very soon.

The ABLE program received the Nebraska Founders Award for its proactive and innovative approach to exposing Dawson County youth to the benefits of returning to this area to live, work, and raise a family.

The DAD Housing Solutions committee received statewide accolades for its efforts to create new housing development on a countywide basis. Homebuyer Education classes have been on going, and a housing marketing plan is underway.

The first Dawson County EDGE program was a success and will be offered again in 2008. The first class had 31 participants desiring to start or expand small businesses in Dawson County.

The Leadership Class graduated 20 individuals, who have already completed three projects in their respective communities.

A Cozad-Overton fund for economic development was established. The joint fund has assisted two businesses with three applications for assistance now pending.

Over \$3.2 Million of grant funds have been received for various housing, community development, tourism, youth retention, and economic development projects in Dawson County.

The DAD office and staff have been used by the state of Nebraska as a role model for regional cooperation. Our plans for the 2007-2008 are to continue this tradition for the betterment of Dawson County.

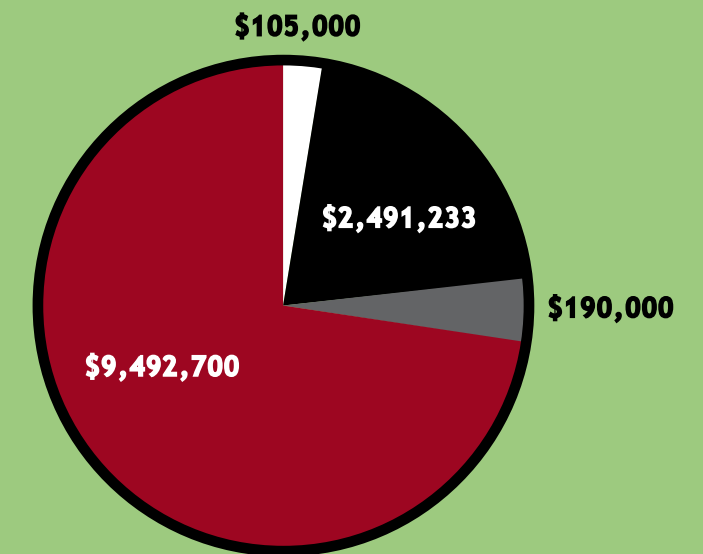
Sincerely, Jennifer Wolf - Executive Director - Dawson Area Development

MISSION:

To promote a spirit of **UNITY** and **COOPERATION** in order to plan, organize, and effect the future development of the Dawson County area. The Council shall endeavor to diversify the local economy, foster a favorable business climate, help existing businesses grow and expand, retain existing jobs, create new jobs and career opportunities, and **DEVELOP** the **AREA'S RESOURCES** to their **FULL POTENTIAL**.

TOTAL \$ OF INVESTMENT FROM DAD ASSISTED PROJECTS

- Housing
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Youth Retention



Every \$ 1.00 in local government investment, DAD has yielded \$ 118.67 of investment into Dawson County.

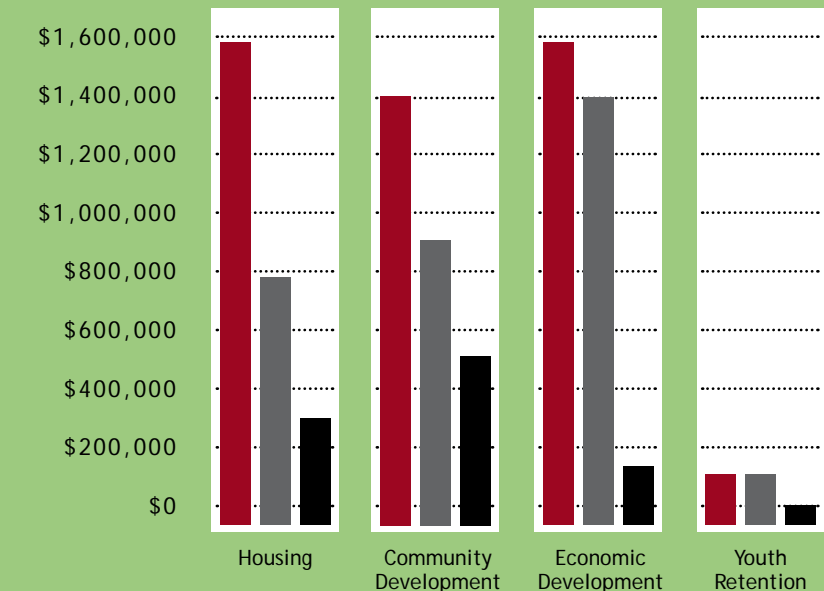
Total Investment of \$12,173,933 into Dawson County for DAD Fiscal Year 2006-07

DAD GRANT ACTIVITIES: Years 2006 and 2007

- Grants Written
- Successful
- Pending

Every \$ 1.00 in local government investment, DAD has yielded \$ 30.60 in grant funds to Dawson County.

Total Successful: \$3,167,969
Total Pending: \$941,041
Total Grants Applied for: \$4,652,010



2007 DAWSON AREA DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS.....

- CRT locates to Lexington which will create 72 new jobs.
- First Dawson County EDGE Class with 30 participants.
- DAD Leadership Program graduates 20 individuals.
- Tabora Farms purchases former Cozad bakery, employing 36 FTE's.
- Homebuyer Education graduates 46 households.
- Dawson County receives NE Founders Award for the ABLE Program.
- DAD hosts Disaster Preparedness Seminars for local business and industry.
- DAD hosts NE Workforce Development Seminar on Dawson County demographic and employment trends.
- Colorado Biolabs completes expansion of marketing development.
- RAE access road funding approved through EDA.
- City of Lexington rehabilitates 9 houses bringing total to 31 since 2001.
- Renovation of Lexington Grand Generation Center completed.
- Dawson County Industry Appreciation Day.
- Dawson County Slogan Contest held with area 5th grade students resulted in: Dawson County. Communities Growing Together.