



City of Bellevue, Nebraska
210 West Mission Avenue
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
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www.bellevue.net

For Immediate Release:

City of Bellevue Receives \$1,125,000 Grant from Nebraska Department of Economic Development for Funding Assistance for Convention Center Project!

07 May, 2014/Bellevue, Nebraska:

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) notified the City of Bellevue today that the City's application to the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund has been approved for the maximum amount. The City applied for \$1,125,000 from the fund earlier this year to assist with the construction of the Bellevue Conference and Event Center. Bellevue's Assistant City Administrator Larry Burks, who led the city's efforts on the application said, "The assistance from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund will be an important part of the success of this exciting public – private partnership."

This Bellevue Conference and Event Center project was approved by the Bellevue City Council earlier this year and will be built in the Twin Creek area of Bellevue. This 25,000 square foot Conference Center will be able to seat 800 to 1000 people in the main ballroom and will be able to be separated to serve several smaller meetings or receptions at once. The City has entered into an agreement with Kinseth Hospitality Group out of Lamar, Iowa to manage and operate the conference center and Marriott International, Inc. has given franchise approval for a 124 room Courtyard by Marriott to be part of the development.

Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders expressed thanks to the NDED for accepting the city's application for funding because of the impact this will have on the entire area. Mayor Sanders said, "This grant will help us fund a project that will service the entire region with a high quality convention center facility that will not only attract visitors to the Bellevue/Offutt Community but also bolster the economic activity in this area while creating new jobs."

The Civic and Community Center Financing Fund is administered by the NDED and was created to support the development of civic and community centers throughout Nebraska and to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities. This is the first time the City of Bellevue has received funding assistance from this program.

For additional information about this or any other item pertaining to the City of Bellevue, please call (402) 293-3052 or via email at phil.davidson@bellevue.net or visit the City website at www.bellevue.net.

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Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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May 7, 2014

Rita Sanders, Mayor
City of Bellevue
210 W. Mission Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68005

RE: **Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Application / City of Bellevue**
Notice of Approval

Dear Mayor Sanders:

On behalf of Catherine Lang, Director of the Department of Economic Development, it is a pleasure to inform you that your application has been approved in the amount of \$1,125,000. As indicated in the application, grant funds will be utilized for the construction of the Bellevue Convention Center.

In its application for grant assistance, Bellevue agreed to the following conditions;

- 1) A project for which a grant is sought must be located in the municipality that applies for the grant.
- 2) The municipality must own the center for which grant assistance is sought.
- 3) The municipality must operate directly or by contract the center for which grant assistance is sought.
- 4) Any municipality receiving a grant will not be awarded more than one grant in any five-year period.

Along with the aforementioned conditions, other grant conditions to be observed are contained in the agreement, issued at a later date, which follows Nebraska State Statutes, Sections 13-2701 through 13-2710, and Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 90, Chapter 1 ("Rules and Regulations for Local Civic, Cultural, and Convention Center Financing Act").

The City of Bellevue must sign, date, and return this agreement to accept the grant funds. If accepted, our Department will then disburse 50 percent of the grant funds to the City. We will disburse the remaining fifty percent after the minimum matching requirements have been allocated, as evidenced by paid receipts and other documentation of expenditures and on-site inspection by our Department staff.

We look forward to assisting the City of Bellevue to complete the Convention Center project.

Sincerely,

Kevin Andersen
Community Development Coordinator

Copies: Larry D. Burks, Asst. City Administrator