



**CITY OF KEARNEY**  
**PRESS RELEASE**  
***For Immediate Release***

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**2026 Special Community Betterment Awards**

The City of Kearney, in partnership with the Keno Application Advisory Committee, is proud to announce the 2026 Special Community Betterment Awards for eighteen (18) projects. This grant program was very competitive, and we appreciate all of the applicants and their work in our community.

The Special Community Betterment Awards are community development grants with no match that are available to local not-for-profit organizations with a maximum award of \$25,000. The program is funded by unique one-time receipts to the City of Kearney that are being used to give back to the community. The maximum amount of funds being made available for this application period was \$216,000.

2026 Award Recipients:

<b><u>Applicant Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Scope</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
America 250 Buffalo County Celebration	250 Celebration	\$ 5,000.00
American Red Cross of Central & Western Nebraska	Health Screening Equipment	\$ 5,158.00
Buffalo County Community Partners	New building	\$10,000.00
Crane River Theater	New Microphones	\$10,000.00
Faith Christian School	Secure Futures: Security Project	\$ 5,000.00
Family of Christ Lutheran Church	ESL Classes	\$ 2,300.00
HelpCare Clinic	Clinic Renovation for Improved Patient Care	\$25,000.00
Kearney Area Animal Shelter	Dog Yard Fencing & Play Space Enhancement Project	\$ 5,000.00
Kearney Area Children's Museum	Entryway Renovation	\$25,000.00
Kearney Community Learning Center-KCLC	Healthcare Heroes Club	\$ 6,000.00
Kearney Community Sustainable Housing	Transitional Housing - Furnishing	\$ 9,300.00
Kearny Jubilee Center	Help Now & Food Pantry	\$25,000.00
Kearney Rescue Cats	Help feral & stray cats	\$ 8,242.00
Kearney Whitewater Association	Cherry Ave Kearney Water Trail Landing	\$20,000.00
McKenna's Rae of Hope Foundation (MROH)	Counseling Support Fund	\$10,000.00
S.A.F.E. Center	Shelter Project	\$25,000.00
The Archway	Audio Tour Modernization Project	\$10,000.00
The World Theatre	Sound improvements	\$10,000.00

Congratulations to all of the grant awardees! The 2027 Lottery Trust Fund Application is currently anticipated to open in January 2026. If you have any questions about the grant program, please contact Brian Schultz, Director of Finance, (308)-233-3213.

**Check out our web site at [www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org).**

*We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.*