

## SOUTHWEST REGION



### **United Community Action Partnership, Inc.: In Home Education and Energy Saving Program**

Southwest MN – The United Community Action Partnership (United CAP) plans to work with clients in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, and Redwood counties to conduct in-home education sessions on energy upgrades and weatherization for eligible applicants. Clients may not be aware of opportunities to save on their energy bills and reduce consumption, but, by assessing their homes in person, United CAP will be able to determine if they are viable candidates for weatherization or appliance replacement. Energy savings in these cases provide significant financial benefits to clients. The funds provided by the CERTs Seed Grant will cover the cost of the staff labor required for effective outreach and implementation of this project. (\$5,000)

### **Marshall-Lyon County Library: Get Wired at Marshall-Lyon County Library**

Marshall, MN – When the Marshall-Lyon County Library opened in 2011, the county hoped that the combination of the geothermal heating/cooling system and updated light fixtures would cut down on utility costs, allowing more public funds to go to acquiring additional materials for the library's collection and expanding programs offered to residents. However, by 2016, the electric bill for the building was on schedule to exceed \$50,000 annually. The Library has made tweaks to the geothermal system and instituted other strategic changes that have cut down on these costs significantly, but replacing fluorescent bulbs remains the last big step to true efficiency. With the funds provided by the CERTs Seed Grant, they will finally be able to close the gap between aspiration and reality by retrofitting the building with LED lamps and fixtures. (\$2,500)

### **Balaton EDA: Balaton Business Energy Efficiency CERT Partnership**

Balaton, MN – The City of Balaton Economic Development Authority (EDA) will use CERTs funding to facilitate energy efficient improvements to selected businesses in the community. In a small town like Balaton, businesses are vital to the strength of the local tax base, and improving energy efficiency for the facilities that house these enterprises will improve their bottom line and reduce energy consumption in ways that boost the vitality of the local economy and encourage entrepreneurship. (\$3,750)

### **The New Ulm Turnverein, Inc.: Gym Electrical Upgrades**

New Ulm, MN – Turner Hall Gymnastics is the oldest continuing program in the state of Minnesota. Their low-cost gymnastics programming provides instruction to youth 18 months to 18 years of age, and has managed to keep enrollment levels sustainable for over a century. The facility currently uses an outdated breaker box to turn the lights off and on in the gym, a stopgap measure that is both inefficient and potentially hazardous. They will use their CERTs Seed Grant award to replace the breaker box with appropriate lighting infrastructure that is both safer and more energy efficient. (\$5,000)

## **City of Slayton EDA: Façade Improvement/Energy Efficiency Program**

Slayton, MN – The City of Slayton Economic Development Authority (EDA) plans to incorporate an energy efficiency component in their existing commercial façade improvement program. Under this reimbursable program, entrepreneurs in Slayton apply to receive up to a 35% grant for improvements to the façade of their business. By ensuring that businesses no longer “bleed” money that they could be saving with energy efficient upgrades to their buildings, the EDA will generate economic benefits for the Slayton community as a whole. (\$3,750)