

# Story County Housing Trust Fund gets state funding

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The Story County Housing Trust Fund will get its first round of grant money from the Iowa Finance Authority, setting it up to begin housing assistance programs next year.

The fund, originally formed by local advocacy group AMOS in 2016, received just less than \$240,000 from the state agency Thursday, about as much as the group originally requested. Story County's grants were one of a \$7.4 million disbursement from the state to 25 housing trust funds across the state.

Amber Corrieri, an Ames city councilman and a board member of the Story County Housing Trust Fund, said the grant amount was about what the Trust Fund requested and the maximum it could have received from the state.

"It's really a testament to the hard work people throughout the community put in in helping this get off the ground," she said.

The Trust Fund will use part of the grant to help county cities and nonprofits rehabilitate older owner-occupied homes in need of repair.

Nonprofits can also request Trust Fund money to support rental assistance programs, provided the funds are limited to \$2,000 per household per year and are not used for students.

All grants from the Fund must be met with a 50 percent match from local funds, Corrieri said. Several local government groups and nonprofits have already donated to help cover the match requirement.

The IFA's award comes days after the Story County Board of Supervisors discussed a proposal from Supervisor Lauris Olson to start a county-funded housing grant pilot program in time for the 2019 fiscal year.

Rick Sanders and Martin Chitty, Olson's counterparts on the Board of Supervisors, expressed concern over the proposal's \$150,000 price tag.

Brenda Dryer, member of the Trust Fund's board and workforce development coordinator for the Ames Chamber of Commerce, said Olson's proposal focuses more on helping cities work with developers on building new housing stock while the fund focuses on already-built housing. In effect, the proposal and the fund are approaching the same issue, but in different ways.

Dryer said the efforts could end up being operated under one entity, a suggestion Sanders put forward during the Supervisors meeting. But in the meantime, she said the Fund needs to get itself to a point where it doesn't need to rely on the Polk County Housing Trust for administrative help.

"I think we need to keep communicating to each other and let the supervisors decide what, if any, role they want to play," she said.

The fund will submit a request for proposals in early January.

**Link to article:** <https://www.amestrib.com/news/20171207/story-county-housing-trust-fund-gets-state-funding>