

BUSINESS UPDATE

MAY 2021

COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the Aurora Housing Development Corporation

on the announcement of their \$1,000,000 Rural Workforce Housing Grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. This grant, matched with \$1,000,000 in local funds, will establish a \$2,000,000 revolving loan fund that will continue to develop rental and owner-occupied workforce housing in Aurora and Hamilton County. Townhomes in the first phase of this housing project, developed in conjunction with Mesner Development Co., will look similar to the townhomes pictured below.



REGION

Below is a comparison of the first three months of the year for 2019-2021, showing changes in the Hamilton County total labor force, number of unemployed individuals, unemployment rate, and number of employed individuals. While the impacts of the pandemic can be seen in the 2020 unemployment rate, the number of unemployed individuals in 2021 has seen a significant decrease over the previous two years. As baby boomers continue to retire, it is anticipated that the total labor force and employment totals will shrink, so the importance of workforce attraction efforts will continue to grow.

Hamilton County Employment

Year	Month	Labor Force Total	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Employment
2021	January	4,718	121	2.6	4,597
2021	February	4,709	139	3.0	4,570
2021	March	4,726	119	2.5	4,607
2020	January	4,825	193	4.0	4,632
2020	February	4,775	138	2.9	4,637
2020	March	4,870	207	4.3	4,663
2019	January	4,772	167	3.5	4,605
2019	February	4,676	132	2.8	4,544
2019	March	4,762	142	3.0	4,620

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OPPORTUNITY

GRANT APPLICATION

Shuttered Venues

Host: U.S. Small Business Administration
Grants equal to 45% of gross earned revenue up to \$10 million. \$2 billion is reserved for firms with 50 or fewer employees

[Apply.](#)

GRANT APPLICATION

Restaurant Revitalization

Host: U.S. Small Business Administration
Up to \$10 million per business, depending on losses. Must be spent by March 11, 2023.

Opens May 3.

[Learn more.](#)

GRANT APPLICATION

Developing Youth Talent Initiative

Host: Nebraska Department of Economic Development
\$250,000 total available for hands-on career exploration for 7th- and 8th-graders in STEM occupations

Deadline: May 14

[Apply.](#)