

Hyattville Community Center Hyattville Cemetery District



Project Type and Use: Renovate a former school for community use.

Contact: Kris Robertson, Board Member
Hyattville Cemetery District and
Hyattville Community Services Association, Inc.
kr@tctwest.net
Telephone: (307) 469-2204

Project Description: When ownership of this 50+ year old former school building was transferred to the Hyattville Cemetery District, (HCD) the school was structurally sound but suffered from issues primarily related to age and obsolescence. After acquiring the facility, HCD and an incorporated community group performed a variety of "band-aid" fixes over the course of three years but water, heat and the lack of restrooms limited the building's use year round. The problems that remained were: asbestos encapsulation, roof realignment, electricity, heating system, ADA compliance and plumbing. The Community Facilities grant is being used to rectify those issues. Once renovated, the building will house the community library, recreation space (gym), and a variety of youth activities. The building is also the location for community gatherings including the "Old Timer's Festival", the "Harvest Dinner" and the "Cowboy Carnival". Additionally, a variety of groups will hold their meetings in the community center.

Project History: The current structure was built in 1956 and operated as a school until closure in 2002. Community members recognized the facility's role as the heart of this rural area and approached the School District about the building's use as a community center. In June 2003 ownership of the facility was transferred from the School District to the only other local public entity in the area, the Hyattville Cemetery District. During this time the non-profit Hyattville Community Services Association, Inc. (HCA) was formed for the purpose of operating the facility. Since that time, community members have provided over 2000 hours per year of in-kind services to operate, maintain and raise funds for the center. These efforts allow the facility to operate as a community center; however, the current condition of the structure limits full-time year round use.

Relation to Quality of Life and Economic Development: Quoting a Hyattville resident, this center is "the binding element that provides cohesiveness" for the citizens.

Project's Complement to Other Development Initiatives: The community center renovations make a marked improvement to the community and surrounding area.

Assisting communities to preserve former school and government facilities that have existing or future community uses

Amount of Funding:
\$398,000

Local Contribution:
\$1,037,000

Community:
Greater Hyattville Area

Date Grant Award:
October 5, 2006

Estimated Completion Date:
Fall 2007

