

KCTC, Pleasantview, and Aureon Help the Community Secure \$297,899 for Future Projects

On Wednesday, September 18, 2022, Kalona Cooperative Technology Company (KCTC) and Pleasantview, a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Kalona, Iowa, met to close a USDA Rural Economic Development loan totaling \$297,899. This unique loan program is designed to grant rural communities funds after the completion of a local project.

Pleasantview offers skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living services. They are expanding and remodeling their facilities and have offered a portion of their expansion costs to help secure the money for the city of Kalona and surrounding communities. Selecting a catalyst project such as the Pleasantview expansion is a requirement by the USDA for the program. Pleasantview will receive the funding in the form of a 0% loan. As loan payments are made, revenue will not go back to the USDA, instead, funds will remain in the community for future projects.

The USDA program requires that a local utility provider sponsor the loan application process. KCTC volunteered staff time and effort to be the sponsoring utility, ensuring that the \$297,899 was made possible for the initial project and other future projects. The USDA also requires a 20% cash match from local partners to complete the program. To fulfill this requirement, KCTC pitched in \$24,824, and their telecommunications partner, Aureon contributed another \$24,824.

Once payments are made on the original loan, organizations and businesses are eligible to apply for low-interest loans from the revolving loan fund to finance community and business projects. The interest generated from the projects will be deposited back into the revolving loan fund, and the account will be held and administered by KCTC. For more information, please contact Ethan Pitt: epitt@iadg.com.

The USDA application process was authored and administered by the Ripple Effect program. Developed through a partnership alliance between Aureon and Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), the Ripple Effect program helps Independent Telecommunication Companies, and the communities they serve, become catalysts for advancing the economic health and vitality of rural Iowa. Aureon is a premier business solutions provider, with expertise in IT services, consulting, and customer care. For details, please call 888-387-5670.