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MCSA Receives \$1.8 Million Dollar Grant for 3D House Printing

Governor Reynolds recently announced a total of nearly \$20 million in investments to advance homeownership opportunities in dozens of Iowa communities, including a \$1.8 million grant to Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA) for 3D house printing.

Scott Dahlke, Executive Director of MCSA, noted, “The grant will be used to purchase and prepare lots to 3D print and finish six three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes in the Mulberry Corridor Neighborhood Revitalization area. The project will include sub-contracting with Alquist to 3D print the homes. Alquist has produced two units in Virginia including one in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. A local general contractor will prepare the lots for printing and complete the buildout to provide turnkey, new single-family homes.”

This project is in collaboration with Muscatine Community College, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, City of Muscatine, and Muscatine County.

The homes will be marketed towards neighborhood families who are currently renting or teachers at Jefferson Elementary School.

Charla Schafer, President of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, stated, “One interesting stat is that our children on free lunches change schools three to four times more often within our school district in a given year than other children due to high housing costs, primarily because we need more housing. Providing our community’s children with safe, quality housing is a non-negotiable element of stabilizing families in Muscatine.”

Muscatine Community College intends to partner on the 3D printed homes to train workforce through their Construction Program which is launching in 2023. Students will have the opportunity to be on job sites to apply campus training with real world experiences.

Along with the construction training for 3D house printing, Muscatine Community College plans to advance research in materials through their Industrial Hemp Production Program, aiming to make printing homes more environmentally friendly and locally sourced.

Funds generated from selling the homes will be reinvested throughout Muscatine County to increase speed to market and improve durability and long-term affordability of the local housing stock.

The grant will make an immediate and revolving impact on the Muscatine community through integration of the 3D technology and further advancement of the housing development portfolio of tools.

Visit www.mcsaiowa.org or www.givinggreater.org for more information of this collaborative housing project.