

Greater Dubuque 2022 Progress Report

GREATER DUBUQUE DEVELOPMENT BRINGS TOGETHER NEW TEAM TO TACKLE AREA WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Like most of the nation, the Greater Dubuque area has been facing workforce challenges leading up to and throughout the pandemic. The demand for qualified talent has outpaced the ability to hire and has left many employers questioning how to set themselves apart from competitors.

Greater Dubuque Development is expanding their Workforce Solutions team to assist regional employers to both utilize existing tools as well as develop innovative strategies to attract, retain, and create talent.

In May 2021, Jason White joined the team as the Vice President of Business Services. A twenty-year veteran in economic development, he had most recently served as the President and CEO of the Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation. In his new role, Jason has been responsible for managing operations and driving innovation in Business Services with a focus on supporting our Greater Dubuque area employers and growing our regional economy. The demand for Workforce is central to that focus and in order to expand our efforts, two Directors of Workforce Solutions have been added to the team.

Mandi Dolson has returned to the Greater Dubuque Development team with extensive experience in Human Resources and Recruitment. After her tenure as Workforce Solutions Coordinator, Mandi worked with a noted finance employer as a Regional Corporate Recruiting Partner and with a premier area manufacturer as a Human Resources Manager. Her work experience combined with her established knowledge of AccessDubuqueJobs.com and the Greater Dubuque business community make her a uniquely valuable asset to the team.

Nicolas Hockenberry has over seven years of experience in Economic Development, serving as an Economic Development Specialist, Assistant Director, and Director for the Jackson County Economic Alliance in Iowa. His efforts in Jackson County, familiarity with regional economic development, and his previous partnership with Greater Dubuque Development give him specialized insight and the ability to hit the ground running.

Working together, Jason, Mandi, and Nic will work directly with employers to share resources that are immediately available to help attract, retain, and create workforce. Some of these resources include the Opportunity Dubuque training programs available through Northeast Iowa Community College; Big Life Small City newcomer resources; and AccessDubuqueJobs.com, the area's top career posting which is made possible through a partnership between TH Media and Greater Dubuque Development. The team will also roll out new workforce initiatives starting in January 2022. Using both proven methods and innovative new strategies, we'll continue to grow our regional economy and help our area employers prosper.



Left to Right: Nicolas Hockenberry, Director of Workforce Solutions; Jason White, Vice President of Business Services; and Mandi Dolson, Director of Workforce Solutions.



RICK DICKINSON
President & CEO



JASON WHITE
VP of Business Services



KAREN KLUESNER
VP of Operations



DAN MCDONALD
Director of Existing Business



MANDI DOLSON
Director of Workforce Solutions



NIC HOCKENBERRY
Director of Workforce Solutions



EMILY GRAVES
Director of Communications



DAVE LYONS
Sustainable Innovations Consultant*



JAYNE ERVOLINO
Administrative Assistant



BILL BAUM
Existing Business Specialist*



ROB APEL
Existing Business Specialist*



KRISTIN DIETZEL
Community Tour Guide*



NELSON KLAVITTER
Community Tour Guide*



CHRIS APEL
Community Tour Guide*

* Contractor or Part-time Staff

business services

NEW GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

Beginning in September, the Iowa Economic Development Authority will begin accepting applications for its new, Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Grant Program. Eligible companies can receive up to \$75,000 to make investments in a number of innovative tools including software, specialized equipment for automation, design and engineering, and other cutting-edge technologies. While Greater Dubuque Development does not supervise the program, we are in close contact with our partners and can assist your company in the process and answer questions as needed.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: [Visit the IEDA website](https://www.ieda.org)

ZERO ZONE ANNOUNCES INTENT TO EXPAND IN DYERSVILLE, GAINS DYERSVILLE'S CITY COUNCIL AND STATE APPROVAL

Since 1961, when it first began operations in a dairy barn in a small town outside Milwaukee, Zero Zone, Inc. has earned the reputation of producing top-of-the-line commercial refrigeration units at competitive prices. Now—60 years later and over 500 employees strong—the company announces plans to expand its operations to Dyersville, Iowa, conditional upon local and state approvals.

“Our values are those of the American Midwest,” says Rick Steer, Vice President & General Manager of the Zero Zone Systems Division, based in Ramsey, Minnesota. “Our corporate ownership is Milwaukee based, and operates multiple facilities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Our mission is to protect and preserve the freshness of food and pharmaceuticals throughout North and South America. Our products are proudly assembled in the USA, using sustainable materials and lean assembly methods that foster the highest quality while safeguarding the health and safety of our manufacturing teammates.”

“Due to significant growth in our business, we have chosen to expand our manufacturing operations to the Greater Dubuque area because of its geographical position, quality workforce and programming to assist employers in recruiting that workforce,” continues Steer, “and we are hopeful that the Iowa Economic Development Authority will grant the necessary incentives to allow that to happen.” Respect for their workers translates to unrivaled levels of personalized service to their customers. Zero Zone promotes a family atmosphere among their employees that allows time for fun activities as well as career advancement opportunities. In speaking on their workforce, Jason White, VP of Business Services for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation remarked, “We look forward to Zero Zone creating 50 well-paying jobs in our community. We will be listing those jobs on AccessDubuqueJobs.com for anyone interested in joining another great company entering our market.”

Zero Zone exhibits its commitment to the environment by being an active member of the Environmental Protection Agency's GreenChill Advanced Refrigeration Partnership. They partner with customers to reduce refrigerant emissions and decrease their impact on the ozone layer and global warming. Zero Zone natural refrigerant systems are an example of how the company has invested in alternative coolant technology to benefit the environment.

The project gained approval from the Dyersville City Council on September 7, 2021. The Iowa Economic Development Authority approved \$200,000 in direct financial assistance and \$59,625 in tax credits on September 17, 2021.

Zero Zone, Inc., headquartered in North Prairie, Wisconsin, is a respected manufacturer of commercial refrigeration systems and display cases for supermarkets, grocery, convenience, dollar, and drug stores, as well as industrial systems for cold storage, food processing, pharmaceutical/biomedical manufacturing, and ice arenas.

BUSINESS HELPLINE CONTINUES TO OFFER SUPPORT TO AREA EMPLOYERS BEYOND PANDEMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS

Initially formed in response to the pandemic, the Business Helpline has evolved to provide area employers with information and resources to maximize opportunities and overcome challenges. Helpline coaches can help connect businesses with experts to provide one-on-one or group training, post-Covid recovery strategies, information on available incentives, and more. They can also connect employers with the Strategic Consulting Group through Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) to assist with large-scale challenges like strategic planning, human capital development, and operational efficiencies.

The Business Helpline was started through a partnership between NICC, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, the Small Business Development Center, and East Central Iowa Intergovernmental Association. Contact the Business Helpline by calling 563-588-3350 or emailing sbhelpline@nicc.edu, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



MEDICAL PROVIDER MAKES PROGRESS ON EXPANSION EFFORTS

Following the start of construction in April, the Grand River Medical Center continues to make progress on their new location on Westmark Drive. Once complete, the 40,000-square-foot facility will have approximately twice the space of their current facility at 320 North Grandview Avenue. The new 3-story facility will accommodate current operations with room for expansion in the future. The new location is expected to open in Summer 2022 at which time the North Grandview site will be vacated.

LOCAL ACCOUNTING FIRM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In August, Honkamp Krueger was recognized by INSIDE Public Accounting magazine as a 2021 Top 100 Firm in their 31st annual ranking of the largest accounting firms in the nation. The annual rankings and analysis are completed as a comprehensive assessment of the industry. Founded in 1947, Honkamp Krueger has grown to be one of the nation's largest professional service firms with client organizations in all 50 states.

workforce solutions

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE HOSTS EVENT HIGHLIGHTING DUBUQUE—EMPLOYERS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

On October 5, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the University of Wisconsin-Platteville is hosting the Dubuque Community On Campus Day. The Dubuque community is invited to be on campus to highlight unique information including tourism, economic development, quality of life, local companies, service and networking organizations, and more. This is a great way to network and promote potential internships, co-ops, and full-time positions that may exist within the Dubuque area. [Employers can learn more and register on the UW-Platteville website.](#)

ACCESSDUBUQUEJOBS.COM UPDATE

New Investors

- Centro Inc.
- River Bend Retirement Community
- Uelner Precision Tools & Dies, Inc.
- TriState Quality Metals
- Zero Zone, Inc.

Declined Investors

- Avantax Planning Partners
- Next Generation Wireless

Renewed Investors

- Creative Adventure Lab
- Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Midwest Janitorial
- Morrison Bros. Co.
- RT&T Enterprises, inc.
- Rainbo Oil
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- Universal Tank & Fabrication



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strategic initiatives

EVENT TO COMMISSION NEW SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FACILITY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14TH

The community is invited to attend an event on October 14th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon to launch the new landfill gas conversion facility at the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency. The facility collects previously flared off landfill gas, cleans it, and converts it to natural gas that can be used for other applications. The event will include a short presentation and ribbon cutting and tours of the facility and landfill. It is recommended that guests wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; other necessary protective equipment will be provided.

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: [Download and view the invitation \(pdf\).](#)

upcoming religious celebrations & cultural events

EVENING OF SEPT 20TH - EVENING OF SEPT 27TH Sukkot (Jewish)

EVENING OF SEPT 27TH - EVENING OF SEPT 29TH Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)

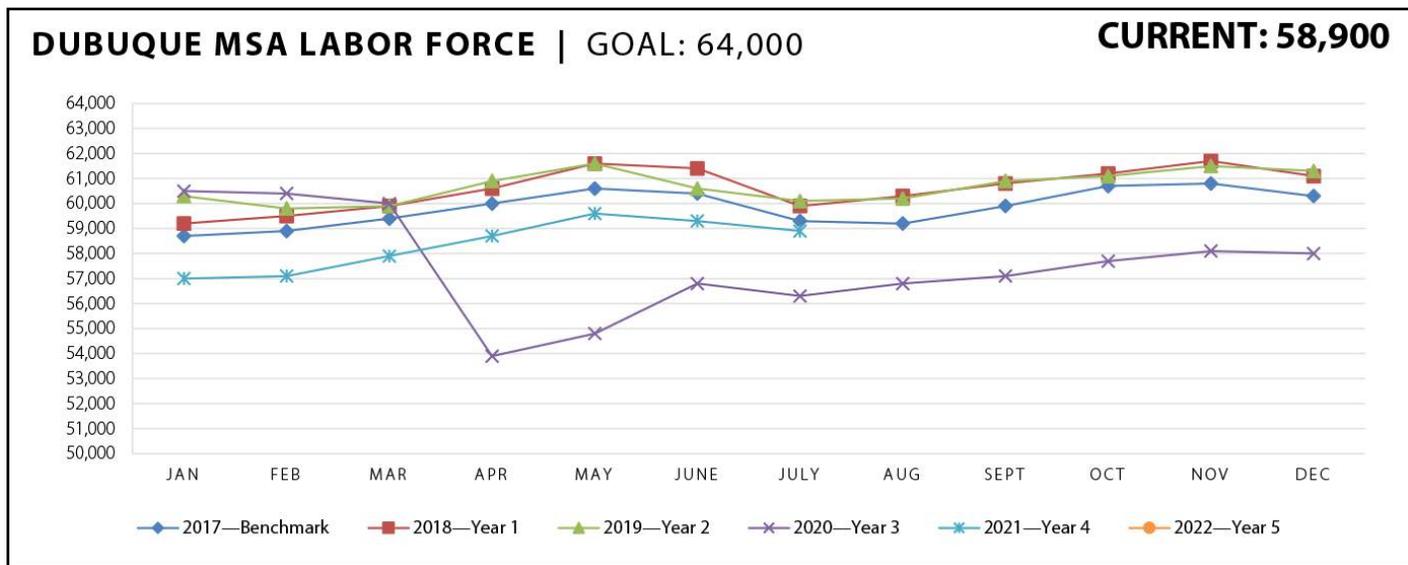
EVENING OF SEPT 28TH - EVENING OF SEPT 29TH Simchat Torah (Jewish)

EVENING OF OCT 18TH - EVENING OF OCT 19TH Mawlid al-Nabi (Muslim)

goals & progress

JOB CREATION UPDATE

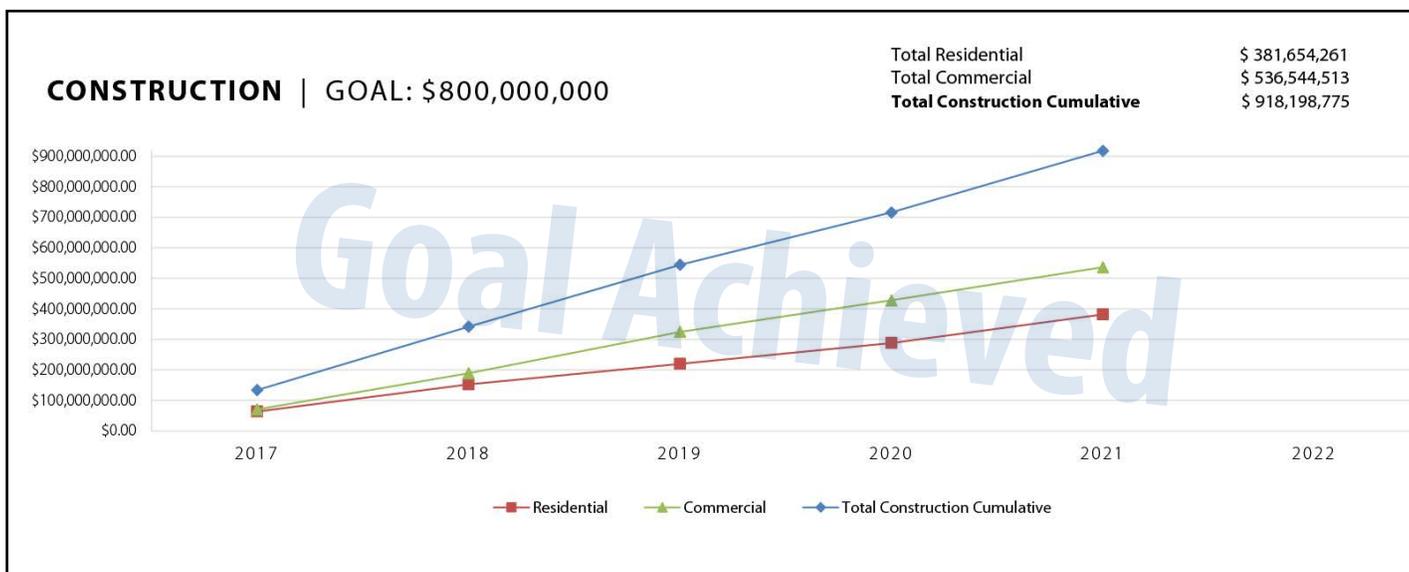
The resident unemployment rate for July 2021 was reported as 3.9% and non-farm employment was 58,900.



SOURCE: Iowa Workforce Development

NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Since the beginning of the Greater Dubuque 2022 Campaign (7/1/17 through 8/30/21), Residential construction totals \$381,654,261. Commercial construction totals \$536,544,513. Total construction totals \$918,198,775.

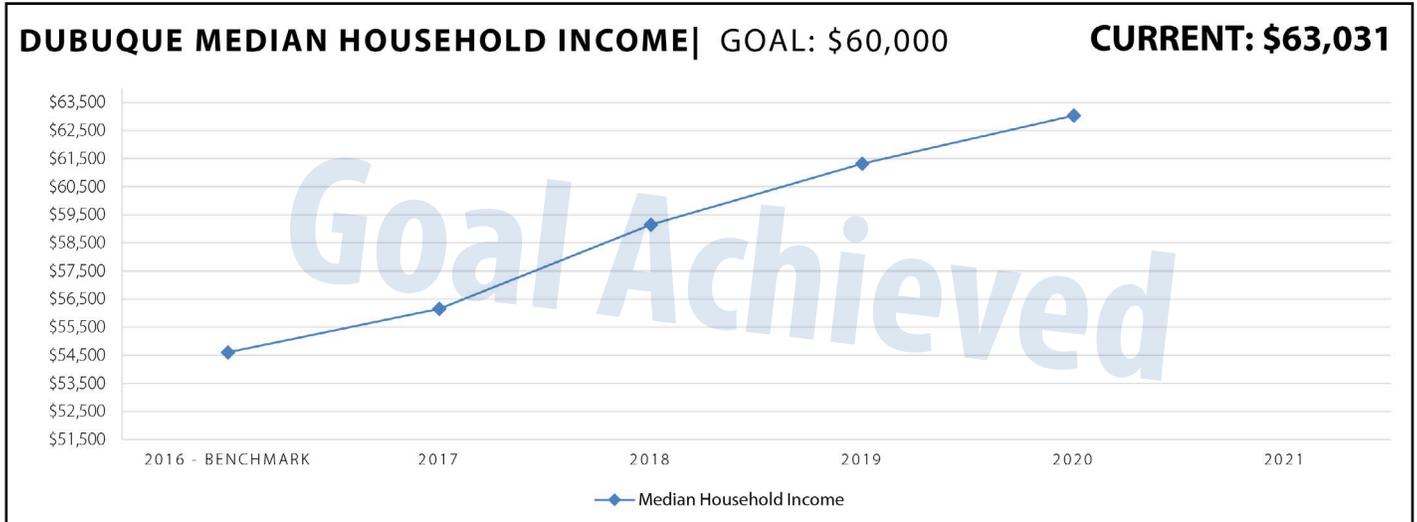


SOURCE: City of Dubuque and Dubuque County, incorporated and unincorporated.

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MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME UPDATE

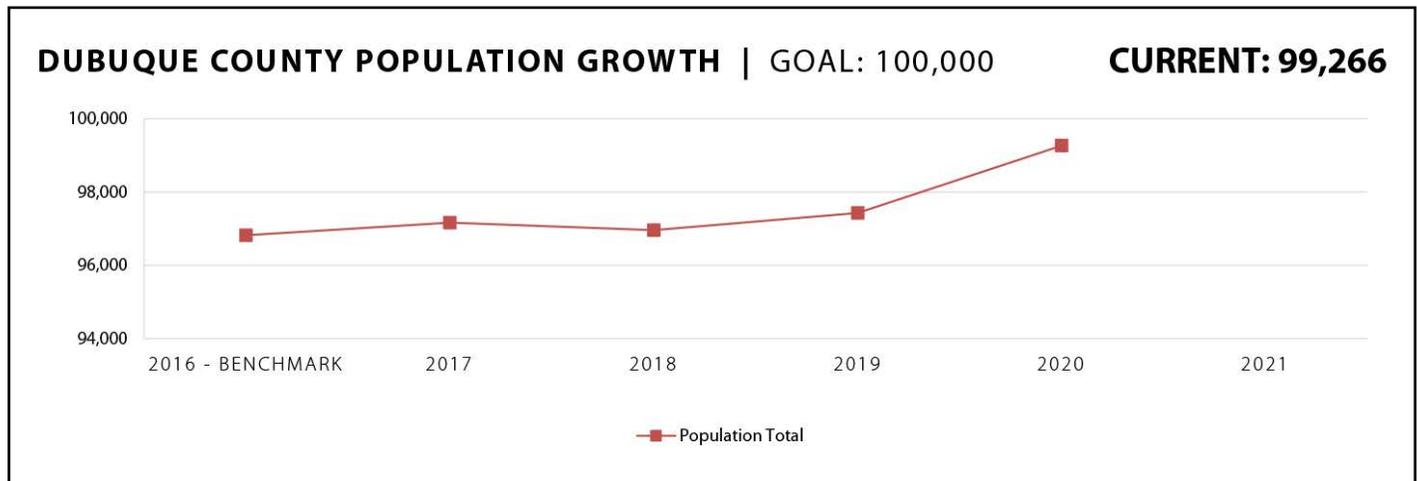
As of December 2020, the median household income for Dubuque County was reported as \$63,031.



SOURCE: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018), updated annually

POPULATION GROWTH UPDATE

As of December 2020, the population was 99,266



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, updated annually