

Revolving loan fund helps eleven Howard businesses

By: Elisa Sand

The Madison Daily Leader

July 2, 2004

Since its inception, Howard's economic revitalization group has assisted 11 business in establishing a location or expanding their operations.

Miner County Community Revitalization established a revolving loan fund in March 2001. Since then, and with the aid of area financial institutions, \$884,000 has been leveraged in loans.

Of that amount, MCCR Finance and Loan Officer Teresa Poppen said, \$587,750 was leveraged through the revolving loan fund.

The 12 loans went to help 11 businesses, she said, four of which were existing businesses.

"It goes with our mission to serve people in Miner County," she said.

To qualify for a loan, individuals must either work, live, or attend school or church in Miner County.

"The revolving loan fund is designed to work with financial institutions, with MCCR filling the gap in financing," she said, adding that some of the loans were financed solely through MCCR.

The revolving loan fund started with \$200,000 to be used for startup businesses, expansions or retention of current businesses.

In June 2001, MCCR was awarded a loan from the \$446,375 USDA Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program. That required a match of \$148,900 from MCCR.

The revolving loan fund has assisted both large commercial businesses and smaller en-

trepreneurs, Poppen said.

"It's been a great program. I enjoy working with loan applicants and being able to make their ideas come to life, become a reality," she said.

Today, MCCR is looking at applying for a secondary Intermediary Relending loan through USDA, but Poppen said that no amount has been determined.

"We want to try and make things possible for a business idea," Poppen said.

In addition to working with individuals on loan applications, they also meet with individuals about their business ideas and have the person put together a cash flow and business plan to determine if the idea will cash flow in a year, if it is a seasonal business, and what their expectations are of the idea.