

2001 Annual Report Executive Summary

Griggs-Steele County Empowerment Zone

Fiscal year 2001 has been a most successful year for the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone. The revolving loan fund has loan over \$2,500,000 to existing and new businesses; the grant fund has awarded \$1,600,000 to eligible public projects in the zone; we provided high speed, broadband internet access in a rural area that would have waited years and years for the private sector to invest in; we saved several businesses in the Zone and kept those jobs here; we fully staffed the EZ office (4 total employees); developed a two year marketing plan; updated our benchmarks in 5 community meetings; and rolled out two new programs. It was an excellent year.