



Iowa

NMTC Allocatee

Iowa Community Development
Daniel T. Robeson
dan@iowabusinessgrowth.com
515-985-8865

CRST International

CRST International is a worldwide transportation and logistics company that is undergoing an over \$47 million, multifaceted expansion in distressed and heavily distressed low-income census tracts in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The project includes the construction of a corporate headquarters, a job training school, and housing facility for unemployed, low-income people. CRST is one of the largest privately held transportation companies in the United States, with a workforce of more than 6,300 people and over 2,400 independent contractors. A flood in 2008 impacted 1,300 blocks, or 10 square miles of Cedar Rapids, and much of the downtown area was inundated. More than 5,000 homes were affected, and 1,324 permanent jobs and 274 businesses were lost as a result of the flood.

Iowa Community Development became aware of the project through its marketing efforts with its network of economic development professionals located in the Cedar Rapids community. The Project will repurpose a site that was abandoned after the flood of 2008. This will give new life to a 'greyfield' site. The headquarters facility is currently projected to be built to meet LEED certification. Additionally waste minimization techniques will be used throughout the construction process as well for the operations of the facility. The CRST Corporate HQ plans are designed to fit into the city's flood wall protection system for the east side of the Cedar River. This will be part of the overall downtown flood protection system.

Since 2010, CRST has hired over 3,900 low-income persons. CRST provides its new drivers with: free room and board at CRST's onsite housing facility; driver scholarship program for drivers who are working to obtain a Commercial Drivers License (CDL); payment of tuition at driving school; classroom driver training; and on the job training with an experienced driver. As a result of this project, it is projected that over 3,200 low income persons will be trained for employment either directly through CRST, or as independent truck drivers hauling for CRST. Further, close to 50 percent of these direct jobs will go to minorities. These jobs include some 298 construction jobs using union labor and 150 new, full-time living wage jobs.

The jobs created are quality jobs. The construction jobs will offer wages ranging from \$35 to \$100 per hour, plus benefits. Permanent jobs will include management, faculty, and staff. All full-time employment will pay an annual salary that averages in excess of \$50,000 per year, with an annual cost-of-living increase.

Community Profile

Cedar Rapids, IA

Poverty Rate	35%
Median Income	41.65%
Compared to AMI	
Unemployment Rate	8.6%

Project Highlights

- Investor: U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation
- Total Project Cost: \$38.6M
- NMTC: \$15.8M
- Jobs: 298 construction jobs, created 150 full-time living wage jobs

