



Contact: Chris Parks, Communications Coordinator

Phone: 712-243-4196 x228

Email: chris.parks@swipco.org

Southwest Iowa Families Inc. Celebrates New Facility

New building will help expand mental health and support services in the region

Southwest Iowa Families Inc is a provider of mental health and other support services in the region and found a need for an expanded space with their growing business. After a process of obtaining funds and construction they were able to celebrate a new space at the Lakin Foundation Child and Family Center in Clarinda on May 8, 2024. The organization hosted an open house and had a ribbon cutting that day for staff, partners, and the public.

Construction on the facility began in 2022 and was finished in December of 2023 for the 9,000 square foot space. Approximately \$2.9 million dollars was raised for the project. Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) assisted in securing a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Community Facilities and Services to help the project become a reality.

The new building includes a large waiting room, a multipurpose room/classroom, and individual offices for the agency's therapists and other staff members. In their previous facility the waiting area was small and cramped, and some therapists had to share an office space. The new facility will allow them to serve more people since they have more space availability for appointment times and sessions.

Fundraising for the project was a large collaborative effort and received big boosts from the CDBG and a \$1,075,000 grant from the Charles E. Lakin Foundation.

This project certainly fits the mission of SWIPCO to help improve community assets and infrastructure, in turn improving residents' quality of life.