

A photograph of an American flag draped over a grey surface, with several red tulips in the bottom right corner. In the center, there is a stylized eagle with its wings spread, where the feathers are filled with the stars and stripes of the American flag.

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

The Kansas Association of Counties Office will close in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2025, and will reopen as normal on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

The logo for the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), featuring the lowercase letters "kac" in white on a red square background.A photograph of an American flag draped over a wooden structure, with a blue military cap in the foreground. A blue semi-transparent box with white text is overlaid on the flag.

**WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN.**

THIS MEMORIAL DAY, WE HONOR YOUR COURAGE, YOUR SACRIFICE, AND YOUR LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Butler County EMS Honors Paramedic Justin Lauppe Following Line-of-Duty Death

EL DORADO, KAN (5.19.2025) Butler County EMS continues to mourn the loss of **Paramedic Justin Lauppe**, who died in the line of duty on May 16, 2025, after suffering a cardiac arrest during an emergency response. Justin's final call reflects the courage, service, and sacrifice he demonstrated throughout his 14-year career in emergency medical services.

A memorial service for Paramedic Lauppe will be held on as follows:

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Time: 11:30 – 1:00 PM public viewing; 1:00 PM service

Location: Park City Arena – 8151 North Hartman Arena Dr. Park City, KS 67147

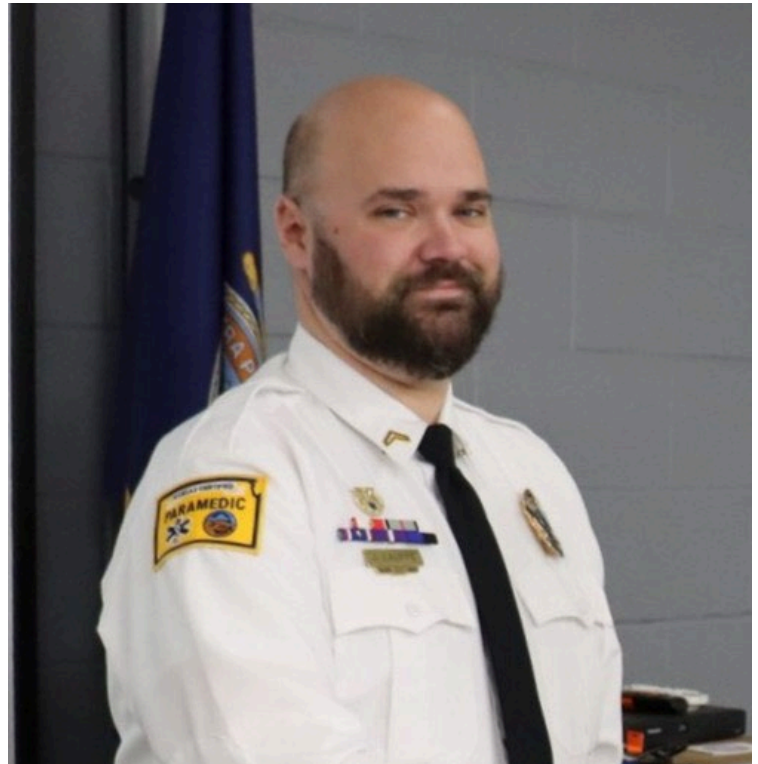
The service will be an opportunity for family, friends, colleagues, and the public to pay their respects and celebrate the life of a man who dedicated himself to the service of others. His commitment to duty and his courage in the face of danger were exemplary, he will forever be remembered as a hero. There will be a procession to graveside after service, details to follow.

Butler County EMS and Rescue welcome the participation of visiting honor guards, pipes, and drums to join us in paying tribute to Paramedic Justin Lauppe. We understand the importance of solidarity and support from our brothers and sisters in emergency response during this difficult time. If you are planning to attend and honor our fallen hero, please contact us in advance to coordinate the details. Additionally, if your department would like to send an apparatus to be part of the procession following the memorial service please notify us via email: butleremshonorguard@gmail.com.

"We are heartbroken by the loss of Justin," said **Stuart Funk, Public Outreach Coordinator for Butler County EMS**. "He represented the very best of us. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide our department and community."

Butler County EMS provides emergency medical services to Butler County, responding to over 7000 calls annually with a team of dedicated professionals.

(Photo Courtesy of Butler County EMS)



Governor Kelly Announces More than \$2M to Support Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

TOPEKA (5.23.2025) – Governor Laura Kelly announced Friday more than \$2.3 million in grants aimed at strengthening services and support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, and stalking across Kansas.

“Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault must have access to the resources they need to heal and seek justice,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.** “Investments like these are crucial to building a safer Kansas and supporting those recovering from crime.”

The funding is provided through the federal Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Program, which supports community-based efforts to prevent and respond to crimes against women. The program funds initiatives that develop, train, and expand units of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and court personnel dedicated to addressing these crimes. It also enhances victim services and legal assistance programs while promoting a coordinated community response to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Additional funding is provided through the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP). These grants assist local programs in delivering critical services to survivors of sexual assault, including crisis intervention, medical and criminal justice accompaniment, advocacy, and the dissemination of educational information to support recovery.

The grant funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

2025 S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Awards

County	Organization Name	Grant Award
Barton	Family Crisis Center	\$38,027
Douglas	Douglas County District Attorney’s Office	\$82,733
Douglas	Douglas County Sheriff’s Office	\$31,145
Douglas	The Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center	\$61,728
Douglas	The Willow Domestic Violence Center	\$50,967
Ellis	Northwest Kansas Community Corrections	\$45,900
Ellis	Options: Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	\$35,232
Ford	Ford County Attorney’s Office	\$56,325
Geary	Crisis Center, Junction City Domestic Violence Task Force	\$26,878
Jackson	Jackson County Sheriff’s Office	\$77,846
Johnson	Gardner Police Department	\$44,630
Johnson	Safehome	\$45,129
Lyon	SOS	\$23,953

Riley	Crisis Center, Riley Co. Domestic Violence Task Force	\$28,531
Sedgwick	Catholic Charities, Harbor House	\$38,564
Sedgwick	City of Wichita Police Department	\$67,084
Sedgwick	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center	\$79,200
Shawnee	Kansas Bureau of Investigation	\$17,212
Shawnee	Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence	\$44,356
Shawnee	Kansas Department of Corrections	\$150,785
Shawnee	Kansas Judicial Branch	\$36,300
Shawnee	YWCA of NE Kansas, Center for Safety & Empowerment	\$62,275
Wyandotte	Friends of Yates	\$44,361
Wyandotte	Metropolitan Organization Countering Sexual Assault	\$18,191
Wyandotte	Unified Government Police Department	\$113,600
Wyandotte	Unified Government Legal Department	\$100,864
Wyandotte	Unified Government District Attorney's Office	\$124,617
	TOTAL	\$1,546,433

2025 SASP Grant Awards

County	Organization Name	Grant Award
Barton	Family Crisis Center	\$48,930
Douglas	The Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center	\$80,318
Ellis	Options: Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	\$21,145
Finney	Family Crisis Services	\$31,921
Harvey	Harvey Co. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Task Force	\$69,993
Lyon	SOS	\$26,435
Sedgwick	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center	\$163,781
Shawnee	YWCA Center for Safety & Empowerment	\$106,182
Wyandotte	Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault	\$289,036
	TOTAL	\$837,741

2025 Kansas Notable Books Announced

State Library of Kansas celebrates variety of genres among Kansas-related books and authors

TOPEKA (5.21.2025) –The State Library of Kansas is pleased to announce the 2025 Kansas Notable Books selections. This year’s Notable Books contain stories for Kansas readers of many interests to include mystery, fantasy, poetry, memoirs, and enthusiasts of Wichita’s distinct blues tradition.



“This year’s Kansas Notable Books selection offers variety and familiar themes, inviting readers into the lives of a Kansas ranching family, self-described Kansas girl turned international spy, and a tree-top world created in the imaginations of a Kansas illustrator and New York Times author,” said Ray Walling, State Librarian. “Books explore family and friendships, finding success in Kansas, how a Kansan became the first person of color to serve as vice president of the United States, and the faith of Father Emil Kapaun as told by the prisoners-of-war he selflessly served.”

Each year, the Kansas Notable Books committee recommends 25 books written by Kansans or about Kansas to the State Librarian. The State Librarian then selects 15 Notable Books as a celebration of the sunflower state’s rich culture and storytelling. The 2025 Notable Book selection committee included representatives of public, university, and regional libraries, scholars and writers from across Kansas.

Kansas Notable Books authors will be recognized and awarded medals during the Kansas Book Festival reception, September 19, 2025, at Washburn University.

Kansas Notable Books is a project of the Kansas Center for the Book, a program at the State Library of Kansas which is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The mission of the Kansas Center for the Book is to highlight the state’s literary heritage and foster an interest in books, reading, and libraries.

2025 Kansas Notable Books

Coco, Snow!

by Julie Mosiman, illustrated by Ellen Youngman
Publisher: Author

Dress Me Like a Prizefighter

by Catherine Strayhall
Publisher: Spartan Press

From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis

by Debra Goodrich
Publisher: TwoDot

In True Face: A woman's Life in the CIA, Unmasked

by Jonna Mendez
Publisher: Public Affairs

Las Madres: Latinas in the Heartland Who Led Their Family to Success

by Dennis Raphael Garcia
Publisher: University Press of Kansas

The Last Rancher

by Robert Rebein

Publisher: Meadowlark Press

The Lies We Conjure

by Sarah Henning

Publisher: Tor Teen

No Bullet Got Me Yet: The Relentless Faith of Father Kapaun

by John Stansifer

Publisher: Hanover Square Press

Not the Worst Friend in the World

by Anne Rellihan

Publisher: Holiday House

Outdoor Farm, Indoor Farm

by Lindsay H. Metcalf, illustrated by Xin Li

Publisher: Astra Young Readers

Remnants of a Scarlet Flame

by Cindy L. Sell

Publisher: Aether and Ash Press

The Rhino Keeper

by Jillian Forsberg

Publisher: History Through Fiction

The Switch Point

by A. D. Childers

Publisher: Next Chapter

Treehouse Town

by Gideon Sterer, illustrated by Kansan, Charlie Mylie

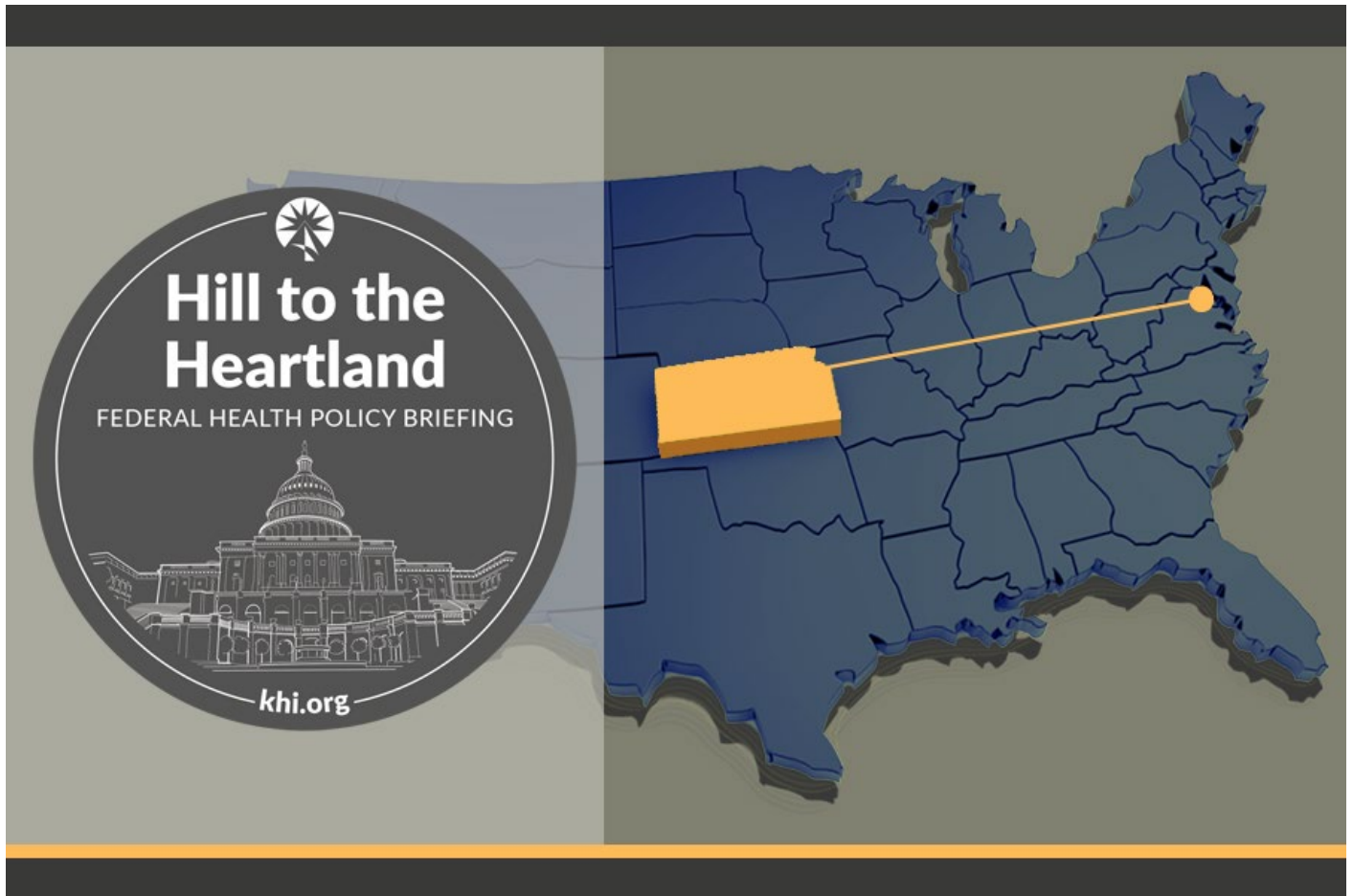
Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Wichita Blues: Music in the African American Community

by Patrick Joseph O'Connor

Publisher: University Press of Mississippi

Visit library.ks.gov/KSNotableBooks for more information. If you have questions about Kansas Notable Books, contact the State Library of Kansas at 785-296-3154 or email allie.lousch@ks.gov.



Kennedy v. Braidwood Management, Inc: The Outcome of the U.S. Supreme Court Case Could Impact No-Cost Coverage for Preventive Services *Hill to the Heartland: Federal Health Policy Briefing*

On Monday, April 21, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court heard nearly 90 minutes of oral arguments in the case of *Kennedy v. Braidwood Management, Inc.*, a case challenging whether the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is authorized to issue binding recommendations that require private health insurance companies to cover certain preventive services with no copayments or coinsurance for covered individuals.

Learn about the potential implications of the Supreme Court's decision in our latest edition of *Hill to the Heartland: Federal Health Policy Briefing*, which features products focused on federal health policy changes and impacts on Kansas.

[Learn More](#)



2025 Federal Notice of Funding Availability

Multifamily Rental Housing Production Programs

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) hereby notifies interested parties of the availability of funds for the production and preservation of affordable rental housing as follows:

- \$4M - 2024 HOME Funds (Anticipated Maximum)
- \$3.5M - 2024 National Housing Trust Fund (Anticipated Maximum)
- \$8.5M - 2024 Federal 9% LIHTC Allocation Available (Anticipated Minimum)
- \$8.5M - 2024 State 9% Affordable Housing Tax Credit (Anticipated Minimum)

It is critical that applicants understand the requirements and restrictions of HUD's HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program at 24 CFR Part 92 and the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) at 24 CFR Part 93. The regulations and guidance can be found on the [HUD Exchange website](#).

We ask all applicants to visit our [Housing Development web page](#) to obtain the 2025 Qualified Allocation Plan, 2025 LIHTC Application, KHRC Experience Summary form, Certification of Accessibility Compliance form, and LIHTC Application Certification form.

If you are requesting HOME only, please visit our website to obtain the 2025 HOME only application materials.

All questions regarding the LIHTC, HOME and/or NHTF program can be directed to housingdevelopment@kshousingcorp.org

Federal and State LIHTC allocation information is located in the 2025 Qualified Allocation Plan, including 4% and 9% LIHTC deadlines. KHRC is currently amending the 2025 Qualified Allocation Plan due to state legislative changes. Please view the proposed amended plan and register for the public hearing on our [Qualified Allocation Plan web page](#).

Questions? Contact us at housingdevelopment@kshousingcorp.org

Legislative Updates & News



House committee releases FEMA reform proposal

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unveiled a [draft FEMA reform bill](#) with several positive inclusions for counties, reflecting NACo's top disaster policy recommendations.

- **Core reforms:** The bill transitions FEMA to a grant-based model, streamlines environmental reviews and accelerates funding timelines.
- **Local flexibility:** It includes a universal disaster application and makes reforms to mitigation and assistance programs.
- **Equity in planning:** The proposal requires at least one pre-approved mitigation project per county to ensure fair access.



House advances budget reconciliation bill

Three key House committees — Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture — have [marked up their sections of the reconciliation bill](#), including major provisions that directly impact counties.

- **Positive provisions:** The bill preserves tax-exempt municipal bonds, delays hospital payment cuts and reauthorizes Secure Rural Schools through fiscal year 2027.

- **Ongoing concerns:** The budget would increase Medicaid work requirements, cut the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and shift Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative costs, straining local budgets and services.
- **SALT reform:** Changes to the state and local tax deduction aim to address double taxation and maintain county revenue.
- **Next step:** The House Budget Committee voted to advance the bill and negotiations will continue before it's voted on by the full House.



Infrastructure Week spotlights county leadership

Infrastructure Week highlighted the critical role counties play in maintaining and improving the nation's infrastructure. Counties own 44% of roads and 38% of bridges.

- **Policy push:** NACo [submitted letters](#) urging congressional support for county priorities in surface transportation reauthorization.
- **Financing focus:** NACo [hosted a roundtable](#) defending the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds as vital to local infrastructure.
- **Congressional testimony:** Oswego County, N.Y., Clerk Terry Wilbur [testified](#) before Congress on the importance of brownfields reauthorization for economic revitalization.



New webinar series: Inside Washington

Due to popular demand, NACo has rebranded its First 100 Days webinar series as [Inside Washington](#), which will provide timely updates on federal actions affecting counties.

- **Fresh insights:** Sessions will cover legislative and regulatory developments from Capitol Hill and the White House.
- **Regular schedule:** The series will air every other Thursday, with the next session on [May 29 at 3:30 p.m. ET](#). You only have to register for the series once. After that, you use the same link every other week to tune in.
- **County focus:** Hear directly from NACo's Government Affairs team on how national policy translates into local impact.



Measles on the rise: What county officials need to know

Vaccination is the most effective defense against measles, and county leaders can use their voices to encourage uptake of the MMR vaccine.

[Read more](#)

Educational Opportunities

Kansas Critical Infrastructure Exchange on June 5

*The Kansas Information Security Office (KISO) is sponsoring the Kansas Critical Infrastructure Exchange and asked KDHE to share the information below with drinking water and wastewater utilities. **KDHE will award 5 CEUs for water or wastewater operators that attend this session.***



Subject: Real Problems. Real Executives. Real Solutions.

The most powerful ideas don't come from presentations – they spring from meaningful conversations with experienced peers.

That's why you're invited to join Kansas's top infrastructure executives at the exclusive **Kansas Critical Infrastructure Exchange on June 5, 2025.**

In this unique, interactive format, you'll collaborate directly with your contemporaries on real-life incidents impacting Kansas organizations—no slides, no lectures—just genuine collaboration and actionable insights. With guided discussions led by John Godfrey (CISO), Sam Alva (Director of OT and Critical Infrastructure), and Erin McGinnis (Director of Cyber Collaboration and Preparedness) from the Kansas Information Security Office, you'll gain unparalleled perspectives on incident preparedness.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM – for this event you will drive in and drive home the same day.

Location: Kansas Heartland Preparedness Center, [2808 North New York Street, Wichita, KS](#)

Attendees: Invitation-only, capped, at 100. Attendees will represent upper to middle managers and operators from Cities and Counties throughout the state of Kansas. They are the first line of defense when an APT is trying to gain a foothold.

Meals: Breakfast, snacks and lunch provided.

Seats are genuinely limited to the first 100 registrations - don't miss your chance to be part of this transformative conversation.

Reserve your complimentary seat [here](#).

Hope to see you there! John Godfrey, Sam Alva, and Erin McGinnis



The graphic features a woman with glasses smiling while looking at a laptop. Overlaid on the image is the book cover for '13 Ways to Kill Your Community' by Doug Griffiths, MBA, with Kelly Clemmer. The book cover shows a stylized, colorful illustration of a man's face surrounded by various symbols of community and industry. Text on the graphic includes the Wichita State University logo and Public Policy & Management Center name, the date 'MAY 29, 2025', and the event title 'NEXTGEN LIVE SESSION 4'. A blue button with the text 'REGISTER NOW' is positioned over the laptop. The LGN (Local Government Network) logo is in the bottom right corner.

NextGen EcoDevo Session 4: 13 Ways to Kill Your Community **May 29, 2025**

You are invited to participate in the fourth of six (one-hour) online discussions to explore reasons why youth leave your community and what can be done to get Gen Z back and Generation Alpha to love their hometown. This is highly interactive learning using the book **13 Ways to Kill Your Community** (author Doug Griffiths, 2016) and the experience of participants.

City and county staff, elected officials, economic development folks, and community boosters are all welcome. This will be a safe space to discuss lessons learned in other communities and get feedback on your ideas before repeating a mistake made elsewhere.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Events & Webinars

May 29 | 1:00 p.m. EDT

**Chart Your Course: Real Stories of Counties
Advancing with AI Online Learning**

REGISTER

May 29 | 3:30 p.m. EDT

**Inside Washington: County Impacts from the White
House & Congress, Week 2**

REGISTER

June 12 | 2:00 p.m. EDT

**Efficiency in Action: Saving Millions, Serving Better
— Summit County's Success Story**

REGISTER

June 12 | 3:30 p.m. EDT

**Inside Washington: County Impacts from the White
House & Congress, Week 3**

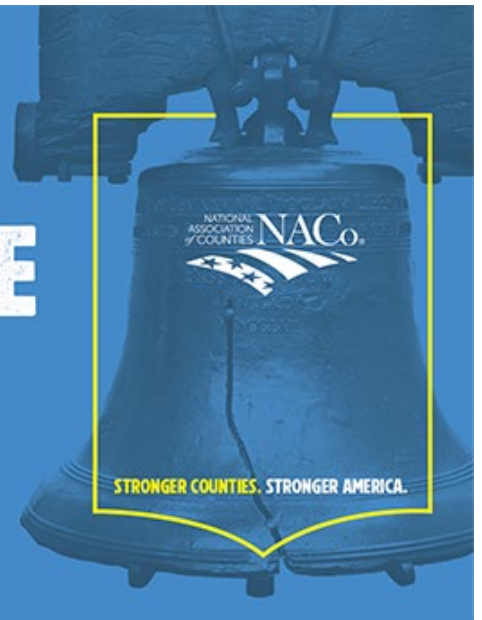
REGISTER

View all of NACo's upcoming events and webinars [here](#).

NACo 90TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

PHILADELPHIA CITY
& COUNTY, PA.

JULY 11-14



LOVE Philly at NACo's 90th Annual Conference & Exposition

July 11-14, 2025 | CITY & COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

There is so much to love about celebrating [NACo's 90th Annual Conference & Expo](#) in the City and County of Philadelphia, Pa.

Get ready to experience history, innovation and vibrant culture all in [one unforgettable destination](#).

- Walk through history at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell
- Explore world-class museums like the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Franklin Institute
- Savor iconic eats—yes, the cheesesteaks, but also a booming culinary scene
- Feel the energy of live music, murals and festivals across the city

As always, the conference schedule also offers ample opportunities to see local county sites through mobile tours and networking receptions held at locations like Reading Terminal and the National Constitution Center.

With the conference located in the heart of the city, you'll be steps away from all Philadelphia has to offer. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn and explore.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[VIEW SCHEDULE](#)



JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Medical Examiner's Office

KU AREA HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER
The University of Kansas Medical Center

KANSAS CORONER AND MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION CONFERENCE 2025

June 4, 2025 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | Hilton Garden Inn | Salina, KS

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this program, participants should be able to:

- Identify coroners' and death investigators' responsibilities when working homicide scenes with Kansas Bureau of Investigation.
- Examine the scientific logic used by forensic pathologists in determining cause and manner of death.
- Identify proper knowledge and abilities in completing Kansas death certifications for coroners.
- Describe proper death certification methods.
- Identify helpful practices for speaking with family members of decedents in a caring manner during interviews.
- Discuss the idea of "self-care" for the staff involved in death investigations.
- Recognize and outline the characteristics from the scene and postmortem examination of a Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID).
- Describe the purpose of doll reenactment and completion of SUIDI reporting form.

CONFERENCE FEE

Early Bird Rate - \$75.00 on or before May 1, 2025
Regular Rate - \$100 after May 1, 2025.

Please note: There will be a \$15 administration fee for registrations cancelled by end of business day on **May 21, 2025**. After that date, no refunds will be administered.



REGISTRATION can be made by scanning the QR code, or one of the following methods:

Phone: Call (620) 235-4040

Online: <https://www.eeds.com/live/813744>

*Seating is limited, and preregistration is required by 5 p.m., **May 23, 2025**.

HOTEL BLOCK RATE is \$139.00 plus taxes and can be reserved by using this direct link **Hilton Garden Inn** or by calling 785-309-0440 and providing the code 6KUMC. Rooms are limited. **Rate is valid until May 4, 2025**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This comprehensive conference delves into the collaboration amongst coroners, forensic centers and law enforcement. From the first call through the postmortem examination and cause of death determination, tools will be provided so participants can better serve their communities. Participants will gain an understanding of how forensic pathologists determine manner and cause of death; and the importance of reporting this information on the death record. This specialized conference is designed to equip medicolegal death investigation professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to speak with family members of decedents.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Course Director: Diane Peterson, MD

Committee members:

Kay Haug, Sara Hortenstine, Daina Zolck, Mark Bolinger

The views and opinions of the presenters are not those of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators

AGENDA

- 7:30-8:30: Registration/Sign In
- 8:30-8:45: CE Info and Welcome
- 8:45-9:45: **Working Together: Knowing your Role at the Scene**
Cody Goforth, Senior Special Agent,
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- 9:45-10:45: **Opining in Forensic Pathology and Common Mistakes in Death Certification**
Alfonzo Halfin, MD;
Forensic Medical Kansas City
- 10:45-11:00: Break
- 11:00-12:00: **Death Certification for Coroners**
Harley Schainost, MD,
Deputy Coroner/Medical Examiner,
Sedgwick County Regional
Forensic Science Center
- 12:00-12:30 LUNCH
- 12:30-12:45 **Kansas Bureau of Investigation's Expanded Toxicology Program**
Patrick Porubsky,
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- 12:45-1:45: **Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation**
Ayla McClain, F-ABMDI, Chief Medical
Investigator, Johnson County Medical
Examiner's Office
- 1:45-2:15: **How to Visit with Families**
Abigail Smith, D-ABMDI,
Medical Death Investigator III
Johnson County Medical
Examiner's Office
- 2:15-2:45: **Self-Care in Death Investigations**
Joy Davis, Forensic Autopsy Technician,
Johnson County Medical
Examiner's Office
- 2:45-3:00: Break
- 3:00-4:00: **Panel Discussion**
Diane Peterson, MD, Chief Medical
Examiner, Johnson County Medical
Examiner's Office, Moderator;
Cody Goforth; Alfonzo Halfin, MD;
Harley Schainost, MD; Ayla McClain;
Abigail Smith; Joy Davis
- 4:00: Conclusion

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT:

All participants requesting continuing education credit, or a certificate of attendance must complete documentation of attendance and evaluation form online within the timeframe noted.

In support of improving patient care, University of Kansas Medical Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



PHYSICIANS:

AMA PRA Category 1 Credit

The University of Kansas Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) Pending approval

All others will receive a certificate of attendance.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The University of Kansas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

We accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call KU Medical Center AHEC at (620) 235-4040 to discuss your needs.

WEBINAR

June 5, 2025 | 1:30-3:00 p.m. CDT

MIH Strategic Directions



Let's talk about the next steps for mobile integrated healthcare (MIH)!

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025

Time: 1:30-3:00 p.m. CDT

Location: Zoom virtual meeting – link will be sent with confirmation email

On Aug. 5, 2024, 40 participants from the Health and Human Services (HHS) Region VII states – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska – came together to [discuss the strategic direction for MIH programs and policies](#). It is time for the region to come together to continue the conversation.

Join us on June 5 to review the findings from the strategic thinking session and discuss key factors that influence the growth, sustainability and effectiveness of MIH programs and policies.

Register Today!

What to Expect

- **Strategic Insights:** Take a deep dive into the key findings and takeaways from the August 2024 strategic thinking session, including partnership opportunities and potential next steps for MIH programs and policies.
- **Informed Perspectives:** Hear from a dynamic panel of experts as they discuss key factors influencing the successful implementation of MIH programs and policies.
- **Actionable Next Steps:** Explore potential next steps for MIH programs and policies in the region.

Speakers

Presenter: Wyatt Beckman, M.P.H., *Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute*

Panel Discussion:

- **Chrissy Bartel**, *Paramedic & Director, Norwich EMS, and President, Kansas EMS Association (KEMSA)*
- **Justin Duncan, MSc., NRP, CCEMT-P, EMT-CP, FP-C**, *President, SHO-ME MIH Network, and CEO, Washington County Ambulance District*
- **David Jordan, M.P.A.**, *President and CEO, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund*

Supervisory Skills for Success



FMLA, ADA, Harassment, Oh My!

Presentation by Forrest Rhodes

Highlights:

- Did my employee just put me "on notice?"
- Responding to harassment concerns.
- Why you want HR on your team.

How to be the Boss Without Being Bossy

Presentation by Mike Taylor

Highlights:

- Hiring the right talent for the job.
- What if I got it wrong?
- Managing a difficult person.

Fee is \$95 - After May 9, 2025 - \$110
Lunch will feature a potato bar and salad

Thursday, June 12, 2025
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center,
3320 S. 9th St., Salina, KS 67401

Proudly sponsored by
Kansas County Human Resource Association



Scan here with
your smartphone
to complete your
room reservation.

WSU CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

JUNE 12, 2025

INNOVATE TO ELEVATE

REGISTER NOW



The City/County Management Summit is an opportunity to connect with local government management professionals from across Kansas to learn about the latest topics and trends relevant to you. Learn ways to update your zoning code to enhance housing development, expand your airport's business development opportunities, enhance the effectiveness of your advisory boards, and more!

More information is posted on the PPMC website at [WSU City/County Management Summit](#).

Foundations in County Government Program is the Kansas Association of Counties foundational leadership program that is available for **all county employees**, elected as well as appointed, at all levels within any county department.

Ready to Begin? First Step: Program Enrollment. If you are ready to begin and would like to enroll in the Foundations in County Government certificate program, please email Kimberly Qualls, qualls@kansascountries.org for more information.

Next Step: Class Enrollment. Below you will find the current workshop classes scheduled for the FCG program.



Budgeting & Finance Workshop

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Date & Time: Friday, September 19, 2025; 8 AM – 4 PM

Location: [Butler County EMS Station, 701 N Haverhill Road, El Dorado, KS, 67042](#) (Parking is available in the front and on the north side of the building.)

Workshop Fee: \$100 (Coffee service and lunch included.)

Instructor: Ryan Adkison, Butler County Assistant Administrator/Finance Director

Budgeting and Finance is a required role of the county commission as well as other elected officials and staff. The number and scope of county services have expanded in response to intergovernmental mandates and long devolution trends. The dizzying pace of technology innovations promises long-term efficiencies for county operations, but in the short run, requires a significant financial investment. This course defines the role of the county commission as financial policy makers and related roles of citizens, other elected officials, and staff. In addition, this class will address current tips on how to manage the Revenue Neutral Rate (i.e., Truth in Taxation) in your county.

This course will provide in-depth information on how to:

- Establish the legal parameters for the county budget and identify the functions of a capital and annual operating budget;
- Propose processes for preparing, adopting, and managing the budget;
- Explain how county government is financed and suggest techniques for estimating county revenues;
- Identify leadership strategies that contribute to wise, effective, and responsible financial decisions;
- Identify how to challenge county department heads and staff, and outside agencies to the county to use the budget process to think more strategically, more seriously, and more collaboratively about how goals can be accomplished in more creative and cost-effective ways;
- Consider the adequacy of cash balances or reserves, i.e. how much is enough, not enough, or too much, and how cash balances can be managed;
- Evaluate revenue sources other than the property tax to finance county programs and services;
- Consider how the county's fund structure enables or detracts from the ability of the board of county commissioners to effectively manage the county budget; and
- Learn ways to effectively communicate county budget information to citizens, groups, and the news media.

Instructor Bio: Ryan Adkison is the Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director for Butler County. One of his primary duties is crafting the organization's annual CIP/operating budget, which has won the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award the past seven years. Ryan received his undergraduate degree from Emporia State University in Political Science, where he played basketball and married his beautiful bride. He received a Master's of Public Administration from the Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University. Ryan then worked in the Budget Office and Pension Office at the City of Wichita before moving to Butler County.



Register for the second session in the 2025 KHI Policy Series: *Exploring Medicaid in Kansas!*

Join us **1-2:30 p.m. CST, Tuesday, June 10**, for *Exploring KanCare and Behavioral Health: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics*. The second session in the Exploring KanCare series delves into the role of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) in the state's Medicaid landscape. This installment explores Kansas' designation as a CCBHC Demonstration State and how use of this model affects access to comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care for Medicaid beneficiaries.

[Register Today!](#)

Event Highlights

- **Understanding CCBHCs in Kansas** – Learn what the CCBHC model is and what Kansas being a Demonstration State means.
- **Driving Change at the State Level** – Hear from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services about goals, progress and outcomes of CCBHC implementation.
- **Provider Perspectives** – Listen to a panel of providers. They'll share on-the-ground experiences with implementing CCBHCs.
- **Medicaid & Behavioral Health** – Gain a national perspective on how Medicaid supports access to behavioral health care.

Speakers

- **Andrew Brown, M.S.W.**, Deputy Secretary for Programs, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- **Donna Cohen Ross**, Principal, DCR Initiatives, LLC
- **Marsha Page-White, L.S.C.S.W.**, Senior Director of Community Based Services, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center
- **Lisa Southern, L.M.L.P., L.C.P.**, Executive Director, Compass Behavioral Health



Are you interested in attending a FREE virtual Peer-Led Support group during Spring 2025?

The Felix Snipes Foundation, in partnership with Everytown Survivor Network, will provide a FREE Peer-Led virtual community support group for those affected by gun violence.

'Peer-led' means that these groups will be co-facilitated by a survivor of gun violence who has had similar experiences.

Our mission is to provide a safe space for survivors to find support, community, and healing through their mutual experiences of gun violence.

We understand that each individual's experience with trauma, grief, and loss is unique.

A flexible informal curriculum catering to different topics will be available.

Support group will co-facilitated by Mary Snipes, Everytown Senior Fellow and gun violence survivor, and Andrea Slagle-Abrams, LSCSW. *Space will be limited and a waiting list will be available if the limit is exceeded.*

Disclaimer: Please be advised that support groups and therapy groups have different orientations. Although participation may yield therapeutic results, the focus is NOT on promoting individual psychological advancement, which is typically the aim of therapy groups.

We encourage you to “ALWAYS prioritize self-care”.

Further information and details will be forthcoming.



FREE Peer-Led Virtual Community Support Group for those affected by gun violence

Register at <https://bit.ly/VirtualPeerSupportGroup> or scan QR code

DATES AND TIMES

May 11, 3pm-4pm (CST)

May 18, 3pm-4pm (CST)

May 25, 3pm-4pm (CST)

June 1, 3pm-4pm (CST)

June 8, 12pm-1pm (CST)

June 15, 3pm-4pm (CST)

June 22, 3pm-4pm (CST)

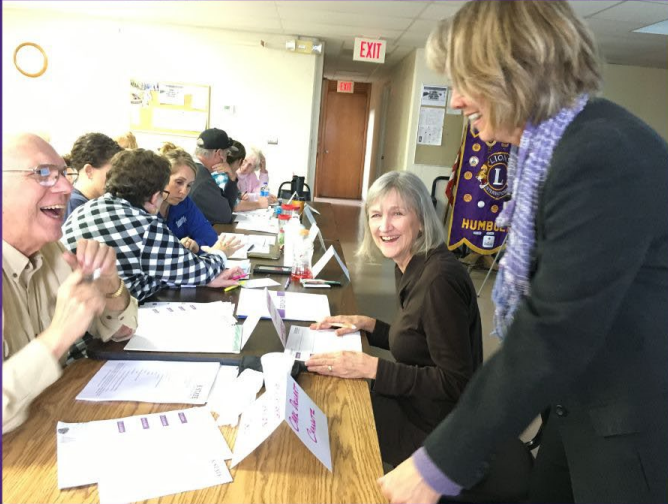
June 29, 3pm-4pm(CST)



Grant Training Workshops

Grant Writing Basics

In Person Workshop



Bonner Springs Police Department
215 E. Cedar, Bonner Springs, KS

Join Us June 3, 2025

9:30 am – 3:30pm

Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)

Register Today

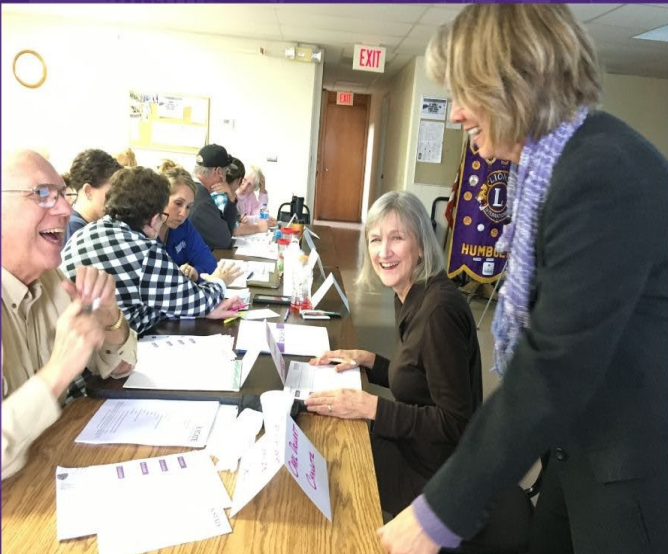
Denise Dias

ddias@ksu.edu

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Grant Writing Basics

In Person Workshop



First Presbyterian Church
112 W 5th Street, Junction City, KS

Join Us June 11, 2025

9:30 am – 3:30pm

Cost: \$60 (includes lunch)

Register Today

Renaë Riedy

RenaëR@ksu.edu

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Grant Writing Basics

Online Workshop

Join Us June 10 and 12, 2025

1:30–4:30 pm CT

Cost: \$60

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics>

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Grant Funding Programs

Apply for Kansas Healthy Food Initiative Funding

The Kansas Healthy Food Initiative provides loan funding to help sustain or enhance the availability of healthy food at the retail level across Kansas.

Funding can be used for things like building construction or renovation, purchase of equipment, or one-time startup costs.

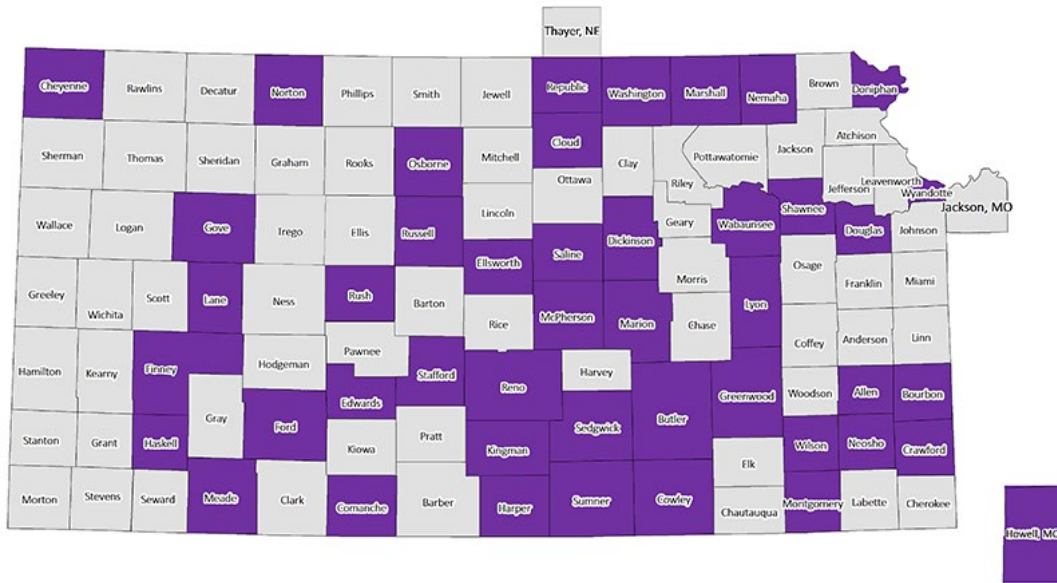


Have a project in mind?

Find out if it is eligible for KHFI by emailing khfi@k-state.edu.

More details about KHFI funding parameters are available on our website at www.kansashealthyfood.org.

Quarter 1 Update: January – March 2025



Counties with KHFJ-funded projects through March 2025

Notice of Available Funding: Federal John R Justice Student Loan Repayment Program – Office of the Kansas Governor

Funds are available from the **Federal John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program** for the calendar year 2025. The purpose of this program is to provide student loan repayment assistance for full-time local, state and federal government public defenders and full-time local and state government prosecutors who commit to serving as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years. Kansas has \$63,070 available to award to prosecutors and public defenders.



Federal John R. Justice Loan Repayment funds awarded under this program are a supplement to, not a substitute for, personal student loan obligations. To be eligible to receive funding, an attorney must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans.

For a copy of the grant application, please contact Kim Gerety at 785-368-6620; kim.gerety@ks.gov.

All applications must be postmarked to the Kansas Governor’s Grants Program by Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Commerce Launches Blueprint to Build Grant Program for Community Centers

Kansas Department of Commerce announced the launch of the **Blueprint to Build program**, an innovative new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding round. This program provides rural Kansas communities a faster, more affordable way to construct state-of-the-art community centers. *Blueprint to Build* enables communities to select from three community center models that have already been designed, providing major savings and speeding up the process of building new facilities.

Centers are designed for energy efficiency and are intended to be placed in walkable downtowns or near existing community spaces as a way to both reduce infrastructure costs and support the cores of Kansas towns.

With \$14 million available to help reduce overall construction costs, the *Blueprint to Build* program makes it easier for Kansas communities to develop modern, energy-efficient community centers.

By investing in “off-the-shelf” blueprint designs, Commerce’s goal is to save communities hundreds of thousands of dollars and months of architectural work. Proposals should focus solely on construction expenses, making it easier for communities to get started and to develop manageable budgets to build and operate these facilities.

If a community intends to hold a special election to approve the issuance of bonds or to pass a sales tax (for example) to support a project, the community must: a) provide evidence of this intent in the form of a governing body resolution; and b) commit to holding this election by no later than Tuesday November 4th, 2025. If those conditions are met, applications will be reviewed with a presumption of passage of the special ballot question and, if awarded, such awards will be expressly contingent upon passage. Should the ballot question fail, any award will be automatically rescinded.

Each approved *Blueprint to Build* community center design will include:

- Multi-purpose room with flexible use options
- Serving kitchen with fixed equipment
- Fitness center
- Telemedicine office
- Welcoming lobby with small gathering area
- Restrooms
- Storm shelter
- Customizable, durable exterior and interior finishes
- Covered patios and overhead doors for fitness and multi-purpose rooms and outdoor farmers’ markets



Applicants may also incorporate optional features, such as gymnasiums or aquatic amenities that have also been pre-designed.

Cities and counties under a population of 2500 may apply for up to \$1.5 million. Communities above 2500 may apply for up to \$2.5 million. Eligible applicants include all non-entitlement cities and counties (i.e., those that do not receive direct CDBG funding from HUD). The following entitlement communities are ineligible for funding: Kansas City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Overland Park, Topeka, Wichita and Johnson County.

Interested cities and counties are required to submit a pre-application and will be contacted within 10 business days with further instructions. Only those with an approved pre-application will move forward with a full application. Approval of a pre-application does not guarantee funding.

The application period for the program opens May 1 and will close November 14, 2025. Those interested in submitted a pre-application should visit [here](#).

For additional information about *Blueprint to Build* or any other CDBG initiatives, visit the webpage [here](#) or contact the Kansas CDBG team at CDBG@ks.gov.

Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Program Funding Now Available

The U.S. DOT released the latest round of funding opportunity for the [Safe Streets and Roads For All \(SS4A\) grant program](#). The following groups of applicants are **eligible** for the SS4A grant program:

- A political subdivision of a State or territory, defined as a unit of government created under the authority of State law. This includes cities, towns, counties, special districts, certain transit agencies, and similar units of local government created under State law.
- A federally recognized Tribal government.
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).
- A multijurisdictional group of entities from the ones described above (select one lead applicant from group).



Learn more about [eligible applicants for SS4A](#).

If your organization is interested in pursuing these funds, we encourage you to contact the [Kansas Infrastructure Hub](#) to discuss how they can support your pursuit of these grant dollars.

Applications are due to U.S. DOT by June 26, 2025, but if you intend to request [Build Kansas Funds](#) please contact Kansas Infrastructure Hub soon to understand the Hub's timeline and schedule.



Request for Proposals now open! 2025 CSBG Discretionary Grant: Round 1

The primary intended use of the grant funds awarded to Kansas and to sub-grantees is “to provide assistance to local communities in Kansas, working through a network of Community Action Agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient.”

Agencies eligible to submit proposals for 2025 CSBG Discretionary funding are [Community Action Agencies](#) providing services in Kansas, [Kansas Association of Community Action Programs \(KACAP\)](#) and other non-profit organizations whose primary purpose is that of eliminating the causes and effects of poverty in Kansas.

As outlined with the [FFY 2023-2025 CSBG State Plan](#), this RFP seeks proposals for:

Innovative Projects to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of the [CSBG Act](#), or Training/Technical Assistance Projects to address the training and technical assistance needs of the community action network.

Applicants are advised that direct services funded by CSBG are restricted to Kansas residents with household incomes that fall at or below 125 percent of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#).

Applications must be emailed to CSBG@kshousingcorp.org before the close of business Monday, June 30, 2025.

For more information, visit the [CSBG web page](#) or view the 2025 CSBG RFP Documents below

[Application for 2025 CSBG Discretionary Funds](#)

[RFP Guide to 2025 CSBG Discretionary Funds](#)

[2025 Budget for CSBG Discretionary Funds](#)

[2025 Score Sheet for CSBG Discretionary Funds](#)

INK Accepting Grant Applications

The **Information Network of Kansas (INK)** is now accepting grant applications. INK has provided approximately \$10 million in grants over the years to governmental agencies. The grant program is part of INK's mission to enable digital access to state and local government information and services for public use and benefit. The grants are made possible from the proceeds generated from the services developed by INK.



Grant applications are accepted from May 1 to May 31. They are available online from the INK website at ink.kansas.gov or by e-mail upon request to INK Executive Director [Murray McGee](#).

Past projects funded through the INK Grant program include the following:

- Assessment Connect (Kansas Department of Revenue)
- Statewide Broadband Mapping (Kansas Department of Commerce)
- Updating the Amber Alert System (Kansas Bureau of Investigation)
- Online Streaming of Legislative Committee Hearings (Kansas Legislature)
- Migrating program data for the Public Transparency Database (Kansas Department of Commerce)
- Statewide integrated data hub for social insights addressing homelessness (WSU Public Policy and Management Center)

All grant awards must be approved by the Information Network of Kansas Board of Directors.

***The Information Network of Kansas is a quasi-governmental entity focused on enabling digital access to Kansas state and local government information and services for public use and benefit.*

Local Government Job Openings

Ness County – County Road/Landfill Supervisor

Ness County is seeking a dedicated and experienced County Road/Landfill Supervisor to join our Public Works Department. This leadership role is responsible for overseeing maintenance/operations of county roads, managing landfill, and maintaining compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise road maintenance crews/landfill staff
- Plan, coordinate, and monitor maintenance/construction of county roads
- Ensure safe, efficient operation of the landfill facility
- Maintain compliance with environmental regulations and reporting
- Manage budgets, equipment, and materials for road/landfill operations
- Conduct inspections and respond to public service requests or complaints
- Coordinate with engineers, contractors, and government agencies

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; advanced training or technical certifications in public works, construction, or environmental services preferred
- Minimum 3-5 years of experience in road maintenance, landfill operations, or similar field
- Strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills
- Valid driver's license; CDL (Commercial Driver's License) required

Ness County offers excellent benefits – Medical and dental insurance, KPERS Retirement, Life Insurance, paid vacation, and sick leave. Salary dependent on experience and skills.

Obtain applications at Ness County Clerk's Office, 202 W Sycamore, Ness City, KS., or call Ness County Clerk's Office at (785) 798-2401. Applications accepted until position is filled. Ness County is at-will, EOE.

McPherson County – Design / Project Engineer

McPherson County Public Works Department is seeking a recent graduate from an accredited college or university, preferably with an EIT or capable of obtaining the FE certification within 6 months. Will assist in the design of all county engineering projects, roads, bridges and drainage structure under the direction of the Project Engineer or Director.

After employment, the applicant will become Bridge Inspection Team Leader and will receive KDOT inspection and materials testing certifications. Applicant will be trained in using Autodesk Civil 3D, ASSHTOWare Bridge Loading software, Micro stations and other design programs as well as assist in problem solving county road and bridge maintenance and construction issues in the operation of the counties' asphalt plant.

Beginning annual salary: \$70K to \$100K (DOQ) with two pay increases within one year of employment and a structured salary increase after the applicant passes the PE exam. Full County benefit package.

Apply online at www.mcphersoncountyks.us and attach resume or obtain paper application form at the Personnel office in the McPherson County Courthouse. The position will remain open until it is filled. EOE.

McPherson County – Engineering Technician

McPherson County Public Works is seeking a full-time Engineering Technician. Requirements: High school graduate with supplemented training or experience in civil engineering related to public works design preferred. Drafting and surveying skills preferred.

Ability to use or learn Word, Excel, Power Point, Auto Cad, and Micro Station helpful. Job duties included but are not limited to: sampling and material testing, creating bid documents, creating engineering reports, drafting and design, assisting with preparing estimates of work and material, surveying and research, inspection of construction projects and bridges, assisting in traffic studies and assisting in bridge inspections.

Beginning wage: \$19.26 – 31.89 hourly DOQ and experience.

Apply at www.mcphersoncountyks.us under the "Employment" link. The position will remain open until it is filled. EOE.

McPherson County – Project Engineer

McPherson County Public Works is seeking a full-time County Project Engineer. Must be a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Kansas, or capable of obtaining the license within six months. The position will be responsible for the design of all County engineering projects, coordination with KDOT, and assisting maintenance activities as needed.

Exempt position with beginning annual wage: \$120,000 + DOQ. Full County benefits package.

Apply online and attach resume at www.mcphersoncountyks.us or obtain application form in the Personnel office of the McPherson County Courthouse. The position will remain open until it is filled. EOE.

McPherson County – Surveyor

McPherson County Public Works Department is seeking a Full-time County Surveyor. Minimum qualifications: valid Kanas Driver's License, and valid Kansas Land Surveying License.

County benefits package included. Annual salary: \$100,000 + DOQ. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Apply online and attach resume at www.mcphersoncountyks.us. Application forms are also available in the Personnel office of the McPherson County Courthouse. The position will remain open until it is filled. EOE.

Saline County – Attorney

Represent the State of Kansas as trial attorney in felony, misdemeanor, and traffic cases. Represent the petitioner in mental illness, and alcoholic commitment cases. Research and write appellate briefs and present oral arguments.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a college or university with a four-year bachelor-level degree.
2. Graduation from an American Bar Association-accredited school of law with a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.
3. Admitted to practice law before the Kansas Supreme Court and all inferior courts of the State of Kansas. Admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

Desirable Qualifications:

1. Two years of experience in the practice of law, preferably as a trial lawyer in criminal law.
2. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. An ability to interact with other law enforcement agencies, social welfare agencies and public service organizations.
4. Must have a valid Driver's License and be insurable under Saline County fleet insurance policy.

Salary Information:

Anticipated starting salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 – Depending on Qualifications.

\$5,000.00 hiring incentive dispersed immediately upon hire.

\$5,0000 hiring incentive at 6 months of successful and satisfactory employment.

New graduates will be considered

Our Total Compensation Package:

- Enjoy a generous base salary that reflects your skills, experience and industry standards.
- Experience job security and regular salary increases.
- Comprehensive Benefits where your well-being matters to us with a package that includes health and dental insurance, and a health savings account for your future.
- A Retirement Plan for you to plan for your future.
- Generous paid leave that allows you to relax and recharge.
- Experience Career Advancements, growth and development with various training and learning opportunities to enhance your skills.

Applicant must apply on our website by clicking the following link: [Saline County](#)

Saline County – Deputy County Attorney

Represent the State of Kansas as trial attorney in felony cases. Research and write appellate briefs and present oral arguments. Review and approve search warrants and submit them to the on-call judge for signature. Respond to major crime scenes and traffic fatalities as directed by the County Attorney or requested by law enforcement. Review affidavits for probable cause, prepare bond forms and present them to on-call judge. Provide advice, assistance and guidance to staff attorneys as

requested. Assume the duties of the County Attorney as assigned by and in the absence of the County Attorney.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Graduation from a college or university with a four-year bachelor-level degree.
2. Graduation from an American Bar Association-accredited school of law with a Juris Doctor or equivalent degree.
3. Admitted to practice law before the Kansas Supreme Court and all inferior courts of the State of Kansas. Admitted to practice law before the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.
4. Must have a valid Driver’s License and be insurable under Saline County fleet insurance policy.

Desirable Qualifications:

1. Five (5) years’ experience acceptable; 10 years preferred in the practice of law as a trial lawyer in criminal law.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. Ability to interact with other law enforcement agencies, social welfare agencies, and public service organizations.

Salary Information:

Anticipated starting salary: \$93,430 to \$126,465 – Depending on Qualifications.

\$5,000 hiring incentive dispersed immediately upon hire.

\$5,000 hiring incentive at 6 months of successful and satisfactory employment.

Our Total Compensation Package:

- Enjoy a generous base salary that reflects your skills, experience and industry standards.
- Experience job security and regular salary increases.
- Comprehensive Benefits where your well-being matters to us with a package that includes health and dental insurance, and a health savings account for your future.
- A Retirement Plan for you to plan for your future.
- Generous paid leave that allows you to relax and recharge.
- Experience Career Advancements, growth and development with various training and learning opportunities to enhance your skills.

Applicant must apply on our website by clicking the following link: [Saline County](#)

Around Kansas

Commerce Opens Nominations for 2025 To The Stars: Kansas Business Awards

Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced the Kansas Department of Commerce is accepting nominations for the **2025 To The Stars: Kansas Business Awards**. The increasingly popular annual award program recognizes companies and individuals around the state for the positive impact they make on the Kansas economy and their communities. During the event, Commerce also will announce the prestigious Governor’s Award of Excellence, the 2025 Governor’s Exporter of the Year, and the two newest inductees of the Kansas Business Hall of Fame.

This year's *To The Stars: Kansas Business Awards* ceremony will be held this fall, bringing together leaders, innovators and supporters from across the state to celebrate business excellence. The awards also underscore Kansas' commitment to celebrating and supporting businesses at every stage of growth. The day and location of the event will be announced soon.

"Each year, our *To The Stars* honorees exemplify the vision, passion and drive needed to excel in business and have a lasting impact," **Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland** said. "They go the extra mile for their customers and communities — and it's an honor to recognize all they do for the Kansas economy. I encourage everyone to nominate their local stars for these distinguished awards."

To The Stars: Kansas Business Awards

Companies, organizations and individuals can be nominated in the following award categories:

- **AgriBusiness** – Companies that stand out in the agribusiness industry – including agricultural production, products and services, and agri-tourism
- **Apprenticeship Champion** – Companies and other entities that excel providing registered apprenticeship programs in Kansas
- **Business Innovation** – Companies from any sector incorporating innovative technologies in their business
- **Healthcare/Nonprofit** – Noteworthy services provided by either healthcare facilities or nonprofit organizations
- **Main Street Momentum** – Businesses revitalizing main streets or neighborhood commercial districts through growth or engagement
- **Manufacturing/Distribution** – Outstanding achievement for companies of all sizes involved in manufacturing and distribution
- **Non-Traditional Talent Pools** – Companies that have gone above and beyond to hire those with prior involvement in the justice system, youth, seniors or individuals with disabilities
- **Retail/Service** – Exceptional performance by businesses selling goods, products and/or services
- **Small Business Champion – Corporate Partner Award** (state-level only) – Honors a corporation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to small business growth in Kansas through investment and partnerships
- **Under 30 Entrepreneur** – Young entrepreneurs under the age of 30 who are achieving business success
- **Welcome Back** – Entrepreneurs and businesspeople who once left Kansas but have returned to make their mark in the Sunflower State

"During the past year, the surge of economic development successes driving the Kansas economy continued unabated," **Deputy Secretary of Business Development Joshua Jefferson** said.

"Kansas businesses both small and large are giving outsized contributions to their communities and the entire state. We look forward to highlighting the efforts these honorees make."

Award nominations will be accepted until July 7, 2025. To learn more, view past winners, and to submit nominations, click [here](#).

Popular Sunflower Summer Program Returning for Another Summer

Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced that the popular **Sunflower Summer program**, which encourages young Kansans to explore and fall in love with Kansas, will return this summer. Designed for Kansas residents and families with school-aged children from Pre-K to Grade 12, **Sunflower Summer will run from July 12 to August 3, 2025.**



The program covers admission costs for eligible students and one adult guardian per attraction, per season. Tickets can be claimed through the free Sunflower Summer app and are later redeemed at the participating venues upon arrival. Kansas Tourism is encouraging eligible tourism attractions to apply to be part of this year's Sunflower Summer season. The application for attractions opens April 15 and will remain open through April 30. Participating attractions will be announced in early June. Sunflower Summer has updated venue participation requirements and reimbursement guidelines for the 2025 season.

For important updates, the attraction application and additional information, visit the program webpage [here](#).



K-State Garden Hour is hosted by K-State Research and Extension horticulture staff from across the state. Join the webinar series on the first Wednesday of each month at noon for some horticultural tips and training. Sessions are recorded and posted online after each event.

June 4: [Native and Ornamental Grasses of Kansas](#)

July 2: [Cutting-Edge Efforts in Kansas Demo Gardens](#)

August 6: [Innovations in Horticultural Research with K-State Research and Extension](#)

[Register Here](#)



to the stars

Reach for the Stars!

In Kansas, you'll find as many experiences as stars in the sky. Each region of our state offers something for everyone, so no matter what you're looking for, you can find it here.

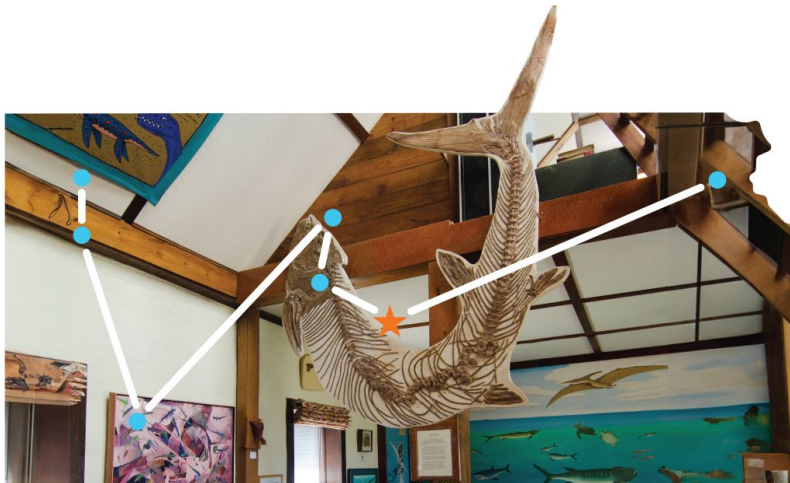
Wondering where to start? We've pre-planned six state-wide itineraries for you. Click below to follow along our Kansas constellation journeys, each one full of fun and unique stops.

So reach for the stars! And plan your trip today. ✨

Request A Travel Guide & Map

If you're looking for a great Kansas road trip destination, you have come to the right place! Whether it is just a day trip, business trip, or full vacation, we have you covered!

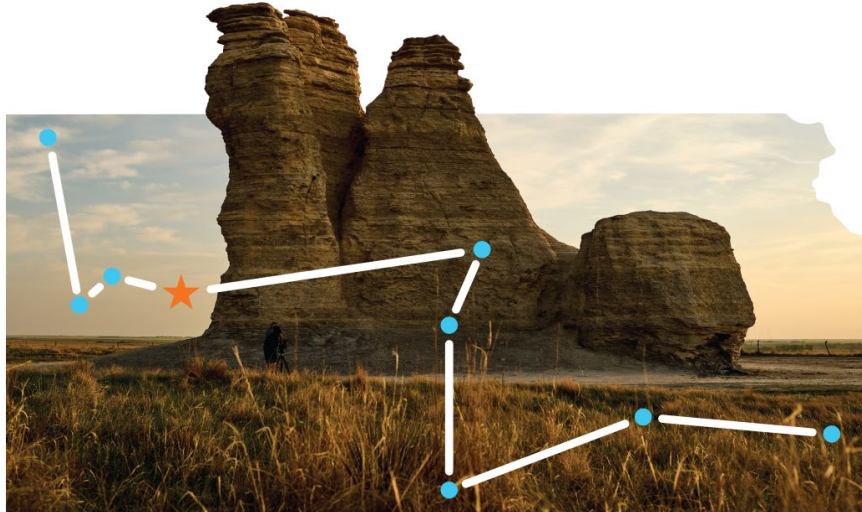
[Click here to order a Kansas Travel Guide!](#)



Underground Kansas

From hideouts to hidden gems, the Underground Kansas Constellation is a string of subterranean stops for high adventure below. Find fossils, learn about hidden Western gangs, visit an old missile silo, and so much more at these unique stops.

Time to Dig



Kansas Rocks

From fossils created at the bottom of ancient seas to stones brought back from space, the Kansas Rocks Constellation is your chance to climb and collect your way through the state. Rock out with some of most unique formations in Kansas, many of which can't be seen anywhere else in the country.

Rock n' Roll