

A MOTHER IS LIKE A  
FLOWER EACH ONE  
BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE!

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY  
WEEKEND!**

Thank you to the most important  
women of our lives!

“A mother’s love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dates all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path.” ~ Agatha Christie

## KDOT announces approved April bids

(5.5.2025) The Kansas Department of Transportation announces approved bids for state highway construction and maintenance projects. The letting took place April 16, 2025, in Topeka. Some of the bids may include multiple projects that have been bundled based on proximity and type of work.

### District One — Northeast

**Shawnee** - 24-89 KA-7359-01 – U.S. 24, bridge #248 over Cross Creek located 5.1 miles southeast of the Shawnee/Pottawatomie County line, bridge repair, PCI Roads LLC, Saint Michael, Minnesota, \$734,908.47.

**Wabaunsee** - 70-99 KA-7607-01 – I-70, bridge #006 carrying I-70 westbound over Pretty Creek located 1.04 miles east of the K-99 junction, bridge repair, PCI Roads LLC, Saint Michael, Minnesota, \$292,144.96.

**Wyandotte** - 635-105 KA-7191-02 – I-635, from the north approach of bridges #040 and #041 over the BNSF Railroad Yard and K-32 north to 1.36 miles north of I-70/I-635 junction, guard fence, 2.4 miles, J & J Contractors Inc., Iola, Kansas, \$1,480,084.85.

**Statewide** - 106 KA-7258-01 – Routes U.S. 75, K-62, K-79, K-16 and K-116 in Jackson, Shawnee, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Atchison and Jefferson counties, signing, Collins and Hermann Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, \$1,880,000.00.

### District Two — North Central

**Ellsworth** - 70-27 KA-7551-01 – I-70, from the Russell/Ellsworth County line east to the Ellsworth/Lincoln County line, pavement patching, 23.3 miles, Iowa Civil Contracting Inc., Victor, Iowa, \$360,959.50.

**Geary** - 70-31 KA-6483-01 – I-70, bridge #016 over I-70 at J. Hill Road located 2.37 miles east of the U.S. 40B west junction, bridge replacement, King Construction Company Inc. & Subsidiaries, Hesston, Kansas, \$3,447,245.49.

**Lincoln** - 70-53 KA-7552-01 – I-70, from the Ellsworth/Lincoln County line east to the Lincoln/Saline County line, pavement patching, 7.2 miles, Iowa Civil Contracting Inc., Victor, Iowa, \$279,790.50.

**McPherson** - 61-59 KA-7612-01 – K-61, bridge #099 carrying northbound K-61 over K-153 spur/old U.S. 81 located at the K-61/K-153 spur junction, bridge repair, Wildcat Construction Co Inc & Subsidiaries, Wichita, Kansas, \$316,070.50.

**McPherson** - 135-59 KA-6063-02 – I-135, from the Harvey/McPherson County line north to 6.3 miles north of the Harvey/McPherson County line, guard fence, 6.3 miles, Jon Fulsom Construction LLC, Wellington, Kansas, \$449,895.86.

**Mitchell** - 14-62 KA-6972-01 – K-14, bridge #029 Solomon River located 2.19 miles south of U.S. 24 in Beloit, bridge repair, Bridges Inc., Newton, Kansas, \$2,384,983.95.

**Saline** - 4-85 KA-3230-02 – K-4, from bridge #144 over Smoky Hill River east to 0.3 mile east of the K-4/South Kipp Road intersection (2.23 miles east of the K-4/K-104 junction), grading, bridge and surfacing, 7.1 miles, Sporer Land Development Inc., Oakley, Kansas, \$23,887,983.03.

**Washington** - 101 C-5296-01 – Washington County, bridge over Little Blue River Tributary on West Washington Street located in Hanover, bridge replacement, 0.1 mile, Klaver Construction Company Inc., Wichita, Kansas, \$584,273.00.

**Statewide** - 135-106 KA-7202-01 – Bridge approaches from Limestone Road north to 8.41 miles north of U.S. 56 on I-135, includes bridges #040 and #041 located 5.4 miles north of the I-135/U.S. 56 junction in McPherson County and bridges #148 and #149 located at the I-135/U.S. 81/K-4 south junction in Saline County, milling and overlay, 8.0 miles, Barkley Construction LLC, Wichita, Kansas, \$4,462,160.11.

### **District Three — Northwest**

**Russell** - 70-84 KA-7144-02 – I-70 crossroad pipe, located 0.57 mile east of 178th Street, special, Esfeld Construction Inc., Great Bend, Kansas, \$197,500.00.

**Statewide** - 106 KA-7284-01 – Routes U.S. 83, K-25 and U.S. 40 in Logan and Thomas counties, signing, KOMO Construction LLC / DBA A&H Co., Elko New Market, Minnesota, \$344,277.00.

### **District Four — Southeast**

**Bourbon** - 6 C-5286-01 – Bridge over Tributary to Hinton Creek, located 5.9 miles south and 1.0 mile west of Uniontown, bridge replacement, 0.2 mile, B & B Bridge Company LLC, St. Paul, Kansas, \$701,404.10

**Greenwood** - 400-37 KA-7670-01 – U.S. 400, from K-99/U.S. 400 east junction east to the Greenwood/Wilson county line, crack repair, 15.2 miles, Pavement Pro's LLC, Mcpherson, Kansas, \$353,896.97.

**Statewide** - 106 KA-7278-01 – Routes U.S. 69, K-152, K-3, K-31, K-7, K-52 and K-239 in Linn, Miami, Anderson and Bourbon counties, signing, Martin Outdoor Enterprises Inc., Pittsburg, Kansas, \$1,947,000.00.

### **District Five — South Central**

**Statewide** - 106 KA-7285-01 – Routes U.S. 281, K-8, K-2 and U.S. 160 in Barber, Pratt, Comanche and Harper counties, signing, KOMO Construction LLC / DBA A&H Co., Elko New Market, Minnesota, \$318,495.30.

The following project was approved from the March 19, 2025, letting.

**Sedgwick** - 54-87 KA-6749-01 - U.S. 54, bridge #143 over the BNSF Railroad located 0.25 mile east of Topeka Street; and bridge #317 over the BNSF and KO Railroad located 0.25 mile east of Topeka Street, bridge repair, Wildcat Construction Co. Inc. & Subsidiaries, Wichita, \$2,139,304.50.

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## **Governor Kelly Calls on Federal Leaders to Protect the Medicaid Program**

*~Letter to the Kansas Congressional Delegation requests they reject proposed billion-dollar cuts to Medicaid that would harm Kansas hospitals and providers~*

**TOPEKA** (5.5.2025)– Governor Laura Kelly announced on Monday that she has sent a letter to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, requesting they protect Kansans from the looming federal Medicaid cuts that threaten quality, affordable health care access for the most vulnerable Kansans.

Under the latest plan proposed by Congress, Kansas' Medicaid program could lose up to \$1 billion in federal funding within the first year alone.

“Significant cuts to the Medicaid program will directly affect Kansans across the state, regardless of their political views. These cuts would be particularly detrimental to our rural hospitals and providers,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.** “We must stand up against these changes to ensure the hundreds of thousands of Kansans covered under Medicaid can continue to receive quality, affordable care.”

The state's Medicaid program covers more than 443,000 vulnerable Kansans, including low-income seniors, children, pregnant mothers, and individuals with disabilities. The suggested reductions in federal funding put these Kansans at risk of losing their health care coverage. Additionally, the 64% of Kansas rural hospitals already at risk of closing will be further financially strained under these cuts due to an increase in uncompensated care costs and lower reimbursement rates.

Kansas is one of ten states that has not expanded Medicaid, which has subjected the state's hospitals and providers to high levels of charity care expenses for the uninsured. Governor Kelly has consistently introduced proposals to expand Medicaid every year of her administration, but due to the Legislature's inaction on this issue, over \$7 billion in federal funding has been left behind in Washington D.C., dollars that should have been injected into the state's healthcare ecosystem and economy. Since Kansas is already operating with reduced resources and limited federal funding, billion-dollar cuts proposed at the federal level would further destabilize the state's health care system.

By restricting access to care, the reduction in federal funding will weaken Kansas' health care workforce, jeopardize the health of Kansans, and worsen financial instability. Governor Kelly urges federal and state leaders to work together to stop these cuts and build upon the progress made thus far by continuing to invest in the state's health care system.

Governor Kelly's full letter to the Kansas Congressional Delegation can be found [here](#).

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## **Commerce Launches Blueprint to Build Grant Program for Community Centers**

**TOPEKA** (4.30.2025) – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today 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.

“Finding affordable solutions for community facilities can be difficult for many Kansas communities,” **Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said,** “This innovative new CDBG program is a gamechanger, providing immediate resources to build vibrant community spaces across Kansas. These investments in quality of place can completely transform communities by making them more attractive to new businesses and creating high quality spaces for residents to gather.”

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](mailto:CDBG@ks.gov).

## Governor Kelly Announces April Total Tax Collections at \$1.33B; 1.3% Above Estimate

**TOPEKA** (5.1.2025) – The State of Kansas ends April 2025 with total tax collections at \$1.33 billion. That is \$17.6 million, or 1.3%, above the estimate. Total tax collections were down 5.9% from April 2024.

“Kansas' current financial health is strong, but we must remain committed to fiscally responsible budgeting to ensure lasting stability in the future,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.**

Individual income tax collections were \$684.8 million. That is \$10 million, or 1.5% above the estimate, and down 7.5% from April 2024. Corporate income tax collections were \$316.5 million. That is \$1.4 million, or 0.4% above the estimate, and down 6.4% from April 2024.

Combined retail sales and compensating use tax receipts were \$296.3 million, which is \$5.5 million, or 1.9% above the estimate and up \$1.2 million, or 0.4%, from April 2024.

Click [here](#) to view the April 2025 revenue numbers.

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## Merck Animal Health Investing \$895M in De Soto Plant Expansion

*~Second Largest Private Investment in State History~*

**TOPEKA** (5.8.2025) – Governor Laura Kelly and [Merck Animal Health](#) today jointly announced an \$895 million capital expansion project at the company's manufacturing facility in De Soto, Kansas. The second largest private investment in Kansas history – and the largest economic development project for Merck Animal Health – will create more than 200 new jobs.

The \$860 million investment in its existing manufacturing facility and \$35 million in its research and development laboratories demonstrates Merck's commitment to the U.S. market, where the company has significantly invested to deliver innovative health solutions that advance the prevention and treatment of diseases in people and animals.

“This extraordinary investment by Merck Animal Health underscores my administration's commitment to securing a strong economic future for our state and ensuring prosperity for generations to come,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.** “Public-private partnerships that lead to major global projects, such as those with Merck, Fiserv and Panasonic – just to name a few recent successes – are occurring because people believe in Kansas. They believe in who we are, what we are doing, and the direction we have taken.”

The 200,000-square-foot manufacturing facility project will expand filling and freeze dryer capacity for large molecule vaccines and biologic products for Merck Animal Health. As a Center of Excellence, it will play a pivotal role in the manufacturing of animal health products and will complement the company's extensive U.S. and international network of animal health product manufacturing plants.

Site preparation and facility design will start immediately, creating 2,500 construction jobs. Commercial manufacturing is expected to begin in 2030.

“Our De Soto manufacturing facility is strategically located in the heart of the Animal Health Corridor. This region is renowned for its concentration of animal health companies, fostering an unparalleled ecosystem for innovation, collaboration and industry leadership,” **Merck Animal Health President Richard DeLuca said.** “This investment in our site is designed to increase Merck Animal Health's ability to meet the growing customer demand for its portfolio of animal biologics products and ensure

the company remains at the forefront of innovation in the animal health sector. This initiative also reflects our dedication to advancing animal health and our on-going investment in the communities where we operate.”

Since the advent of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Merck has allocated more than \$12 billion to enhance domestic manufacturing and research capabilities, with additional planned investments of more than \$9 billion over the next four years.

Merck Animal Health’s significant investment in its research and development laboratories will enhance its research capabilities, focusing on advancing global drug discovery and development initiatives. The investment will continue to drive Merck Animal Health’s innovative research and development of novel parasitocides and therapeutics, reinforcing the company’s dedication to improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

“Merck’s massive expansion in De Soto further elevates Kansas’ long-established status as a global leader in animal health,” **Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said.** “The opportunities and ripple effects of having almost \$1 billion surge into the local economy will have far-reaching and long-lasting reverberations across the entire state. Historic investments such as these truly benefit all Kansans, both now and into the future.”

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## **Trump Administration Cuts Critical State Health Funds, Eliminating Access to Vital Services During Disease Outbreaks**

*~Grant Terminations Harm Mental Health Programs and Response to Disease Outbreaks~*

**TOPEKA (5.8.2025)**– Governor Laura Kelly announced Thursday that the Trump administration’s abrupt unilateral termination of more than \$33 million in health care and mental health service grants has forced the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to abolish 56 positions in vital health posts, leaving communities without access to critical services. This marks the first large-scale state employment dismissal initiated by the Trump administration’s cuts to congressionally authorized funds.

On Tuesday, March 25, the Trump administration notified KDHE and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) that six of the grants they administer were immediately terminated as of the previous day, Monday, March 24.

The mission of the grants and employees paid through that funding was to strengthen the state’s epidemiology and laboratory work, monitor and respond to disease outbreak, administer critical programs that provide vaccines for children, and address health disparities for underserved communities and rural Kansans. These actions also eliminated \$7.4 million in funding that goes directly to local non-profits in Kansas.

After receiving notification that the grants were terminated, Governor Kelly called upon Attorney General Kobach to bring a case on behalf of Kansas to fight back against federal cuts to vital state health services. The attorney general declined.

“The Trump administration’s abrupt and unilateral funding cuts will have severe and immediate consequences for the health, safety, and quality of life of Kansans across the state, especially in rural areas,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.** “These cuts come when Kansas is in the midst of fighting two outbreaks — tuberculosis and measles — and has no additional resources to continue this work.”

The governor is committed to pushing back against the Trump administration's harmful actions that impact Kansans and has directed the Department of Administration to take proactive steps to provide resources to those affected by the separations, including rapid response, outplacement services, and mental health assistance. The Kelly administration will continue to monitor federal actions taken and inform employees, partners, and stakeholders of any relevant developments in a timely manner.

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## **KCC orders AT&T to pay \$60K in penalties for failing to provide locates**

**TOPEKA** – The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) has assessed \$60,000 in fines to AT&T for failure to provide timely locate marks of its underground facilities as required by the Kansas Underground Prevention Act (KUUDPA).

Kansas law requires excavators to provide at least two days notice of their intent to dig and utilities are required to mark the underground lines within two days. The order, issued this week, states that on 60 separate occasions between April 30, 2024 and May 30, 2024, KCC staff investigations revealed that AT&T failed to provide excavators with the location of its buried facilities within the required time frame. These actions delayed the work schedules of excavators and violated statutes.



Notices of Probable Noncompliance were issued to AT&T for each of the 60 incidents. The company responded, admitting that buried lines were not located before excavation began and attributing delays to a lack of capacity to complete the request or falling behind on projects.

KCC Commissioners expressed concern over the large number of violations addressed in the order. Commissioners were also concerned this may be an ongoing problem not being addressed by the company. Potential risks include safety impacts and impairment of services.

Commission Chair Andrew French encouraged KCC staff to propose additional and higher enforcement actions as needed in the future, including a potential general investigation to look at the issues more holistically and explore a proactive approach.

The complete discussion between Commissioners and KCC staff related to the penalty order at Tuesday's Commission Business meeting is available [here](#).

The order approved by the Commission can be viewed [here](#).

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

**TOPEKA** (5.6.2025) – Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today 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."

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.** To learn more, view past winners, and to submit nominations, click [here](#).

## **KDWP to Open Improved Section of Flint Hills Trail Near Ottawa on May 17**

**TOPEKA** (5.2.2025) – The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) announced the completion and opening of a newly improved section of the Flint Hills Trail State Park in **Franklin County**. The 2.3-mile segment, located west of Ottawa between Louisiana Terrace and Iowa Road, will officially open to the public on Saturday, May 17.

Once open, visitors will enjoy uninterrupted travel along 93 miles of continuous trail from Osawatomie to Council Grove — offering expanded access to one of the longest rail-trails in the United States, while also increasing safety and connecting trail-goers to the scenic beauty of the Flint Hills.

The project was made possible through a Transportation Alternatives Program grant awarded and administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Construction included a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail surface, a pedestrian bridge over the BNSF Railway, and improvements to three existing bridges. These enhancements not only provide a smoother trail experience but also improve user safety by allowing visitors to cross railroad tracks safely and eliminating the need for a 3.4-mile detour on county roads.

“The Flint Hills Trail is a shining example of how Kansas continues to invest in meaningful outdoor spaces,” said KDWP Secretary Christopher Kennedy. “With every completed section, we’re not just building trail—we’re connecting communities, expanding recreation access, and helping more Kansans experience the natural beauty of our state.”

A ribbon-cutting celebration for the improved section will be planned at a later date.

KDWP has long-range plans to develop the trail along its full length as funding becomes available. Future improvements will continue to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities while providing safer, more accessible routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians.

To learn more about Flint Hills Trail State Park, visit <https://ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/Locations/Flint-Hills-Trail>.



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES & NEWS**



### **[White House submits budget request](#)**

The president’s budget proposal includes cuts to or eliminations of many programs that help counties and increases for critical infrastructure programs.

**[Read more](#)**



### [DOJ terminates justice and public safety-focused grants](#)

Approximately 365 grants — estimated to be valued at \$811 million — have been identified for termination.

[Read more](#)



### [NACo-endorsed advanced refunding bills reintroduced](#)

When tax-exempt, advance refunding bonds help state and local governments reduce borrowing costs and benefit from better interest rates, freeing up resources for other capital projects and minimizing costs on taxpayers.

[Read more](#)



### [New bill would strengthen technical assistance for rural broadband](#)

The Rural Broadband Assistance Act would strengthen county access to federal broadband programs by codifying USDA's Broadband Technical Assistance Program and ensuring continued support for broadband deployment in rural communities. [Read more](#)



### [HUD finalizes timeline for HOME Program final rule implementation](#)

Changes to the program include updates to per-unit subsidy limits, clarification of resale protocols, expansion of allowable inspections, greater flexibility in income reviews and an expansion of allowable costs.

[Read more](#)



## TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BRIDGING THEORY TO PRACTICE



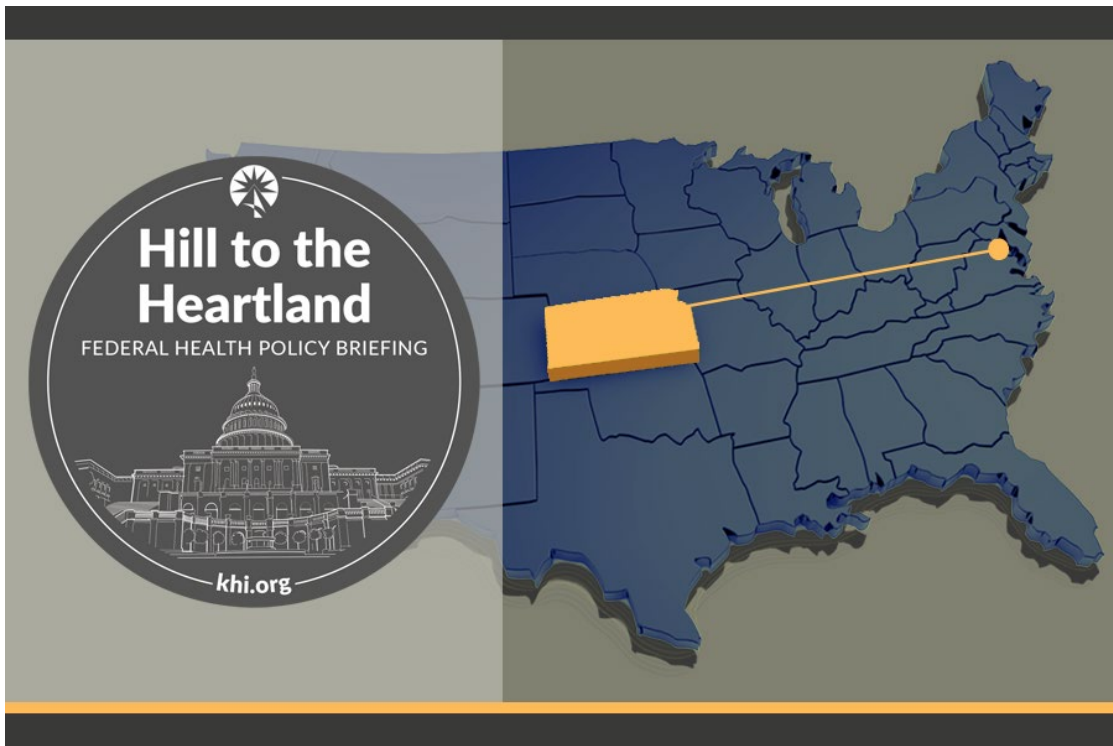
### Ready, Set, AI: From Groundwork to Guidelines for a Policy That Works

Our latest blog explores when it's the right time to begin developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy — and what foundational steps should come first to avoid common missteps and ensure the policy meets your organization's needs.

As part of its ongoing work to support informed and ethical AI policy development, the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) offers a practical starting point for organizations considering the use of AI — or even questioning whether they should explore it at all.

The contents of this blog expand upon the concepts discussed in the evidence-informed tool [Developing AI Policies for Public Health Organizations: A Template and Guidance](#) developed by KHI in partnership with Health Resources in Action and Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute and supported by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The tool is designed to assist public health organizations as they develop AI policies and guidelines.

[Read the entire blog here](#)



## **Fluoride and Drinking Water: Implications for Kansas Communities** *Hill to the Heartland: Federal Health Policy Briefing*

Ensuring access to fluoride in drinking water to prevent tooth decay has been a public health goal for decades, but the debate over the benefits, costs, optimal levels and risks of fluoridation has led Kansas to trail its neighboring states in the percentage of the population with access to fluoridated water.

Those debates may resurface, particularly now that U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has stated he plans to tell the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to stop recommending fluoridation in community public water systems and announced that he will be assembling a task force to study the issue.

Learn more 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](#)**

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In 2024, America’s Health Rankings placed Kansas among the 20 states with the highest occupational fatality rates for the construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation and utility, and professional and business service industries, in aggregate. Today, April 28, marks the annual Occupational Safety and Health Day, an international campaign to bring attention to the hazards associated with occupations and the opportunities to improve safety for workers. Learn more in our latest brief, which analyzes 13 years of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to better understand the landscape of occupational fatalities and injuries within Kansas. **Learn More** [here](#).

Key points include:

- **In 2024, America’s Health Rankings placed Kansas among the 20 states with the highest occupational fatality rates**, based on an analysis of industries including construction, manufacturing, professional and business services, and trade, transportation and utilities.
- **Since 2011, Kansas has had higher rates of occupational fatalities and injuries than the U.S. overall.** From 2021–2023, Kansas averaged 4.1 fatalities and 2,833 injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, compared to the U.S. with 3.7 fatalities and 2,700 injuries per 100,000 FTE workers.
- **Agriculture remains the most hazardous industry in Kansas**, leading in both injury and fatality rates despite a 30 percent decrease in the injury rate (6,233 down to 4,333 injuries per 100,000 FTE) and a nearly 50 percent drop in the fatality rate over the past decade (38.6 down to 21.3 fatalities per 100,000 FTE).
- **Nearly 1 in 5 (19.4 percent) occupational fatalities in Kansas involve workers age 65 and older**, despite this group comprising only 9.6 percent of the workforce, reflecting the dangers faced by aging workers in high-risk industries such as agriculture.
- Despite men and women making up roughly similar portions of Kansas' workforce (53.5 percent and 46.5 percent, respectively), **men make up a much more significant percentage of occupational fatalities** (94.2 percent compared to 5.8 percent).



## 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](mailto: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](#)



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

This May, the National Association of Counties once again invites all counties to participate in [Mental Health Awareness Month](#). By showcasing how county governments provide vital behavioral health services and resources and by advocating for key mental health reforms, we can effect significant change.

- **Highlight county innovation:** In the first half of the month, join us in highlighting local innovations that are reshaping access to mental health services.
- **Advocate for key policy priorities:** In the second half of May, we will shift focus to policy advocacy that drives systemic change, including strengthening federal partnerships and improving access to community-based care.
- **Access the toolkit:** NACo's [participation toolkit](#) includes template letters, talking points and sample social media posts to support engagement.

# DID YOU KNOW?

Counties are strengthening the mental health workforce by investing in recruitment, training and retention.

#MentalHealthAwarenessMonth



## May is National Motorcycle Safety Month

As the weather warms up, you've probably already seen more motorcyclists on the roads around the state.

In 2023 in Kansas, crash data shows there were 926 motorcycle-involved crashes. In those incidents, **41 people died** and 840 were injured.

Mutual respect and thoughtfulness from all drivers and riders users will help reduce crashes, deaths, and injuries on our roads.

### Tips for drivers:

- Yield to motorcyclists especially while turning at intersections.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Allow more follow distance when behind a motorcycle.
- Allow motorcycles the full width of a lane at all times.

### Tips for motorcyclists:

- Wear protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet. High visibility gear will help you be seen.
- Take a motorcycle safety course and keep your bike well maintained.
- Don't ride in the blind spots of motor vehicles.
- Drive and ride defensively.



KANSAS **Traffic Safety**  
**Resource** OFFICE



# Educational Opportunities



## Virtual Presentation: Regional Housing Development & Community Solutions Sessions

In March and April 2025, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) program staff visited the six geographic regions of the state to meet with our partners and stakeholders in-person. For those unable to attend the sessions, KHRC is pleased to offer a virtual presentation to share key program updates and initiatives.

**Virtual Presentation**  
**May 21 | 10:30 a.m.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

During the virtual presentation, staff will provide information on the following resources:

- Moderate Income Housing (MIH)
- Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit (KHITC)
- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)
- Home Loan Guarantee for Rural Kansas (HLG)
- First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB)

A portion of the presentation will be dedicated to answering questions from attendees regarding the programs listed above. Questions must be submitted to the KHRC team in advance at [MIH@kshousingcorp.org](mailto:MIH@kshousingcorp.org), and they will be answered on a first-come, first-served basis. While we may accept some questions during the virtual session, the session may not provide adequate time to address them all, so early submission is encouraged.

The session is geared towards the following:

- Cities/counties
- Builders/developers
- Bankers
- Real Estate Agents
- Potential Homebuyers
- Nonprofit or Social Service Providers

- MIH, KHITC, and/or RLF applicants that were not awarded in prior rounds
- Individuals/organizations interested in applying in future MIH, KHITC, and/or RLF rounds

If you are interested in applying for one or more of the resources listed above, we encourage you to attend the virtual presentation. [Register](#) in advance for this meeting.

We look forward to working together to address the housing needs in your community!

The graphic features a background of colorful chess pawns on a board. At the top center is the Wichita State University logo with the text 'WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY' and 'PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT CENTER' below it. The main title 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & YOUR MUNICIPAL AIRPORT 101' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below the title, it says 'WSU PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT CENTER INVITES YOU TO JOIN US' and 'MAY 21, 2025 | 11 AM - NOON'. A yellow button with a white mouse cursor icon and the text 'REGISTER NOW' is positioned in the center. In the bottom right corner is the LGN logo with the text 'Local Government Network'.

## Economic Development & Your Municipal Airport 101

### May 21, 2025

If your community is served by a local or regional airport, is it a key part of your economic development strategy? If you don't have an airport now, would learning the basics of thriving, community-owned airports add to your cache of economic development knowledge?

As executive director of the Salina Airport Authority for 40 years, Tim Rogers led the successful growth of the nationally recognized Salina Regional Airport and Industrial Center. After retiring in July 2024, Tim now assists public airport operators with issues ranging from day-to-day operations to long-range planning for airport growth.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## INK Hosting 2nd Annual Showcase Event on May 22

The Information Network of Kansas will host the 2nd Annual Showcase Event on May 22, 2025, at the Sunflower Foundation in Topeka.

The event will enable state and local governmental agency leaders to learn more about the INK mission and services. INK works to provide public access to state and local government data and services.

There will be demonstrations provided on Assessment Connect, a new tool that provides detailed information on commercial, residential, and agricultural property assessments on a county-by-county level. There will also be breakout sessions to demonstrate Engagement Builder, a tool to help to create online forms, and the KanPay payment processing system.

**The Showcase Event will be held May 22, 2025, from 1 to 4 PM at the Sunflower Foundation.** We are still working on more demonstration ideas; more demonstrations will be added.

This is a great opportunity for state and local government leaders to learn more about the services provided by the Information Network of Kansas.

**If you plan on attending the INK Showcase Event, please email Murray McGee at [murray.mcgee@ks.gov](mailto:murray.mcgee@ks.gov) by May 15, 2025.** Food and drinks will be provided.



## National Association of Counties Events & Webinars

**MAY 12 | 3:00 P.M. EDT**

**[Federal Reforms to Medicaid Financing: What Counties Should Know \(Part 2\)](#)**

**REGISTER**

**MAY 14 | 2:00 P.M. EDT**

**[From Languishing to Flourishing: Strategies for County Professionals to Reclaim Joy and Wellbeing](#)**

**REGISTER**

**MAY 15 | 2:00 P.M. EDT**

**[Ask a Public Health Expert: The Resurgence of Measles](#)**

**REGISTER**

MAY 15 | 3:30 P.M. EDT

REGISTER

[Inside Washington: County Impacts from the White House & Congress](#)

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



## Full schedule now available for 2025 NACo Annual Conference

Join us July 11–14, 2025 in the City and County of Philadelphia, Pa. for NACo's [90th Annual Conference](#), featuring policy steering committee meetings, innovation sessions and invaluable networking opportunities.

**What to expect:** Workshops, steering committee sessions and the latest NACo tools and resources.

**Who's coming:** Thousands of county leaders from across the U.S. will attend the nation's largest gathering of county government officials.

**Register now:** [Explore the full schedule](#) and secure your spot today.



**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, LCSW. *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)





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.

# 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



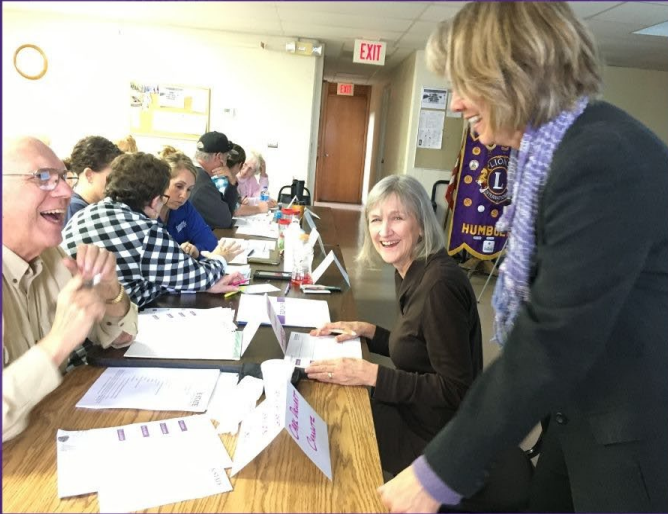
The City/County Management Summit is an opportunity to connect with local government management professionals from across Kansas to learn about the latest topics and trends relevant to you. Learn ways to update your zoning code to enhance housing development, expand your airport's business development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

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

# Grant Training Workshops

## Grant Writing Basics

In Person Workshop



Southeast Kansas Experiment Station  
25092 Ness Road, Parsons, KS 67357

**Join Us May 15, 2025**

**9:30 am - 3:30pm**

**Cost: \$60 (includes lunch)**

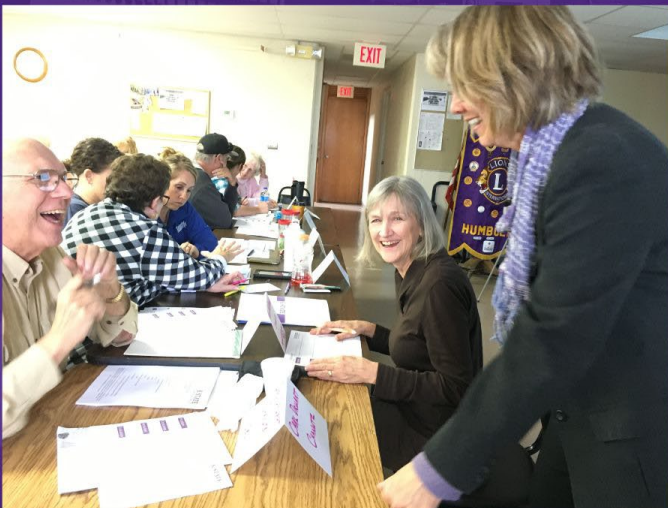
**Register Today**

Carrie Lance [clance@ksu.edu](mailto:clance@ksu.edu)

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

## 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)**

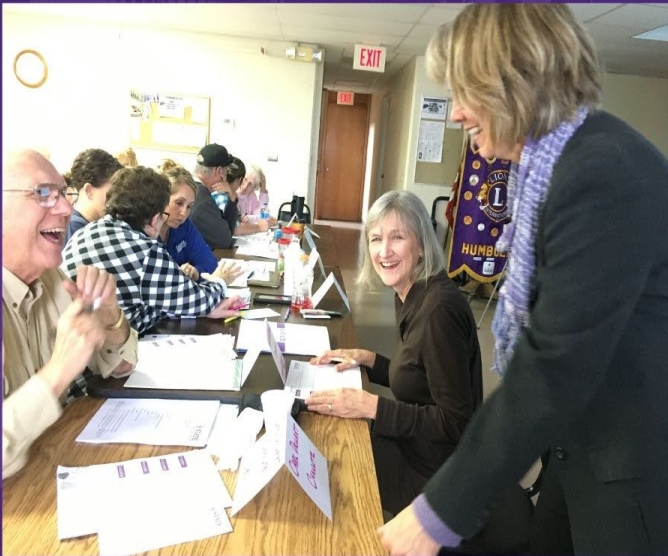
**Register Today**

Denise Dias [ddias@ksu.edu](mailto:ddias@ksu.edu)

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

# Grant Writing Basics

In Person Workshop



First Presbyterian Church  
112 W 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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](mailto:kim.gerety@ks.gov).

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

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## Commerce Launches SIGNS Grant to Boost Downtown Revitalization

The Kansas Department of Commerce launched the **Supporting Innovative Growth through New Signage (SIGNS) grant**, a new initiative aimed to improve the appearance and appeal of retail and commercial business signage in downtowns across the state. The total funding amount available is \$250,000 and will be distributed to support innovative, high-quality signage projects.

Eligible applicants are businesses or building owners, municipalities, Main Street organization, economic development groups, chambers, foundations, tribal organization and other nonprofit community entities. Communities can apply for funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000, with a required cash match based on the community's population:

- 50% match for communities with populations between 2,500 and 50,000
- 25% match for communities with fewer than 2,500 residents



To preserve the unique character of Kansas' historic downtowns, the grant prioritizes projects that adhere to the [Kansas Commerce Sign Guidelines](#), ensuring that all signage complements existing architectural features. Preference will be given to three-dimensional signs created and installed by Kansas-based businesses.

Funds will be used to enhance community vitality and contribute to the downtown's historical and aesthetic character. Awarded funds can be used for the design, purchase, lighting and installation of

signs. The program is intended to support multiple buildings and businesses in a downtown region. A minimum of three signs must be proposed in each application.

Applications will be reviewed on a monthly first-come, first-served basis, until the funds are fully allocated. Applicants should ensure proposed projects comply with state and local regulations and that all grant-funded signage is completed within six months of the award approval.

For more information about the SIGNS grant, click [here](#) or contact Quality Places Manager Sara Bloom at [Sara.Bloom@ks.gov](mailto:Sara.Bloom@ks.gov) or (785) 506-9278.

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## 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.



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## 2025 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Applications Available

Applications for the 2025 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds are now available and **due by May 19, 2025**. The expected amount for the 2025 ESG grant funding is \$1.6 million.

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) is a federal block grant authorized by subtitle B of the McKinney Vento Homelessness Assistance Act and is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ESG funds are to be used for services to homeless and near homeless individuals and families.

The Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) program provides funding to:

1. Engage homeless individuals and families living on the street;
2. Improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families;
3. Help operate these shelters;
4. Provide essential services to shelter residents;
5. Rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; and
6. Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

**The ESG grant period will be for fifteen (15) months, July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.**

All shelters must complete the ESG Shelter Habitability Checklist with the 2025 application. All applicants must submit the [2025 ESG Subrecipient application](#) and [ESG Agency application](#). Please see the [ESG Application NOFA Instructions](#) for additional details.

Community agencies must coordinate the submission of the ESG funding application through a unit of local government (City or County). The municipalities will submit one joint application that includes the proposals from each agency on behalf of their jurisdiction. **Applications must be submitted to KHRC by 5:00pm (central time) on May 19, 2025.**

Applications must be submitted electronically by email to [ESG@kshousingcorp.org](mailto:ESG@kshousingcorp.org).

Please note that the award of the 2025 ESG funds is dependent on Kansas Housing receiving our allocation of the federal 2025 ESG funds. If Kansas Housing does not receive the federal ESG funding, we will not be able to fund any applications.

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## 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](http://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

### Finney County – Appraiser

**Organization:** Finney County

**City:** Garden City

**Primary Category:** Appraisal

**Salary:** \$ DOQ

**Type:** Full-time

#### Education/Experience Required:

- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- State Statute K.S.A. 19-430 states (1) A certified general real property appraiser pursuant to article 41 of chapter 58 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; (2) a registered mass appraiser pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of revenue.

**Position Summary:** This is an appointed position subject to the regulations, policies, and education requirements outlined in K.S.A. 19-430. Under the administrative direction of the Board of County Commissioners, this position is responsible for the management and operation of the County Appraiser's office to ensure that property values are fairly and accurately established, reviewed, updated, and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Property Valuation Division and applicable State statutes. This position is under the general supervision of the County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, and/or his/her designee.

#### Property Appraisal/Mapping.

- Oversee and complete the appraisal of all real estate, tangible personal property, mapping, and oil/gas for Finney County.
- Oversee the collection, maintenance, and retention of records and data relating to the property within the County; coordinate appraisal services provided by employees and consultants.
- Determine property tax assessment and verify that all appraisal records conform to the guidelines of the Property Valuation Division and applicable State statutes.
- Prepares or reviews plans and specifications for the supplies, services, and contracts.
- Administers, represents, defends, and participates in property valuation protests and appeals. Assist in the defense of appraisal values in hearings (i.e., informal, Payment Under Protest,

Small Claims Division, Board of Tax Appeals). May be required to compile appraisals on individual properties and improvement structures for appeal purposes of verification of software and values.

- Prepares certification roll for County Clerk.
- Performs analysis and studies for land, depreciation, income and expense, cost modeling, linear regression market modeling, and trend.
- Development of a yearly plan of operations to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations, legislation, and policies.
- Perform all direct reports' duties as required.

#### **Supervises appraisal staff and directs operations of the department.**

- Supervises department employees; duties may include, planning/assigning work, coaching/training, setting priorities, reviewing work, making hiring and termination decisions, delivering performance evaluations and disciplinary actions, making pay adjustment and promotional decisions, responding to complaints/grievances, and maintaining personnel records. Ensure that all training is compliant will all applicable regulations, statutes, and policies.
- Manage timekeeping for the department including approving/denying all employee leave time.
- Assist with financial planning, budget administration/monitoring, statement balancing, controlling expenditures, and provision of input on revenue sources.
- Develop short-term and long-term goals, policies, and procedures for the department. Advise on matters relating to department and county-wide operations.
- Coordinate department activities with internal and external groups.

#### **Manage and facilitate public and internal relations functions.**

- Perform public education, speaking, and as required.
- Field questions, concerns, and complaints from the public.
- Manage the receiving and investigation of public inquiries about
- Department operations and follow-up to ensure adequate resolution.
- Assist other departments with their responsibilities as needed.

#### **Complete additional support functions as required.**

- Complete continuing education as required and specified in K.S.A 19-430.
- Purchase necessary equipment and supplies for the department.
- Research the type of equipment to purchase or programs to support, prepare bid specifications for equipment, projects, and supplies; determine cost alternatives with pros and cons, and provide recommendations.
- Perform quality control functions of the software system.
- Attends all additional meetings with internal and external parties as required.
- Additional duties may be assigned as business needs require.

#### **Benefits:**

- Medical, Dental, Vision and Rx Insurance
- No Cost Employee Clinic

- Life Insurance
- KPERS Retirement
- 457(b)/401(a) Matching
- PTO
- Paid Holidays

**How to apply / who to contact:**

To view a complete job description, submit a resume and/or apply, please visit our website at: [www.finneycounty.org](http://www.finneycounty.org)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Munyan, HR Director, at 620-272-3522 or email at: [kmunyan@finneycounty.org](mailto:kmunyan@finneycounty.org)

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**Ness County – County Road/Landfill Supervisor**

Ness County is seeking 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 & 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.

## 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](#)

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## 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.

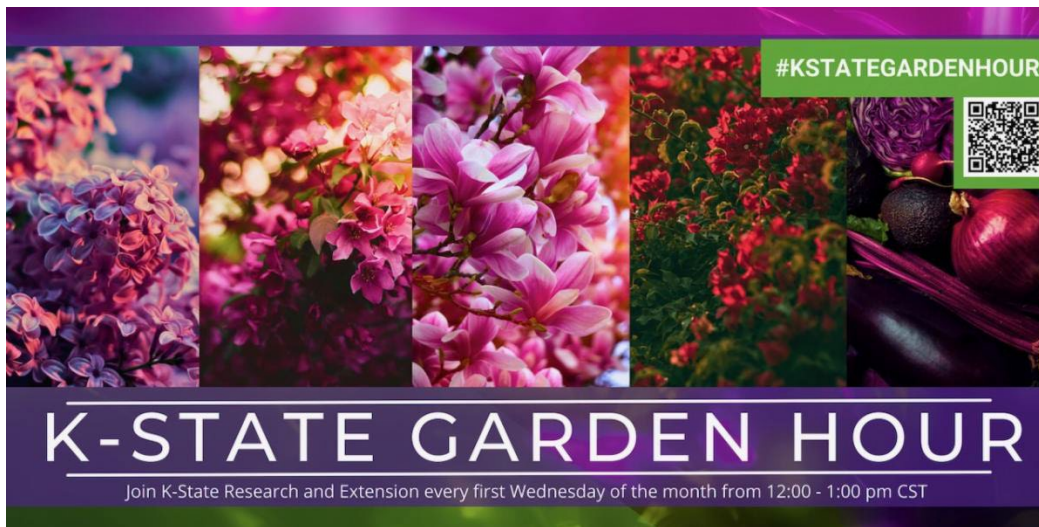
\$5,000 hiring incentive at 6 months of successful and satisfactory employment.

**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.
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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](#)

## 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.

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](#).

