The Spring 2023 Emerging Leaders Academy is Now Enrolling

The Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) is a talent management program for public sector employees. The program prepares promising, non-supervisory staff for leadership roles in their departments and organizations. This work has never been more crucial as organizations face leadership retirements or vacancies without comprehensive succession plans to promote existing staff into those roles. ELA participants gain knowledge and skills in leadership, organizational dynamics, communication, and career planning to help them identify and achieve their professional goals while equipping them with tools that strengthen their contributions to organizations.

To Explore Spring 2023 ELA Dates and to Register, Click Here.

DOT Posts List of Dates for Key Upcoming BIL NOFOs and Rural Funding Opportunities

Department of Transportation (DOT) has posted a list of anticipated dates for NOFOs for key programs within the and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as other programs that support BIL and IRA objectives. While the list is not comprehensive, it offers stakeholders additional visibility into upcoming funding opportunities and will be updated periodically with more programs and revised dates as appropriate. DOT has also posted a list of Active and Upcoming Funding Opportunities with special relevance to rural communities.

To Explore Spring 2023 ELA Dates and to Register, Click Here.
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Governor Kelly launched a statewide initiative to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a program that helps families and households struggling to afford internet service. The ACP is a $14.2 billion federal broadband benefit funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that provides eligible households with a monthly discount of up to $30 per month (up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands) and a one-time $100 discount toward a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. 438,634 households are eligible for the ACP, yet only 81,772 have enrolled.

In partnership with EducationSuperHighway, the national non-profit with a mission to close the broadband affordability gap, the governor’s initiative is building a statewide coalition of local communities and trusted institutions to raise awareness of this critical program through earned and social media. Without high-speed internet access at home, Kansas households can’t send their children to school, work remotely, or access healthcare, job training, the social safety net, or critical government services. We must act now to overcome complex awareness, trust, and enrollment barriers that prevent households from enrolling.

Please complete this form to be added to the upcoming press announcement and provide a point of contact who will coordinate the initiative in your community. Key activities will include:

- Signing on to the statewide press release and issuing a local press release to raise awareness of the ACP.
- Raising awareness and building trust in the ACP via your existing networks and communications channels.
- Using the social media toolkit to promote the campaign and mobile-friendly enrollment assistant.
- Attending training on the ACP and enrollment assistant.

MIH, KHITC, MIH-ARPA Office Hours for Applications

The Kansas Housing Resource Corporation’s (KHRC) Moderate Income Housing (MIH) program is currently accepting applications from local governments for housing development projects. MIH grants and/or loans are awarded to cities and counties to develop multi-family rental units and single-family for-purchase homes in communities with populations fewer than 60,000 people. The ARPA funded portion of the program will be used for housing development in rural areas, although the program is open to any community that meets the population requirement.

KHRC’s Housing Development Team has scheduled office hours during the month of February to discuss application-related questions for the upcoming MIH, KHITC, and MIH-ARPA applications, which are due Friday, February 17 at 5:00 p.m. While KHRC’s team cannot review applications, they can answer specific questions relating to applications. Please plan to join KHRC’s Housing Development Team during one of the offered times if you have questions regarding upcoming MIH, KHITC, or MIH-ARPA applications. Potential applicants are welcome to join KHRC’s team for one or all sessions.

Wednesday, February 1: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Office Hours – Register Here
Wednesday, February 8: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Office Hours – Register Here
Wednesday, February 15: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Office Hours – Register Here

Questions? Email the Moderate Income Housing team at MIH@kshousingcorp.org.
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has opened up the formula grant application process for eligible entities under the EECBG. The DOE EECBG Hub has information on how to apply, templates and upcoming webinars. Additionally, the DOE Office of State and Community Energy Programs will host a webinar for local leaders to provide guidance on the application process, assist eligible entities with strategic planning for EECBG funds, and help align EECBG projects with existing climate and environmental justice goals.

- Thursday, January 26, 2023 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET: Introduction to the EECBG Program for Local Governments

Here are a few dates/details/next steps:

- All eligible entities must complete a pre-award application sheet by April 28, 2023.
- Local governments have until Jan. 2024 to submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy to receive the formula funding.
- Local governments are encouraged to complete the optional Information Collection Form to stay in direct contact with DOE on EECBG.

USDOT GRANT WEBINAR

On February 8, 2023, from 3:00-4:00 PM, we hope you’ll join leaders from across DOT – including FRA Administrator Amit Bose and senior officials from FTA and the Office of the Secretary – in a webinar designed to highlight several resources created to help potential grant applicants navigate different USDOT funding opportunities. This session will explore the tools available on the DOT Navigator the Department’s one-stop-shop for technical assistance – including: the upcoming funding opportunity calendar; tools for identifying federal disadvantaged community areas; and discerning which programs offer non-Federal-match flexibility. The session will also spotlight several funding opportunities at USDOT that are currently accepting applications to expand transportation opportunities to urban, rural, and Tribal communities. The session is free of charge but registration is required.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU - BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY

The U.S. Census Bureau is now conducting the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). BAS provides participants an opportunity to ensure that the Census Bureau has current and accurate legal boundary, name, and status information for their government. Participants may also provide updates to census designated places.

BAS is a voluntary survey. We strongly encourage eligible governments to participate in BAS for the following reasons:

- The Census Bureau uses this boundary information for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination for the decennial census, American Community Survey (ACS), Population Estimates Program (PEP), and many other censuses and surveys.
- The federal government allocates more than $675 billion in federal funds annually for health, welfare, infrastructure, education, and other federal programs and services. Correct boundaries ensure governments receive funds appropriately and have the best data available for their decision-making processes.

The Census Bureau is offering training webinars for BAS. The webinar schedule is on the BAS Webinars webpage.