

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

# Kansas Community Empowerment (KCE) for the Interested Community



The Kansas Community Empowerment program administered by K-State Research and Extension, formerly the Kansas PRIDE program, is a volunteer, grassroots effort to improve the quality of life in local communities. Each Kansas community is unique and shares a common bond: a rich heritage based on self-reliance and community pride.



## Program Vision and Mission

**Vision:** Vibrant Communities with a Positive Future

**Mission:** To promote an enhanced quality of life for citizens of Kansas communities through education, leadership development and recognition.

## The History of KCE is long term - over 50 years!

Kansas Community Empowerment (or KCE for short) was originally established in 1970 and has served over 400 communities, ranging from unincorporated to neighborhoods in large municipalities. While the program has gone through many transitions in its time, its mission has remained the same: providing an enhanced quality of life for citizens of Kansas communities through education, leadership development and recognition.

## The Benefits for each level of involvement with KCE

There are many benefits to working with the Kansas Community Empowerment program, for communities, sponsors and partners.

- Communities benefit from the process, structure, education, connections and resources that KCE provides.



Education



Resources

- Sponsors have the benefit of knowing that all of their contributing funds go directly to communities through programming or grants through Kansas PRIDE, Inc. - no sponsorship funds are used to support KCE staff salaries or program space.



Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

- Partners benefit from working with KCE staff to cross promote opportunities and can utilize KCE staff as a conduit for connecting communities to formal and informal program partners.



View our History



Partners

# What are the benefits for a participating community?

Kansas Community Empowerment has many benefits, and the main benefit is that the program is not "cookie cutter." It allows for each community to address its own unique needs, as well as utilize and develop its own unique assets.



## Here are a few ways we can help:

- Evaluations on-site by community development professionals.
- Self-assessment for better understanding of existing conditions and resources.
- Technical assistance and volunteer training.
- Structure to organize and implement community development efforts.
- Assistance in developing a plan to initiate goals and promote your local program.
- Developing a vision for your community's future.
- Team approach to address community needs through an action plan.
- Identification of regional, state, and national resources.
- Quantifiable measurements of successes.
- Recognition of achievements.
- Sustainability of community improvement efforts.

**When your community looks inviting, it attracts people, businesses and tourists.**

We can connect you with tools to help you determine where to start. Tools include assessments, the Community Capitals Framework, and more!

# Quick resource reference from our program...

**Want to establish local partnerships?** We have a great guide on how to get started telling your story through our strategically developed Story Telling Template.

**Already doing great things? AWESOME!** Are you a community improvement group that's already in existence, and don't want to change your name? That's fine! Our program allows your group to enroll as your current entity.

**Worried about Board Roles? Handling Donations? Lack of Volunteers? Telling Your Story? Focus?** We provide training modules that tackle these issues, and we provide them for a fee of exactly \$0.00. You provide the venue and volunteers or take advantage of the resources on our Education Page. We also provide a database for recording your progress - it also aids in leadership succession.

**Speaking of our Database...** It helps inspire communities, allows them to have a place to store (and print) their important local program measurements, and creates opportunities for networking. This networking can be at the local, regional and state level! For example: K-State Research and Extension Agents and Specialists, and Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Specialists often peruse the database and can contact you with opportunities specific to your needs!



## CONNECT WITH US

When it comes to supporting Kansas communities, K-State Research and Extension's goal is to provide technical assistance, evidence-based programs and resource connections to citizens who want their communities to survive and prosper. Connect with us to learn more about what resources we have to help your community grow!

### EMAIL

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### WEBSITE

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