

WHO WE ARE

In early 2023, K-State Research and Extension was tasked by the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors to rebrand the program. In May 2023, the K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program officially rebranded as Kansas Community Empowerment.

The Kansas Community Empowerment program is a volunteer, grassroots effort to improve the quality of life in local communities. Kansas communities share a common bond: a rich heritage based on self-reliance and community pride. Since 1970, the program has assisted and encouraged more than 400 communities. Through the program, local communities identify what they would like to preserve, create, or improve for their future. Volunteers pull together to create that ideal future, working with the program's resources.

The Kansas Community Empowerment program strives to maximize community and economic development efforts by encouraging groups to coordinate and work collaboratively for community empowerment and betterment.

For details on how to become a Kansas Community Empowerment community, including benefits, participating community map, grant and award offerings, and sponsorship information, visit: kce.k-state.edu

PARTNERSHIPS

Kansas Freemasons

Partnering with the Kansas Community Empowerment program, Kansas Masons have pledged their support to local communities. Their efforts include assisting with fundraising, providing knowledge and volunteers, and celebrating local community success. Local Masonic Lodges may have opportunities for funding local projects. If your community does not have a Masonic Lodge, contact the Kansas Community Empowerment office to find a connection.

Kansas Department of Commerce

The Kansas Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, is a foundational partner of the Kansas Community Empowerment program. This group supports efforts that enhance communities of all sizes. Kansas Community Empowerment communities have access to the department's programs and resources, including the option to become an affiliated city of the Kansas Main Street program, Community Development Block Grants, and a network of grant writers and community development professionals.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MAKE RECOGNITION AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES POSSIBLE

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



FRIENDS OF PRIDE

Kansas Foods, LLC
Doug Helmke
Craig Freeman
Jaime Menon

Jan Steen
Nancy Daniels
Justin Campbell
Deborah Kohl



kce.k-state.edu

ksce@k-state.edu | 785-532-5840

All sponsorship funds raised by Kansas PRIDE, Inc., a 501(c) 3 organization, go directly to Kansas communities through project grants, educational opportunities and recognition. Overhead and staff expenses are provided by K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts.

August 2023

2022-23 REVIEW

Building
Better
Communities
with Pride



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



2022—23 Community Awards

PROJECT EXCELLENCE

2023 Social Capital Award

Alton – “Ladies Night Out”

“Girls Just Wanna Have Fun,” the theme for Alton PRIDE’s 2022 Ladies Night Out, aptly sums up why this annual night out on the town has been around for 30 years and is still going strong. Social culture, available 24/7 at one’s fingertips, leaves a void that can only be filled with face to face “food, folks and fun” (to borrow an old McDonald’s commercial). Alton PRIDE plans to keep on keeping this annual tradition alive on every third week in March: a night out on the town with food, folks and fun!

2023 Cultural Capital Award

Alton – Alton Summer Jubilee

The Alton Summer Jubilee, held the fourth Saturday in August, is Alton PRIDE’s crown jewel in their full calendar of annual events. Think food: choices abound; folks: from far and wide; and fun: for all ages! Plus, worshipping together on Sunday morning!

RISING STAR

The Rising Star Award is an opportunity for recognition to community members or partner organizations that go above and beyond for their communities. This year, the following were recognized:

Alton – Ginger Howell

Potwin – Melvina Jones

Arlington – KG Medical, LLC

Silver Lake – Melinda Field

Blue Rapids – Jerry and Janet Zayas

COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

Delia

Lakin

Russell

Grainfield

Leonardville

Vermilion

Highland

Olsburg

Wakefield

2022—23 Community Grants

COMMUNITY OF ACTION

Provided through Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

Alton – Housing/Cleanup Initiative – Phase I

Arlington – Golf Cart Drive-In

Blue Rapids – Sunflower Mural and Blue Rapids Square Sound System

Columbus – Planter Boxes

Delia – Community Center Roof Project

Highland – Summer Snow Cone Series

THE YEAR AT A *Glance*



PARTICIPATION

82 communities



SUCCESS

1,157 total projects including:
106 new, 650 ongoing, and 401 youth-related projects



VALUE

\$2,253,722 worth of volunteer hours



SUPPORT

647 active partnerships



RESOURCES

\$465,250 public dollars raised
\$457,297 private dollars raised



TOOLS

83,875 volunteer hours

Iola – Meadowbrook Micro Disc Golf Course

Perry – Perry Parks and Fitness Improvements

COMMUNITY OF GROWTH

Silver Lake – Community Signage

The following grants are provided through our partnership with the Kansas Masons:

COMMUNITY PROMOTION

Blue Rapids – Blue Rapids Road Ramble

Erie – Helping Visitors Find Main Attractions: Wayfaring Directional Signage

Highland – Welcome Bags

Silver Lake – Signs for Ball Association/We Are Silver Lake (Mobile Signs)

VOLUNTEERS IMPACT PRIDE

Russell – Makers Space

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY

Conway Springs – Community Center Preservation

Silver Lake – Memorial Tree Replacement

K-State Research and Extension’s partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation continued to provide support to northwest Kansas communities’ important improvement efforts. The foundation’s funding supported 19 volunteer groups affiliated with Kansas Community Empowerment; seven communities and organizations received customized grant assistance; four communities were supported in their First Impressions assessments; and a staff position to support these programs.



K-State Research and Extension provides technical assistance and evidence-based programs to citizens working to help their communities thrive and prosper. Since 2016, more than 2,000 people have attended K-State Research and Extension’s in-person and online grant writing workshops resulting in \$38 million in successful grants to communities to fund childcare, technology, education, arts, parks and more.

The First Impressions community assessment program has given 130 Kansas towns an opportunity to identify areas to preserve, create, or improve to boost the overall quality of life and develop sense of place. Community facilitation and local business support resources are also available to communities, free of charge. For more information on these and other programs, visit: ksre.k-state.edu/community.