



CREATING POSITIVE
Futures

Empowering

**Kansas community
volunteers to assess,
engage and celebrate
since 1970.**

Partnerships

Opportunities for partnering with us include funding, recognition, assessments, tools, grant writing support, grant searches, facilitation, entrepreneurship resources, workforce development, placemaking, housing and economic development resources.



what our communities are saying



What was once a drab concrete wall as you entered our lovely square has been transformed into a beautiful scene of flowers and blue sky! The visual difference of our square is amazing! It makes you proud of our town that we could create something so beautiful!

– Laura Musil, Blue Rapids Community Action Team

Who Are We

The Kansas Community Empowerment program, administered by K-State Research and Extension, is a grassroots, volunteer effort to improve the quality of life in local communities. Each Kansas community is unique but shares a common bond: a rich heritage based on self-reliance and community pride. Our program is dedicated to empowering communities by providing education, recognition, resource, and funding connections.

Through the program, local communities identify what they would like to preserve, create, or improve for their future. Then, working with the resources of K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce, community volunteers pull together to create their ideal community future.

K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas PRIDE, Inc. (consisting of private companies, associations and community member representatives) partner together to make the Kansas Community Empowerment program successful.

what our communities are saying



Wilson's vitality and quality of life have been enormously influenced by the Kansas Community Empowerment program... the outreach that staff provides is extremely valuable for many small towns like Wilson. The program helped Wilson build a city park with a play area, splash pad, and shelter building with bathrooms and a community garden.

– David Criswell, Wilson PRIDE

Our Resources

Our program provides multiple tools, resources, and support options, which benefit participating communities. Some of those benefits include:

- » Onsite community assessments.
- » Self-assessment survey tools.
- » Volunteer training.
- » Assistance with organizing.
- » Vision and mission development.
- » Program grants.
- » External grant and funding searches for community needs.
- » Recognition opportunities.
- » Networking with other communities.
- » Record keeping database.
- » Additional resources from program partners and their nationwide networks.



Learn more about our resources at kce.k-state.edu/resources/



Awards

The Kansas Community Empowerment program provides award opportunities to participating communities. These awards come in the form of ceremonial recognition and grants.

RECOGNITION

The Kansas Community Empowerment Program provides opportunities for communities to recognize great work and highlight those that make that work possible. Work with us to highlight local efforts at an event or festivity of your choosing.

GRANTS

The Kansas Community Empowerment program has been intentional concerning the design and implementation of our grants system and works to provide grant opportunities to fit the needs of participating communities. The grants system is designed to allow communities to gain skills in grant writing and provides coaching to communities that apply. Every community is different; the Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors, and our other partners regularly engage participating communities to make sure that our grants system provides the best opportunities to everyone we serve.

what our sponsors are saying



Kansas Community Empowerment embodies the spirit that Blue Valley Technologies/Networks Plus promotes across its service area and is, in part, why it has previously chosen to and will continue to be a corporate sponsor well into the future.

– Jada Ackerman, Blue Valley Technologies



Learn more about our sponsorship opportunities at kce.k-state.edu/support/



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

K-STATE
Research and Extension

KANSAS
COMMERCE



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.

July 2024

2023

Sponsors



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Community Development Committee

FRIENDS OF PRIDE

Doug Helmke
Justin Campbell
Craig Freeman

Benevity
Jaime Menon
Jan Steen



Learn more about our sponsorship opportunities at:
kce.k-state.edu/support

Thank you to our sponsors who make community recognition and funding opportunities possible.

2023

Partners



PARTNERSHIPS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

The Kansas Community Empowerment program is a partnership of K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas PRIDE, Inc., and the Kansas Masons and is supported in the northwest area by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

With the help of our partners, we promote an enhanced quality of life for the citizens and communities of Kansas through education, leadership development and recognition.



KANSAS FREEMASONS
ON THE LEVEL



Learn more about our partnership opportunities at:
kce.k-state.edu/about/partners.html

Thank you to our program partners who help make
community improvement efforts possible.


2023

Community Outreach



86 
communities

 526
volunteers

1,162 
projects
290 youth-related projects

\$1,542,722
value of volunteer hours
51,961 volunteer hours
(2023 Independent Sector Rate for value of volunteer time was \$29.69/hour.)

\$417,162
public and private fundraising efforts

519 
partnerships

\$1,339,332 grant dollars reported by participating communities

712 external grant funding sources
provided to communities through Kansas Community Empowerment program



Learn more about our communities at:
kce.k-state.edu/communities

2023

Awards



PROJECT EXCELLENCE

Local Kansas Community Empowerment programs are encouraged to nominate a high-quality project for state-level recognition. Communities of all levels (Growth, Action and Excellence) can apply for these awards. The 2023 awardees are:

- Alton – Ladies Night Social
- Alton – Summer Jubilee

RISING STAR

The Rising Star award is for any individual, business, organization, elected official, benefactor or youth who has made an outstanding contribution to your local Kansas Community Empowerment program. This year's community awardees are:

- Ginger Howell – Alton
- KG Medical, LLC – Arlington
- Jerry and Janet Zayas – Blue Rapids
- Melvina Jones – Potwin
- Melinda Field – Silver Lake

COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

Communities of Excellence receive statewide recognition and grant opportunities to support efforts related to long-term community goals. The 2023 Community of Excellence awardees are:

- Grainfield
- Lakin
- Leonardville
- Olsburg
- Wakefield



For more information on our awards visit:
kce.k-state.edu/resources/Recognition.html

2023 *Grants*



COMMUNITY OF ACTION

Community of Action Grant is a funding opportunity provided by Kansas PRIDE, Inc. With a 1:1 match, communities can receive funding up to a maximum amount of \$2,000 per project. The 2023 grant awardees are:

- Alton – Alton Housing/Cleanup Initiative; Phase I – \$2,000
- Arlington – Golf Cart Drive-In – \$1,058
- Blue Rapids – Sunflower Mural – \$1,058
- Highland – Summer Snow Cone Series – \$1,876
- Iola – Meadowbrook Micro Disc Golf Course – \$1,058
- Anthony – Bugging Out in Anthony – \$2,000
- Lakin – Osborn Park Pickleball – \$2,000
- Lecompton – Sidewalk and Handrail Project – \$2,000

COMMUNITY PROMOTION

An opportunity provided through our partnership and the generosity of the Kansas Masons, Community Marketing/Promotion Grants are \$1,000, 1:1 matching grants available for the promotion of communities. This year's Community Promotion awardees are:

- Anthony – Information Signage – \$1,000
- Blue Rapids – Blue Rapids Road Ramble – \$500
- Erie – Helping Visitors Find Main Attractions: Wayfaring Directional Signage – \$1,000
- Highland – Welcome Bags – \$997
- Silver Lake – Mobile Signs Project – \$1,000

2023 GRANTS

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY

An opportunity provided through our partnership and the generosity of the Kansas Masons, Community Emergency Grants impact community needs or projects due to community and economic resilience, community health or natural occurring disasters. The 2023 grant awardees are:

- Silver Lake – Memorial Tree Replacement – \$100
- Conway Springs – Community Center Preservation – \$1,000



For more information on our grants visit:
kce.k-state.edu/resources/Funding.html



Kansas Community Empowerment awards rounds close May 1 and September 1 each year. Visit our website for details.



785-532-5840

KSCE@K-STATE.EDU | KCE.K-STATE.EDU