

# LISTENING → ACTION

## FOR NORTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

*“When rural Kansas succeeds,  
the state as a whole succeeds.”*

-Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers



2020 Virtual Listening Tour  
August 6, 2020  
5:30-7:00 p.m.

[RuralKanProsper.KS.gov](http://RuralKanProsper.KS.gov)

@LTGOVROGERS  
#ORPTour2020

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## Agenda

- ORP Overview, Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers
- Childcare and Early Education, Melissa Rooker
- Housing, Ryan Vincent
- Community Development, Kayla Savage
- ORP Policy Priorities, Joshua McGinn
- Looking Forward, Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers
- Closing, Jillian Fisher



# LISTENING → ACTION



# LISTENING → ACTION

#LynnListens

Join us as Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers visits your town to discuss plans for rural prosperity in Kansas. He wants to hear what you have to say!



## Listening Tour Schedule

Nickerson - June 17th	Winfield - July 8th	Concordia - August 1st
Atchison - June 20th	Lindsborg - July 10th	Sabetha - August 5th
Colby - June 24th	Garnett - July 22nd	Dodge City - August 7th
Phillipsburg - June 25th	Independence - July 23rd	
	Ulysses - July 30th	

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2019

## RURAL PROSPERITY LISTENING TOUR

OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY



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## Expanding Capacity

- ORP Staff
  - Jillian Fisher, Outreach Director
  - Joshua McGinn, Policy Analyst
- Community Development Division
  - The Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG)
  - The Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP)
  - The Kansas Main Street Program
  - The Office of Broadband Development



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## Interagency Work Groups & Policy Priorities

- Looking at things from a Rural angle
- Three “Rs”: Research, Resources, and Recommendations
- Childcare
- Housing
- Broadband
- Rural healthcare
- Additional Infrastructure



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All In For  
Kansas Kids



August 2020



# Early Childhood Care and Education – 6,000 Voices

## Central Messages:

- The experiences of families with young children in Kansas are **shaped by where they live**, both across the regions of the state and within their communities.
- Young children are growing up in families where **basic needs are not being met**.

## Key Findings:

Accessibility



Availability



Navigation



Collaboration



Workforce



Facilities



Systems Alignment



Bright Spots



# Needs Assessment

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# All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan

## ➤ Our Vision: *Every Child Thrives*

## ➤ Goals, Strategies, Tactics, and Indicators of Success:

- State Level Coordination
- Community Level Coordination
- Family Knowledge and Choice
- Private Sector Collaboration
- Capacity and Access
- Workforce
- Quality and Environments



**State:** State agencies



**Local:** Individuals or small group champions



**Partner:** Statewide and/or community-level organizations, businesses, school systems, and philanthropy



**Policy:** Elected officials

# Strategic Plan

All In For   
Kansas Kids

# Stories from Kansans

## ➤ We want to hear the stories of Kansans.

- Personal experiences; needs, challenges, and struggles; and reflections and insights on any new opportunities or “bright spots”.

## ➤ Understand Impact

- Stories offer deeper context for understanding the real impact on families,
- Perspectives in the words of Kansans,
- Informs our decision-making.

**We asked for input, we heard your stories, and we are responding!**

<https://ourtomorro.ws/ORP>

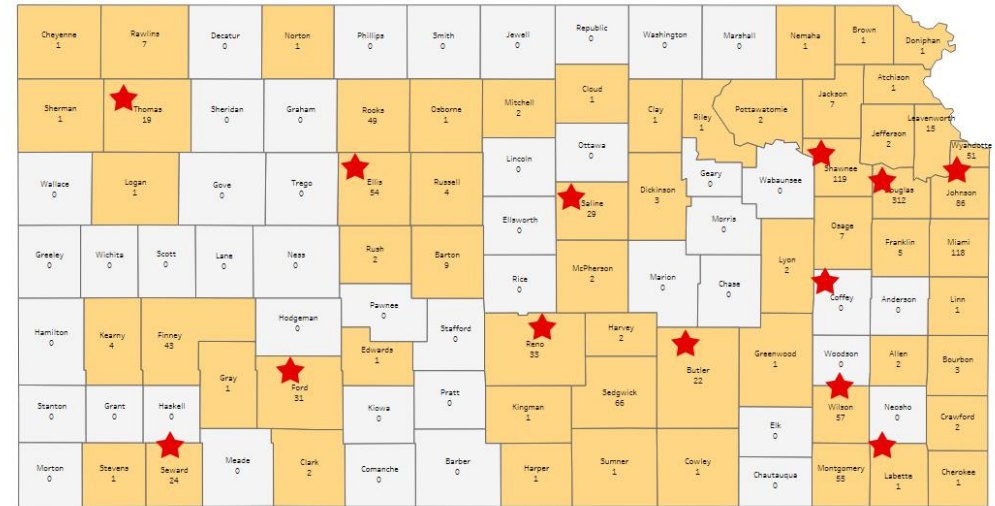
**Our Tomorrows**

**All In For**  **Kansas Kids**

# Our Tomorrows – Stories from Kansans

- **Rural Kansans Experience:**
  - Acceptance, hesitance, confusion, and frustration in response to COVID-19
  - COVID-19 Impact on employment and job loss
  - Lack of access to healthcare and technology
  - Financial struggles

1500 Stories in 2020, 60/105 Counties  
3000 Stories in 2019, All 105 Counties



31 Story Collectors in 13 Counties

Rural Voices

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# Our Tomorrows – Stories from Kansans

**My Calendar Changes (1412)** Like so many educators, I have been making plans. I serve preschool students in 5 different districts, so my calendar had 5 different enrollments to attend and 5 different first days of school to prepare for. I like to make sure I get to meet the students first, and hand out custom made first day of school books, helping families to learn expectations and routines. Then I start myIGDI's assessments with students, and assist families in completing ASQ's. My calendar was fully scheduled with where I would be and when and for how long, so that every student and every teacher would get what they needed in a timely manner. I love my job, and I was so excited to start. The governors announcement was understandable, but so hard to hear. Today we wait on the Board of Education to make a decision, and I am praying for consistency. I respect the school administrators in all the districts, and I know each of them will do their best for their school. My calendar will need to change, but my love of my job and the people I serve will remain the same!

**Rural Voices**

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# Our Tomorrows – Stories from Kansans

**Frustration (1025)** During the quarantine, I had to work from home which wouldn't of been that bad except for our internet. I would be on important meetings and it would freeze up. This happened often and made it extremely difficult to work from home. As we look to the future and technology needs - better services in Western Kansas should be on the list.

**Rural Voices**

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# Response to COVID-19

## ➤ Listening

- Bi-weekly webinars, fielded questions and concerns.
- Share form for questions/concerns on Children's Cabinet webpage.
- Our Tomorrows Stories and Scans

## ➤ Resources

- Hero Relief Fund
- Child Care Action Labs
- KCCTF Website and weekly email updates

**Early Childhood Care  
and Education**

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**Kansas Kids**

# Response to COVID-19

## ➤ CARES Act – County-Level Support

## ➤ CARES Act – State-Level Support

- Early Childhood Consultant Network – help early childhood services and providers respond to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Early Childhood Workforce Health Fund – help uninsured early childhood workers with medical expenses directly attributable to COVID-19.
- Technologies for Families Fund – provide access to equipment and devices to support virtual access for families served by early childhood care and education providers.

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# Strategic Plan – Next Steps

- **Needs Assessment** – Highlighted challenges created by our fragmented delivery system and alignment of early childhood programs and services
- **Preschool Development Birth – Five Renewal Grant**
- **Infrastructure Solutions:**
  - Workforce (Goal 6) - Recruitment and retention, training and professional development, and a workforce registry to support career advancement.
  - Common Application(Goal 1) - Streamline process with a single application to apply for multiple funding opportunities.
  - Community Subgrants (Goal 5) - Fund community-generated solutions to equip and connect providers and community-based services in ways that make getting access to care easier for children and families.

**Early Childhood Care  
and Education**

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# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Connect with your county CARES Act efforts –  
**#EarlyChildhoodIsEssential**

Share your thoughts: [www.kschildrenscabinet.org/share](http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/share)

Share your story: <https://ourtomorro.ws/ORP>

Melissa Rooker - [mrooker@ksde.org](mailto:mrooker@ksde.org), Executive Director  
Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

**Stay Connected**

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**Kansas Kids**



# *Unlocking Home*

**Ryan Vincent**  
**Executive Director**



## *Who We Are*

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A self-supporting, nonprofit public corporation, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) administers housing and community programs across Kansas.



## *What We Do*

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We help Kansans access the safe, affordable housing they need and the dignity they deserve.



## *Who We Work With*

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- Local government officials
- Mortgage lenders
- Business leaders
- Developers
- Builders
- Property managers
- Real estate professionals
- Service providers
- Homeless / affordable housing advocates
- Nonprofit organizations
- Government agencies



# Our Programs

## EMERGENCY HOUSING

- + Emergency Solutions Grant

## COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

- + Community Services Block Grant
- + Tenant Based Rental Assistance

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

- + Low Income Housing Tax Credit
- + HOME
- + Moderate Income Housing
- + National Housing Trust Fund

## HOMEOWNERSHIP

- + First Time Homebuyer Program
- + Manufactured Housing

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

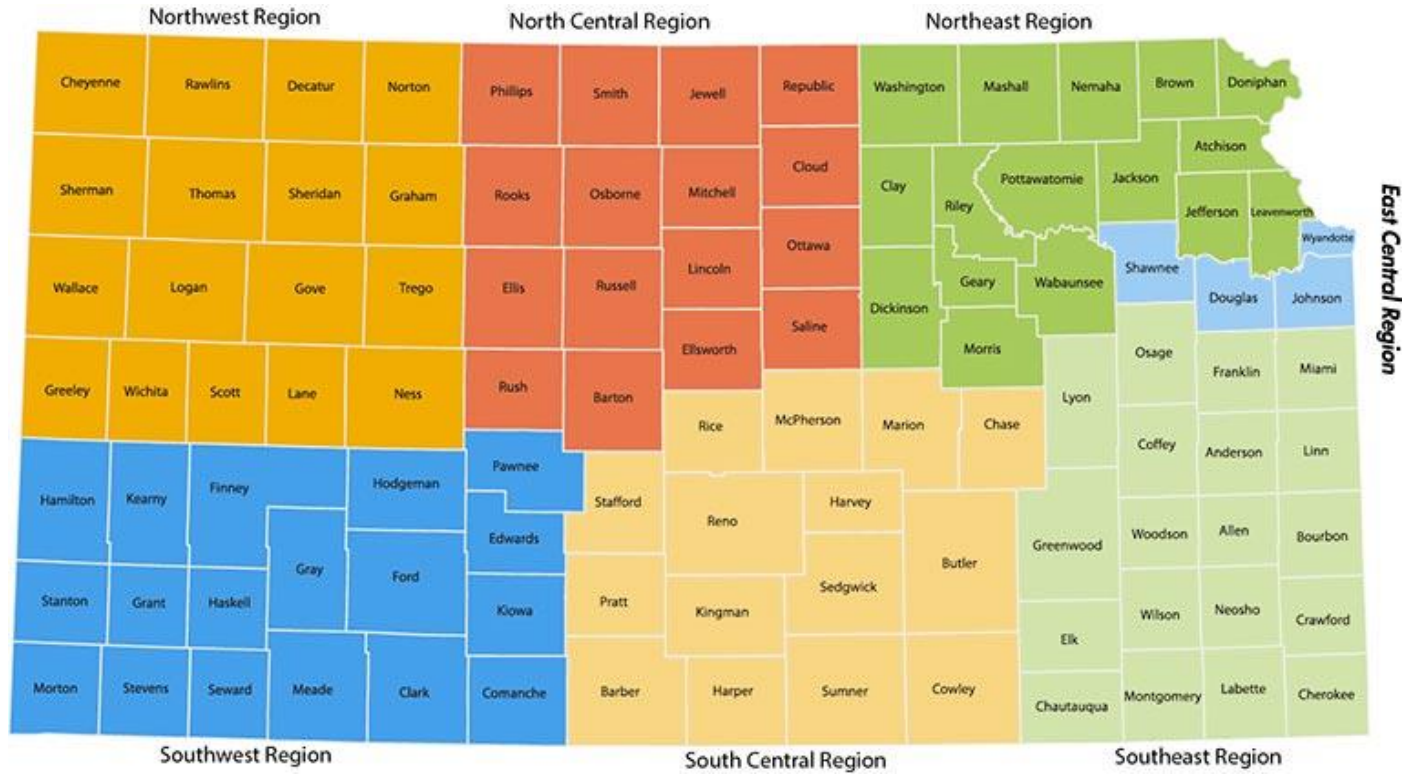
- + Weatherization Assistance

## COMPLIANCE

- + Contract Administration
- + Housing Compliance



# North Central Kansas Initiatives



Counties included: Smith, Jewell, Republic, Rooks, Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, Ellis, Russell, Lincoln, Ottawa, Rush, Barton, Ellsworth, Saline.





# *Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)*

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The [Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\)](#), through a network of service providers, offers assistance to those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.



# *Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)*

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## **North Central Kansas ESG service providers:**

- **City of Salina**
  - [Ashby House](#): Tammy Thayer, 785-826-4935
  - [Domestic Violence Association of Central KS](#) (DVACK): Andrea Quill, 785-827-5862
  - [Catholic Charities of Salina](#):  
Claudette Humphries, 785-825-0208
- **Great Bend**
  - [Family Crisis Center](#):  
Joanne Wondra, 620-793-9941



# *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)*

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The [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\)](#) program aims to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and empower low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient. CSBG serves low-income Kansans through a collaborative partnership with eight local entities, funded through KHRC.





# *Community Action Agencies*

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- [Harvest America](#)
- [Northeast Kansas Community Action](#)
- [Community Action, Inc.](#)



## *Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)*

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[TBRA](#) helps income-eligible households with rent and security and/or utility deposit payments. Assistance is distributed via a statewide network of grantees.



# *Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)*

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## **North Central Kansas grantees:**

- **City of Ellsworth:** Deanne Hoch, 785-472-3348
- **City of Salina:** Suzanne Smith, 785-827-0441
- **Harvest America:** Terri Bookless, 913-342-2121
- **NW Kansas Housing:** Ruth Deines, 785-421-2151
- **Riley County Public Housing Authority:**  
Julie Govert Walter, 785-776-9294



# *Housing Development*

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- **Financed through various programs:**
  - [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#)
  - [HOME Rental Development](#)
  - [National Housing Trust Fund](#)
- 50 housing properties throughout North Central Kansas have been developed with LIHTC, HOME, and/or NHTF funding.





# *Housing Development*

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Newest awards include:

- **Epworth Towers:** 90-unit acquisition/rehab senior development in Hays, financed through Section 8, tax credits
- **The Stonepost at Washington:** 18-unit historic rehab family housing development in Hays, financed through tax credits
- **Great Bend High Rise:** 81-unit acquisition/rehab senior housing community in Great Bend, financed through tax credits, National Housing Trust Fund
- **Quail Cove:** 24-unit new construction senior community in Great Bend, financed through tax credits, National Housing Trust Fund, HOME funds



# *Housing Development*

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**Kensington Square:** 16-unit new construction senior community in Great Bend, placed in service July 18, financed through HOME funds



# *Housing Development*

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**Lee Lofts:** 53-unit historic rehab family housing in Salina, financed via tax credits, HOME funds



# *Housing Development*

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**Lee Lofts:** 53-unit historic rehab family housing in Salina, financed via tax credits, HOME funds

# *Housing Development*

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2021 draft [Qualified Allocation Plan](#), which guides how tax credits are awarded, will give additional points to Smith, Jewell, Republic, Rooks, Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, Russell, Lincoln, Ottawa, and Rush counties to encourage development in these areas.



## *Moderate Income Housing*

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The [Moderate Income Housing program](#) serves the needs of moderate-income households that don't qualify for federal housing assistance. 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. This funding is allocated by the state legislature.



## *MIH Projects/Developments*

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**Ottawa County:** Gap financing provided for six MIH rental units in Prairie View Estates. Funding was awarded in 2017, and all units have been filled.

# *Compliance Monitoring*

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- Conducted by KHRC's Contract Administration and Housing Compliance Divisions
- 78 properties monitored in North Central Kansas





## *First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB)*

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The [First Time Homebuyer Program](#) helps income-eligible households purchase their first home by providing down payment assistance. The program allows qualifying homebuyers to apply for a 0% interest loan in the amount of 15% or 20% of the purchase price of the home. The loan is forgiven if the buyer remains in the home for 10 years!



## *First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB)*

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From 2017-2019, the FTHB program helped 60 homebuyers in North Central Kansas close on their first home:

- Barton: 1
- Ellis: 3
- Ellsworth: 4
- Ottawa: 1
- Saline: 51



# *COVID-19 Response*

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- Expanded CARES Act funding for Kansas Housing programs:
  - Emergency Solutions Grant
  - Community Services Block Grant
  - Section 8 PBCA
- Watch our [Current Announcements page](#) or [subscribe](#) to our email list for updates



# *Kansas Housing Conference*

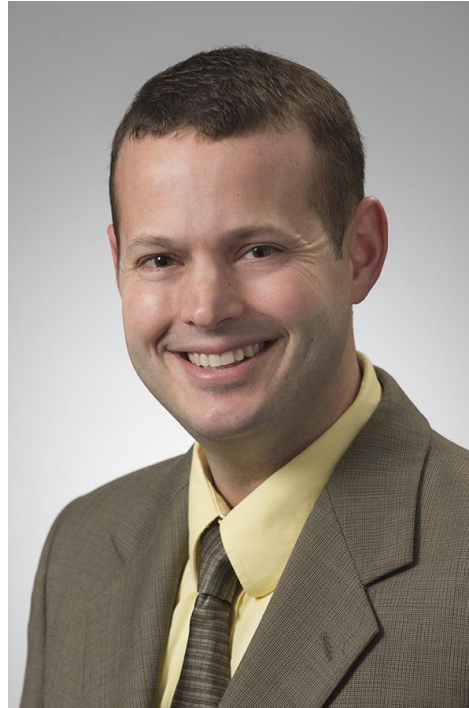
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- August 24 – 28, 2020 – FREE
  - <http://kshousingconference.org/>
- General sessions:
  - Housing Needs in Kansas
  - Identifying Housing Resources and Potential Solutions
  - Expanding Housing Opportunities in Kansas
  - Managing Housing Development and Administration During a Pandemic
- Featured panelists / organizations:
  - Kansas Housing Association
  - HUD
  - Office of Rural Prosperity
  - Kansas Legal Services
  - Housing Credit and Counseling, Inc.
  - National Conference of State Housing Agencies
  - SPARK Task Force



# Questions?

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**Ryan Vincent**

*Executive Director*

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[www.kshousingcorp.org](http://www.kshousingcorp.org)



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



# Community Development Division

- Kansas Main Street
- Community Service Tax Credit Program
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission
- Office of Broadband Development
- Rural Opportunity Zones
- Individual Development Accounts
- Community Development Regional Project Managers





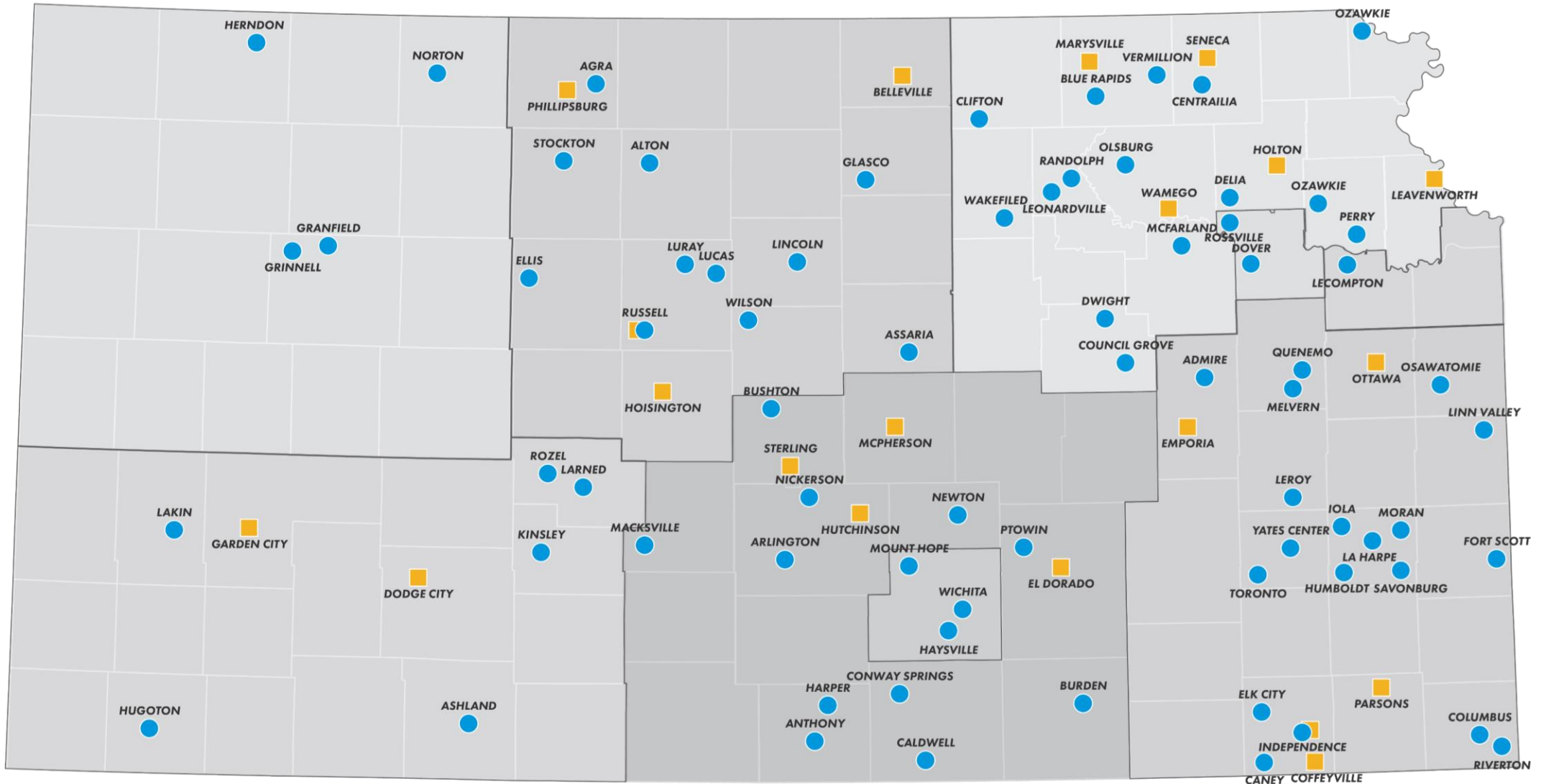


## KANSAS MAIN STREET



- Kansas Main Street is back!
- 25 active designated Main Streets cities throughout the state
- Designated cities in North Central Kansas: Belleville, Hoisington, Russell, and Phillipsburg
- New city application opens this fall

# Kansas Main Street & PRIDE Communities



 MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES     PRIDE COMMUNITIES     IN-STATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES



## OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

- CARES Act Funding via SPARK for Connectivity
- County CARES Act allotment via SPARK for broadband development locally
- State funded broadband grant program coming soon

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)





## Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Established to help Kansas communities (50K or fewer residents) **enhance their livability** by providing financial, technical and business assistance using HUD funding.

Grants are awarded in five categories:

1. Water/Sewer Grants (competition)
2. Community Facilities Grants (competition)
3. Housing Grants (competition)
4. Urgent Need Grants (e.g. disaster response)
5. Commercial Rehabilitation Grants
6. Economic Development (business finance)

To qualify, projects must meet one or more of the following condition:

- Benefit low- or moderate-income individuals
- Remove or prevent slum or blight conditions
- Eliminate an urgent need created by a disaster when local funds are unavailable

## ▶ CDBG PROGRAM SUMMARY

39 awards totaling \$17.4M made in FY2020 across the State

- Awards were made in three different categories:
  - Water/Sewer
  - Community Facilities
  - Housing

10 awards totaling \$3.2M awarded in North Central Kansas

# NORTH CENTRAL CDBG PROJECT DETAILS

COUNTY	CITY	AWARD	PROJECT
Ellis	Ellis	\$412,113	Water distribution system
Russell	Lucas	\$264,852	Community Center and Library
Russell	Russell	\$600,000	Street project
Lincoln	Lincoln Center	\$600,000	Water distribution system
Cloud	Concordia	\$561,660	Sanitary sewer and storm drainage
Cloud	Miltonvale	\$35,212	Demolition project
Republic	Belleville	\$175,000	Purchase of a new Standard Pumper Fire Truck
Ottawa	Minneapolis	\$300,000	Rehab eight homes and demolition of one unoccupied dilapidated housing unit
Osborne	Osborne Count	\$60,350	Purchase of a new brush fire truck for the county
Rush	Liebenthal	\$220,850	Sanitary sewer treatment facility and new pump station
		<b>\$3,230,037</b>	

# Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

## 2020 Application Deadlines

- September 25 – Housing and Water & Sewer
- October 30 – Community Facilities
- Awards made in late January 2021
- Visit [kansascommerce.gov](https://www.kansascommerce.gov) for details
  - All applications will be online



# COMMUNITY SERVICE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (CSP)





## Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP)

Improves the ability of non-profits to undertake **major capital fundraising drives** for community projects (e.g. community service, crime prevention, health care, youth, apprenticeships and youth job creation)

- Applicants may request up to \$250,000 in tax credits to contributors of approved projects
- Organizations in rural areas (less than 15,000 in population) are eligible for a 70% credit
- Organizations in non-rural areas are eligible for a 50% credit

# Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP)

## 2021 Application Information

- March 2021 guidelines published on [kansascommerce.gov](https://www.kansascommerce.gov)
- May 31, 2021 application closes
- Awards made in July 2021



## CDBG COVID Response

- \$16.9M awarded in two phases, first come first serve basis
- Funds awarded to cities and counties throughout Kansas
- Small business grants to be used for working capital expenses
- Meal program grants to support food pantries and community meal programs for children and families
- Decisions made on the local level to go where needed most

## CDBG-CV Grantees – North Central Kansas

Grantee	Economic Development	Meal Programs	Total Award
Phillips County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Phillipsburg	\$ 132,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 167,000
Rooks County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Stockton	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Damar		\$ 35,000	\$ 38,500
Ellis County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Ellis	\$ 143,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 168,000
Smith County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Osborne County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Russell County	\$ 138,600	\$ 35,000	\$ 173,600
Jewell County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Mankato	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Mitchell County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Beloit	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Ellsworth County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Wilson	\$ 77,000		\$ 77,000
Ellsworth	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Cloud County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Saline County	\$ 132,000		\$ 132,000
Salina	\$ 134,200	\$ 35,000	\$ 169,200



THANK YOU



# Community Development Division

## **Kayla Savage**

Director

Kansas Department of Commerce  
1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66612-1354

Desk Phone: (785) 296-5929

Cell Phone: (785) 213-7056

TTY: 711

[kayla.savage@ks.gov](mailto:kayla.savage@ks.gov)

[www.KansasCommerce.gov](http://www.KansasCommerce.gov)



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## ORP's Policy Priorities

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- Childcare
- Housing
- Workforce
- Rural Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Broadband

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## Workforce

- The SPARK Task Force has approved \$9 million in funding to address Kansas's workforce needs:
  - Training/retraining in growing fields, including IT certifications, cybersecurity
  - Technical college instructional equipment to support automation/advanced manufacturing
  - KANSASWORKS jobseeker support



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## Rural Healthcare

### Medicaid Expansion:

- Just this week, Missouri joined Oklahoma in expanding Medicaid.
- There are 150,000 Kansans without health insurance during a pandemic.
- We must address this healthcare issue for Kansans and rural Kansas hospitals.

### Other Issue ORP is Paying Attention to:

- Primary Health Centers
- Ensuring there are adequate medical providers in rural areas.
- Building on the progress we've made with telemedicine.

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## Infrastructure

- **IKE:**

- Rolling Program
- Focused on practical projects
- Partnership programs such as Cost Share and Local Bridges.
- Includes funding for broadband improvements and other enhancements.

- **Other programs:**

- Multi-modal transportation with public transit
- Aviation
- Short-line rail
- Bike/pedestrian programs

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## Cost Share & Bridge Awards North-Central Kansas

### BRIDGES

- Geary County
- Phillips County
- Republic County
- Russell County
- Smith County

### COST SHARE

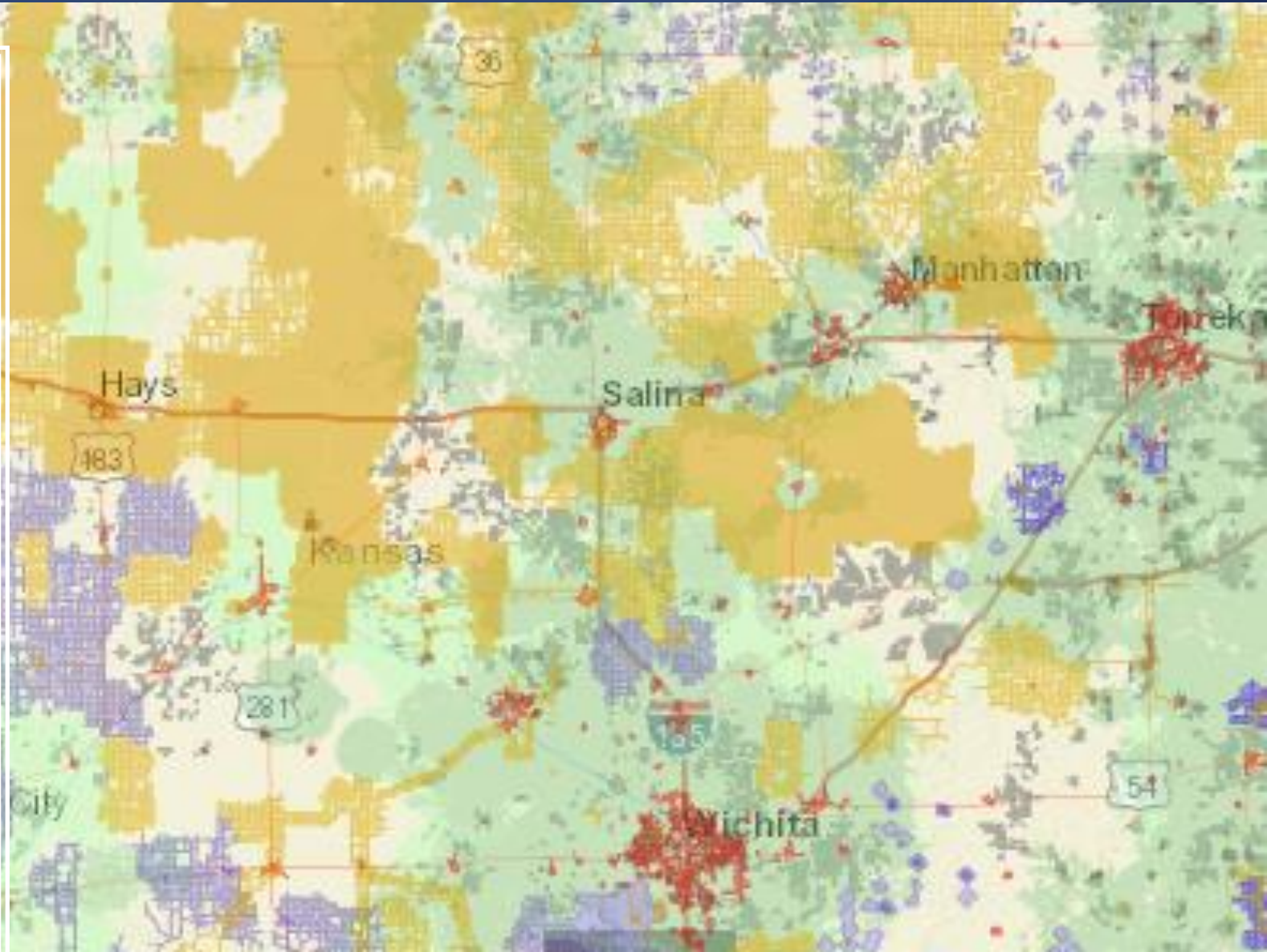
- Barton County (x2)
- Ellsworth County
- Republic County
- Saline County
- Washington County



# LISTENING → ACTION

## Broadband Grant Program

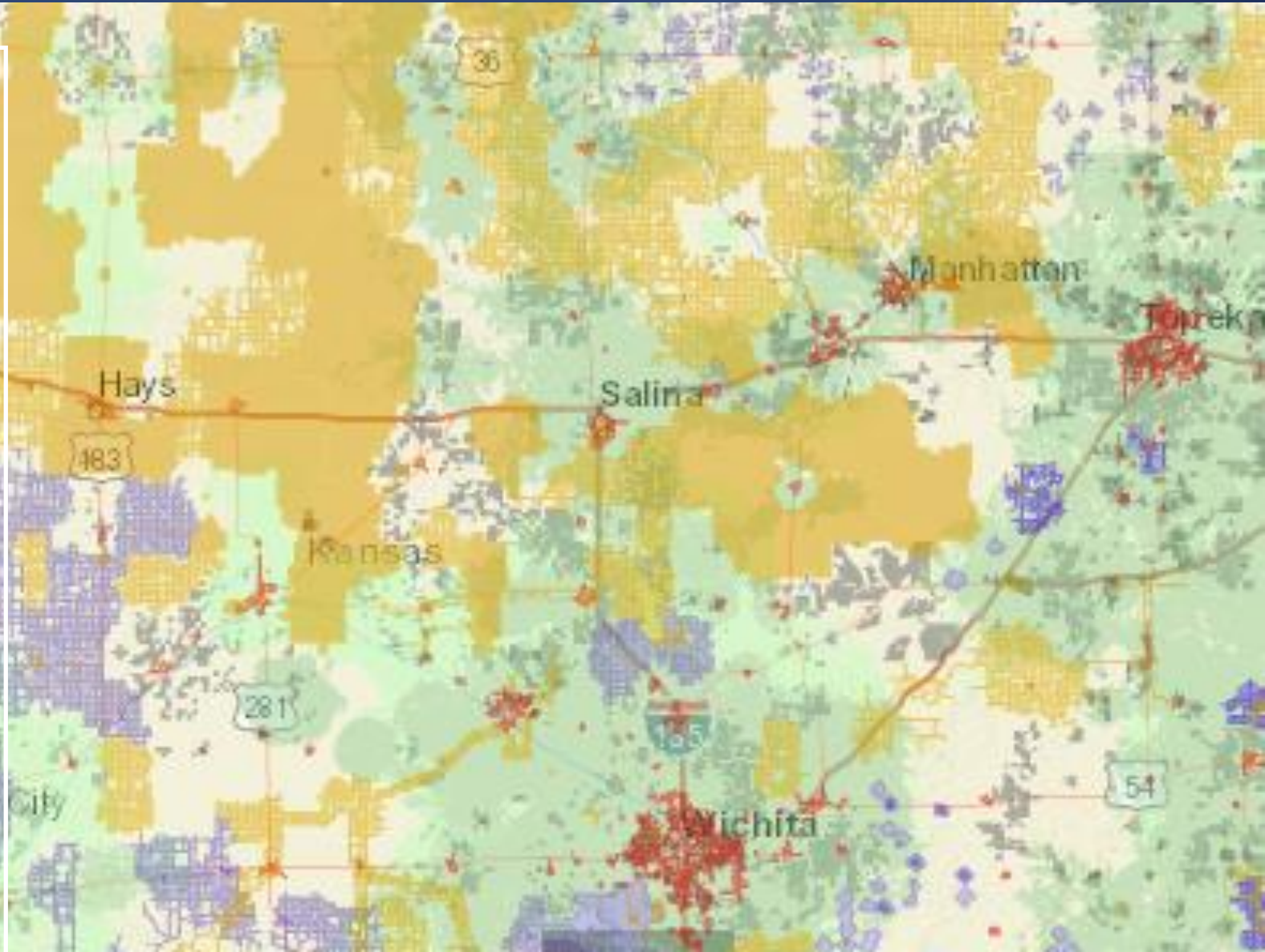
- 2018: Broadband Task Force formed
- 2019: Broadband Map Produced
- 2020: Task Force Recommendations released
- Governor includes first grant program in IKE
- Legislature passes and Governor signs
- IKE and grant program into law



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## Broadband Grant Program

- Includes a 50% cost-share requirement.
- Open to any public, private, non-profits.
- Technology neutral but must be scalable to higher speeds.
- Ability to demonstrate impact.
- Needs to demonstrate need & community support.



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## Broadband & COVID-19

- SPARK Task Force identified need for broadband in these areas:
  - Increasing access to telehealth and telemedicine
  - Increasing broadband access for rural and underserved areas
  - Increasing access for continuous, distanced learning
  - Affordable, quality broadband for every Kansan
- \$60 million proposal is waiting for State Finance Council Approval.
  - \$50 million for broadband infrastructure targeted to address the public health emergency.
  - \$10 million for Provider Partnership.
- This is on top of \$400 million for local communities in Round 1 that can invest those dollars into local connectivity projects.



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## Looking Forward

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- Working Together Toward Solutions
- Impacts of COVID-19 on Priorities
- 2021 and Beyond

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## Thank You

- Survey: Anything else you want the Office of Rural Prosperity or Lt. Governor to know about your community?
- Our Tomorrow's Story Bank
- 2019 ORP Report



RuralKanProsper.KS.gov



LtGovRogers



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