

# LISTENING → ACTION

## FOR SOUTHWEST KANSAS

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

-Lt.Governor Lynn Rogers



2020 Virtual Listening Tour  
August 25, 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



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#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, Deputy Director
  - Joshua McGinn, Policy Analyst
- Community Development Division
  - The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
  - 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

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# Our Tomorrows – Stories from Kansans

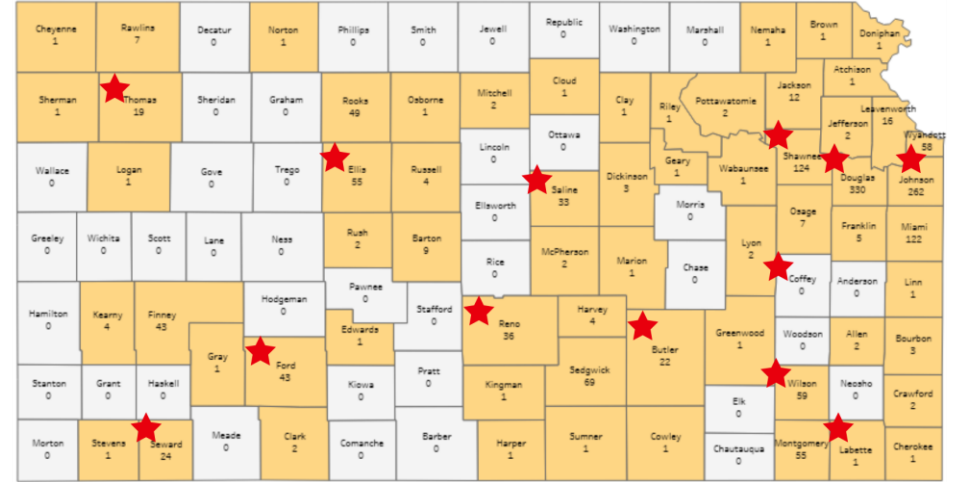
## Rural Kansans Experience

- Acceptance, hesitance, confusion, and frustration in response to COVID-19
- COVID-19 Impact on employment, healthcare, technology, financial struggles

## Understand Impact

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

<https://ourtomorro.ws/ORP>



(Map updated on 08/19/2020)

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

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

- Child Care Action Labs – mini grants
- Hero Relief Program – Dept. of Children & Families
- KCCTF Website and weekly email updates

**Early Childhood Care  
and Education**

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# 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

## ➤ **Preschool Development Birth – Five Renewal Grant**

- Three year renewal \$8.9 million per year
- Will build on Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan

## ➤ **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**



## *Kansas Housing: Overview*

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

**What we do:** We help Kansans access the safe, affordable housing they need and the dignity they deserve.

**Who we work with:** 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



# Community Solutions

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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.
- The [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\)](#) is an anti-poverty program that serves low-income Kansans through eight local entities funded by KHRC.
- [TBRA](#) helps income-eligible households with rent and security and/or utility deposit payments. Assistance is distributed via a statewide network of grantees.
- The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) provides free upgrades for qualifying households to improve energy efficiency and lower utility bills.



# *Housing Development*

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- **Financed through various programs:**
  - [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#)
  - [HOME Rental Development](#)
  - [National Housing Trust Fund](#)
- 27 housing properties throughout Southwest Kansas have been developed with LIHTC, HOME, and/or NHTF funding.
- 2021 draft [Qualified Allocation Plan](#), which guides how tax credits are awarded, will give additional points to Hamilton, Kearny, Hodgeman, Pawnee, Stanton, Haskell, Gray, Edwards, Kiowa, Morton, Stevens, Seward, Meade, Clark, and Comanche counties to encourage development in these areas.



## *Housing Development*

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**Grant Prairie Townhomes II:** 10-unit new construction for seniors in Ulysses, placed in service December 2016.

## *Housing Development*

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**The Reserves at Prairie Ridge III:** 32-unit new construction family housing in Garden City, placed in service August 2016.



## *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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**Dodge City:** Has developed 14 MIH units, including a single-family home and a duplex built in partnership with Dodge City Community College building trades students.

# Compliance & Homeownership

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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!

- 3 Southwest Kansas closings between 2017-19
  - One each in Finney, Haskell, Stevens counties

Compliance conducted by KHRC's Contract Administration and Housing Compliance Divisions

- 37 properties monitored in Southwest Kansas



## *SW Kansas Case Study: Dodge City*

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### **Best practices:**

- Ongoing needs assessment: Identify resources, partners, needs
- Formed partnerships with local leaders, tax entities
- Participated in HIAC process with Kansas Housing, Department of Commerce
- Offered local housing incentives
- Established nonprofit housing association and appointed community housing director
- Pursued funding through MIH program, USDA Rural Development
- 456 new housing units developed in the past decade!



## *Resources and Action Steps*

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### **Southwest Kansas service providers:**

- [Crisis Center of Dodge City](#): Tammie West, 620.225.6987
- [Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas](#): Marci Smith, 620.227.1588
- Family Crisis Services: Justin Findlay, 620.275.2018
- [Stepping Stone Shelter](#): Bambi Fulton, 620.626.6024
- [Harvest America](#): Terri Bookless, 913.342.2121
- [Mid-Kansas Community Action Program](#)

### **Moderate Income Housing:**

- Applications due **September 28, 2020**
- Contact: Alissa Ice, [aice@kshousingcorp.org](mailto:aice@kshousingcorp.org)

**Reach out to local city / county leaders.**

### **Stay in the loop!**

- 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



## 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
- New city application opens this fall





## 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

2 projects totaling nearly \$1.02M awarded in South West

## SOUTH WEST CDBG PROJECT DETAILS

Clark County, Ashland	\$421,303
Pawnee County, Larned	\$598,497

Water System Improvements
Water Distribution Improvements

**Total CDBG: \$1,019,800**



## 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

## SOUTH WEST CSP AWARDEES

### **High Plains Theatre - Hugoton, Stevens County**

The re-opening of the former Showplace Theater as the High Plains Theatre. Renovations to the front entrance, cinema area, restrooms and concession area.

### **Rural and Frontier Family/Caregiver Telecommunication Connections - Garden City, Finney County**

Fully developing both physical and virtual service delivery capabilities across RCDC's 19-counties. The project will facilitate a wide range of Pediatric Telehealth/Education connections for young families and caregivers/provider.

### **Finney County Childcare & Early Learning Network - Garden City, Finney County**

Renovating a former nursing facility into a childcare center.

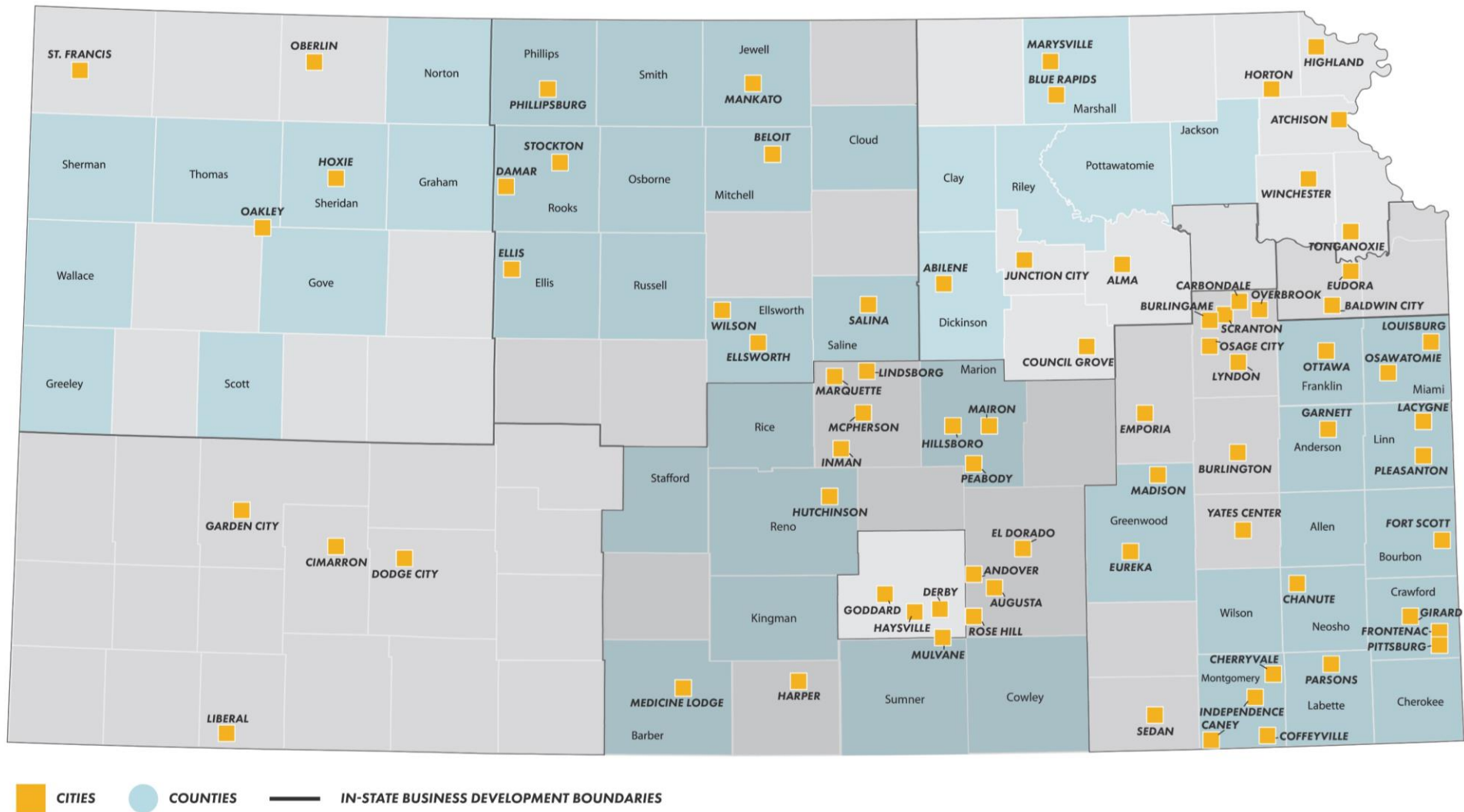


## CDBG COVID Response

- \$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 Award Grantees



THANK YOU

**Kayla Savage**

Director

[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 Southwest KS

### BRIDGES

- Meade County
- Comanche County

### COST SHARE

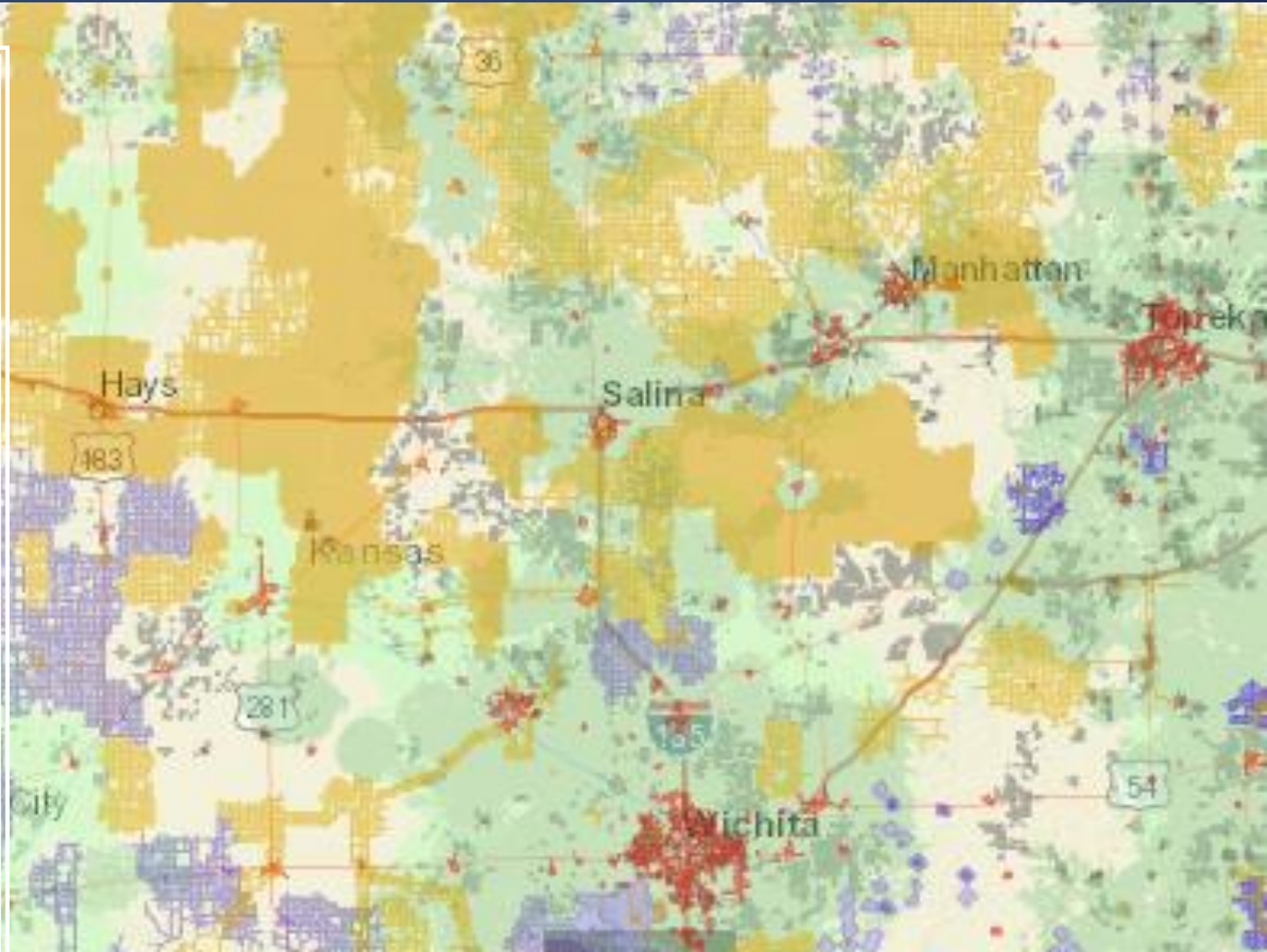
- Clark County
- Comanche County
- Ford County
- Gray County
- Greeley County
- Lane County
- Seward County



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## 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

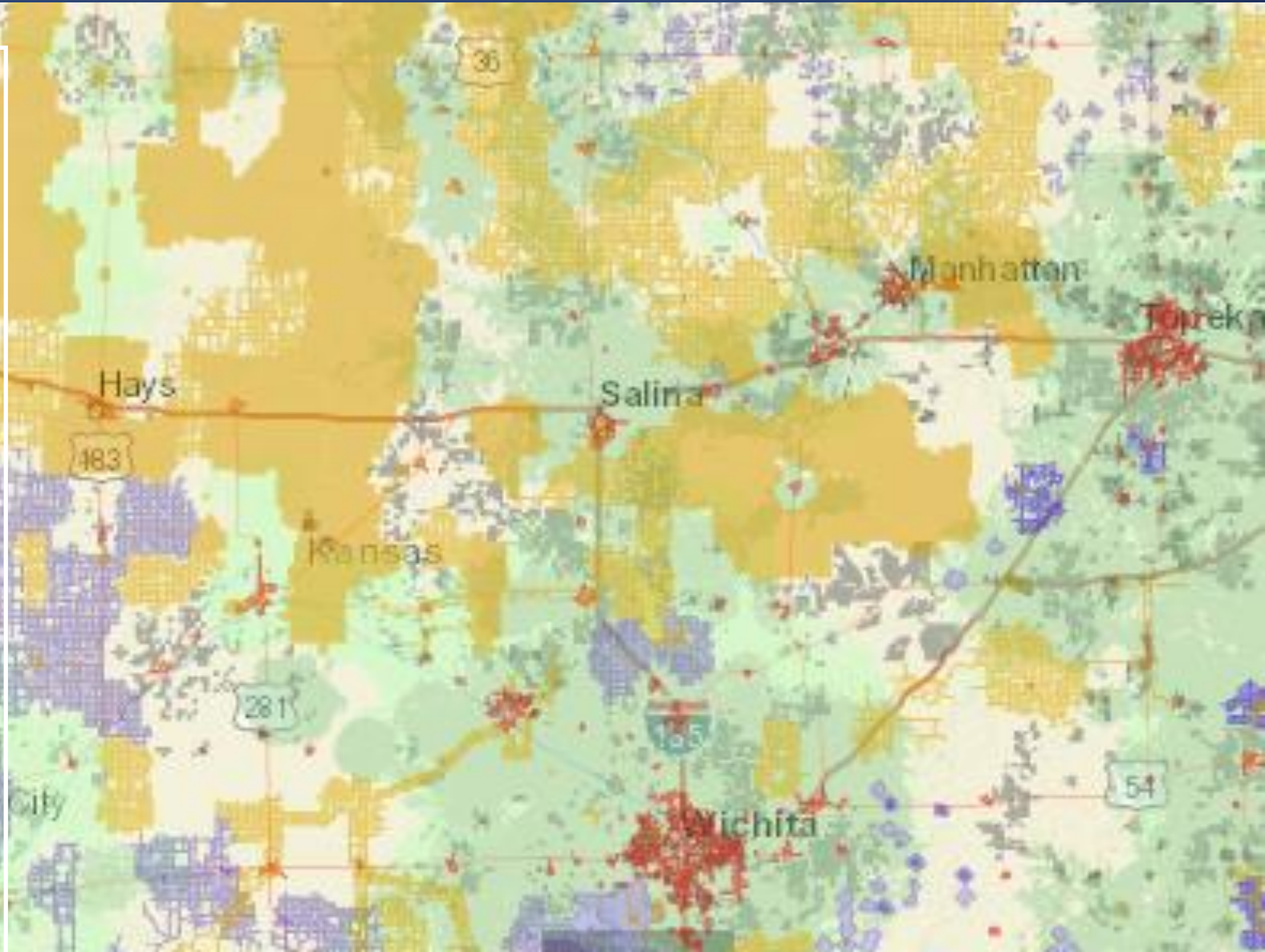




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## Broadband Grant Program

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



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## Broadband & COVID-19

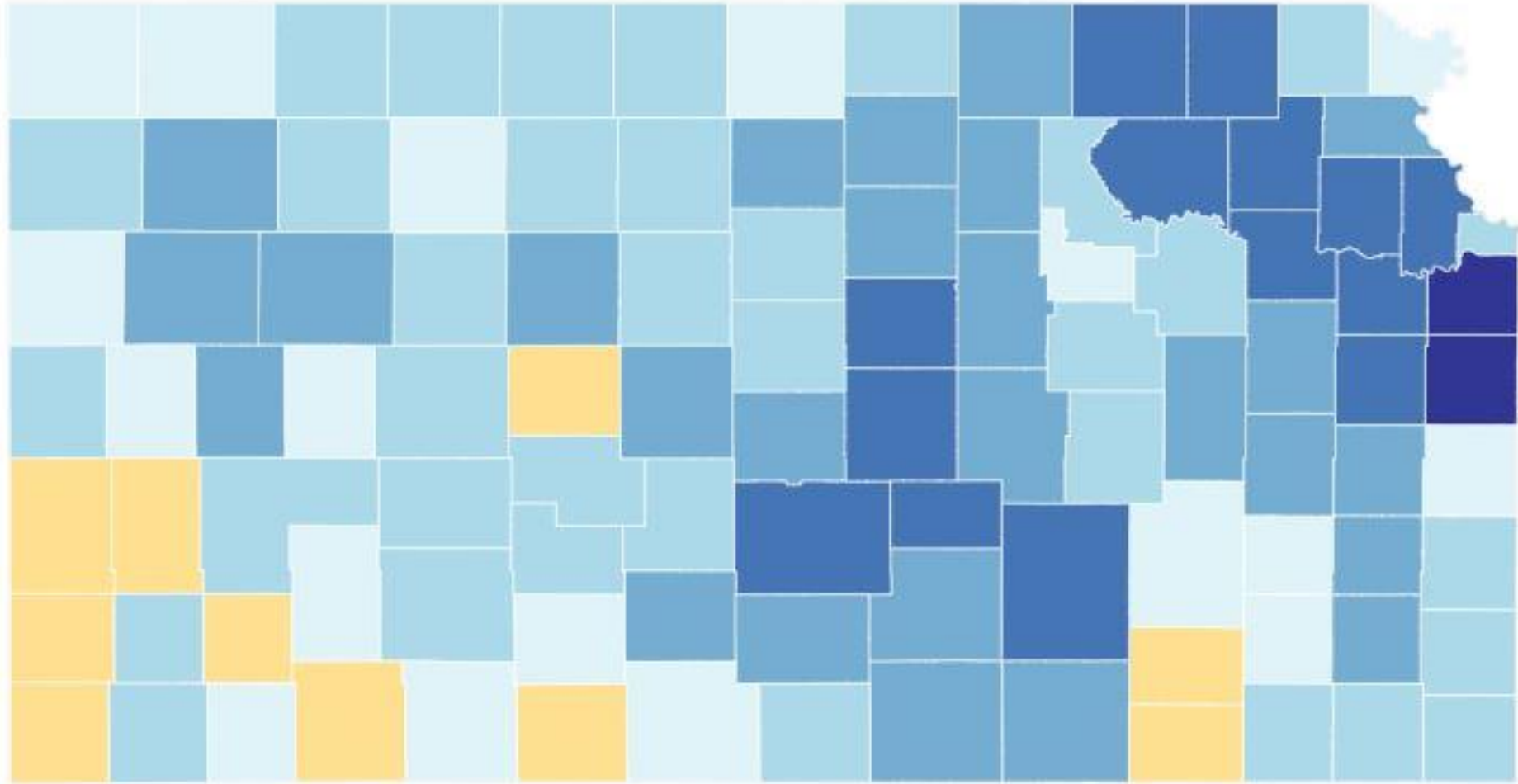
- SPARK Task Force identified need for broadband in these areas:
  - Increasing access to telehealth and telemedicine
  - Increasing broadband access for rural and underserved areas
  - Increasing access for continuous, distanced learning
  - Affordable, quality broadband for every Kansan
- \$60 million 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

- Working Together Toward Solutions
- Impacts of COVID-19 on Priorities
- 2020 Census
- 2021 and Beyond

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Self-Response Rate (%)



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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



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