The Kansas Office of Broadband Development was established in 2020 to help ensure that all Kansans have the opportunity to live, work, learn and compete in a global economy by improving universal access to quality, affordable and reliable broadband. The Office is housed within the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. As the state's lead economic development agency, Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas.

2020/2021 BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT: KWIKOM – WILSON/NEOSHO COUNTY

Total Project Investment: $663,970
Award Amount: $331,985
In Partnership With: KWIKOM COMMUNICATIONS

ABOUT THE NEED

Fixed wireless connectivity is a critical challenge for citizens in Wilson County. With assistance from the Broadband Acceleration Grant, KwiKom plans to bring broadband expansion to 829 households, 42 businesses, three educational institutions, three municipal organizations as well as two healthcare organizations in the Wilson County communities of Thayer, Fredonia and Altoona. KwiKom will construct a reliable state-of-the-art gigabit fiber to the home and business network in these communities—bringing reliable broadband access to these communities where fixed wireless is not an option. KwiKom has recognized through the recent events how important broadband is to these communities for education, work, and healthcare as well as where it lacks today. Feedback from these communities has shown that their only options are insufficient and very unreliable. KwiKom is committed to expanding broadband to offer connectivity to Wilson and Neosho County.

ABOUT KWIKOM

KwiKom Communications is a Kansas corporation founded in 2010 as a merger between two companies who began in 2004 with the mission of providing excellent service and support. KwiKom provides internet, telephone, and television services, with a growing fixed wireless network area of 22,000 square miles including over 45 counties in Kansas and Missouri. In addition to fixed wireless, since 2017, KwiKom has been expanding gigabit fiber optic network services to the home and business in communities across Kansas.