

# 2020/2021 BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT:

SKT INC. – AN AREA OF RURAL SEDGWICK COUNTY

Total Project Investment:

**\$125,232**

Award Amount:

**\$62,616**

In Partnership With:



## ABOUT THE NEED

The need for reliable access to online services has never been greater. With the Kansas Broadband Acceleration Grant, SKT is significantly expand access to these vital resources and services by providing reliable high-speed internet as well as expansion to 23 households and one business. Residents are struggling without the necessary bandwidth, particularly with the increased need during the pandemic. SKT will offer fiber-to-the-premise, allowing for speeds of up to 1 Gbps download and 100 Mbps upload. This would easily support all their devices and online activities. One homeowner in the service area said she has been working remotely for a year and her son has attended school online during that time. That has posed serious challenges for them. Just to get by, they are barely piecing together enough bandwidth with multiple hotspots, costing them more than \$300 per month. In addition, SKT would offer service to Wheel of Fortune Ranch. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is an animal rescue that also has a mission to serve children with special needs and to provide educational opportunities as a partner of the local public-school system. The superior fiber technology provided by SKT offers greater bandwidth capabilities and the most reliable connection to meet the needs of these residents and businesses now and into the future.



Sedgwick and Sumner County, Rural Haysville and Rural Peck

## ABOUT SKT

For three generations, SKT has been locally family-owned and operated, serving rural Kansans for 80 years. Headquartered in Clearwater, Kan., Southern Kansas Telephone Company, Inc. (SKT) provides high-speed internet service along with landline phone, and security at more than 10,000 customer service touchpoints across seven counties in south central and southeast Kansas.

**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.