



# SEKRPC Planning Commission Functions

*Working with your  
Regional Planning Commission*

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# Background

- The Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC), located in Chanute, KS, was established in 1969 and recognized by the State of Kansas in 1971 to provide technical and professional assistance to the 12-county region. The SEKRPC was then recognized in 1972 as the Southeast Kansas Economic Development district by the Economic Development administration. We work closely with Kansas Department Of Commerce, Economic Development Association, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Historic Preservation, Small Business Development Center and SEK, Inc. in developing projects in our member communities.
- SEKRPC works with the twelve counties in the district and with the Kansas Department of Commerce to facilitate the use of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) as a tool for establishing, promoting Economic Development activities for the region.
- In early 2021 the SEKRPC pulled together multiple Economic Developers, Community Development Professional, City Administrators, etc. to form the Southeast Kansas Economic Development Coalition (SEKEDC).

# Grant Applications and Administration

- Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) provide assistance in many areas including grant applications and administration. RPC's successfully write and administered grants are proficient in the areas of project financial management, labor standards compliance, procurement, monitoring, preparation of quarterly progress reports, requests for funds, grant close-out, and other activities deemed necessary for successful community improvement grant administration.
- A multitude of programs and projects are initiated each year at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. These programs have specific goals which usually interfere with one another. RPC's create the needed venue and framework to coordinate these programs and goals into a congruent whole and supporting the goals and objectives of the region. This coordination is needed to integrate various federal, state, regional, and local plans, and to improve the effectiveness, mutual reinforcement, and synergy among various efforts.

# Business and Economic Development Activities

- RPC's also offer assistance with Business and Economic Development activities, such as: aiding in obtaining available funding, working with a network of economic development specialists, development of industrial and economic development proposals, working with development organizations in preparing communities for future economic development.

# Revolving Loan Funds

- RPC's traditionally offer revolving loan program to small businesses in their region to assist in the effort of attracting new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses.

# Economic Development District (EDD)

- (EDDs) are multi-jurisdictional entities, commonly composed of multiple counties and in certain cases even cross-state borders. They help lead the locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning process that leverages the involvement of the public, private and non-profit sectors to establish a strategic blueprint (i.e., an economic development roadmap) for regional collaboration.
- The strategic blueprint, known as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a “regionally-owned” planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. It provides a coordinating mechanism for individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about the economic direction of their region.

# EDA Opportunities

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and have opportunities to help community organizations access EDA resources to build strategies to boost economic development in rural America.

# EDA Opportunities (cont)

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**Planning and  
Technical Assistance**

- Local Technical Assistance
- Research Assistance

# EDA Opportunities (cont)

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**Infrastructure and  
Broadband Expansion**



**Entrepreneurship and  
Business Assistance**



**Workforce Development  
and Livability**

- **Economic Adjustment Assistance**
- **Public Works**