

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT KANSANS

PUBLIC PROPOSALS- SECOND ROUND



Application Title: Liberal Area Coalition for Families - Digital Citizenship

Organization Name: Liberal Area Coalition for Families

Project Executive Summary

Goals of the proposed project:

The Liberal Area Coalition for Families plans to launch a comprehensive digital citizenship program that fosters digital literacy and essential online skills across three counties in Southwest Kansas: Haskell, Seward, and Stevens. Through training led by a dedicated digital navigator and subject-matter experts, we will provide bilingual (English and Spanish) instruction to address the specific needs of these communities. Key services include basic device support, guidance on navigating online public services, and education on widely used software applications. Additionally, the program will empower parents with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure their children's online safety by covering topics such as social media monitoring, safe online searches, and general internet safety practices. To facilitate access, we will establish community hubs in each county, offering free, reliable internet and personalized support from the digital navigator.

These counties are economically disadvantaged, with significant portions of their populations living below federal poverty guidelines, often in single-parent households with high minority representation. The overarching objective is to establish a community-wide commitment to digital responsibility and availability. By enhancing parents' digital awareness of their children's online activities, we aim to improve family communication and build a more connected, resilient community.

To ensure program sustainability, the digital navigator will also train local service partners to continue delivering these services beyond the grant period.

Needs addressed by the proposed project:

Rural Kansas demographics is a migrant population. Southwest Kansas lacks a strong digital community. This project will help Southwest Kansas residents become more technology literate and learn to navigate the digital world. The digital navigator of this program will teach individuals how to have positive and productive digital communication.

In turn, this will increase the efficiency of family management. Parents and students will be able to access learning resources and educational opportunities that can improve skills and knowledge needed for school and the workforce. Teaching parents how to access the applications that schools use to communicate grades and school activities will increase family communication and family involvement within the school districts and communities.

This will also aid families who need to access city and county services. For example, in Seward County, all applications for county services, such as marriage licenses, are only available online and only in English. The digital navigator can assist families with the applications. LACF can also work to lobby the county governments to make all on-line applications also available in Spanish considering Hispanics are the largest population group in the county. In addition, digital literacy taught in rural Kansas will open up job opportunities. If needed, workers will have the option of applying via the internet and working remotely.

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT KANSANS

PUBLIC PROPOSALS- SECOND ROUND



Service partners involved in the proposed project:

Our partners are Seward County Community College, Wild West Extension (KSRE), Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, community libraries, school districts 480, 210, 209, 374, 507, and Haskell and Stevens County Coalitions.

Community and/or stakeholders involved in the proposed project:

Community stakeholders include: USD 480, 210, 209, 374, 507, Wild West Extension (KSRE), youth serving organizations, Haskell Rotary, Stevens Rotary, Liberal Lions Club, Liberal Area Chamber of Commerce, local banks.

Intended impact of the proposed project:

Digital literacy enables individuals to take charge of their personal and professional development. For migrant communities, this means accessing information that can aid in finding jobs, completing educational opportunities, and staying informed about important civic matters. Digital skills give access to essential services such as healthcare, government resources, and financial services online, which is particularly impactful in rural areas where physical access to services may be limited. By enhancing digital knowledge, students and parents can benefit. Students can leverage online resources to support their studies, while parents can better understand educational tools and processes, participate in their children's education, and gain insights into digital safety. Teaching individuals to think critically about the information they encounter online helps combat misinformation and promotes informed decision-making. This is especially relevant in a world where online content is vast and not always reliable. Digital literacy programs should emphasize not only the use of technology but also how to communicate respectfully and effectively in the digital space. This encompasses understanding online etiquette, protecting digital identity, and ensuring positive interactions in both personal and professional contexts. With digital skills, migrant rural communities can connect with wider networks for support, cultural exchange, and collaboration. This reduces social isolation and fosters a sense of belonging and active community participation. Investing in digital literacy programs for these communities is an investment in their resilience, self-sufficiency, and overall development. The ripple effect of such training extends beyond the individual to the broader community, fostering a cycle of growth and development.

Total amount requested in DOCK 2.0 funding:

\$250,000.00 USD



DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT KANSANS

PUBLIC PROPOSALS- SECOND ROUND

