



KANSAS
COMMERCE

COMMUNITY CENTER

BLUEPRINT TO BUILD FAQ

Program Information

Is this program separate from the other Community Centers, Senior Centers, etc. program, or in place of it?

The Blueprint to Build program is new and distinct from the previous Community Centers, Senior Centers, Storm Shelters, Park & Libraries program from 2024. Where the previous program configuration allowed new construction and rehabilitation of community facilities, Blueprint to Build focuses solely on the designs from Hutton tailored for new construction. Rehabilitation of existing community facilities are permitted in our Community Facilities: Small or Large Grants categories, which applicants may pursue depending on total project scope and cost, but for all new construction of community centers, we are encouraging application to the Blueprint to Build program.

Does Commerce anticipate this program only being available this year?

Currently we are hoping to exhaust funding for this program this fiscal year, but there is a possibility that blueprints may be available for use in future years.

Eligibility

Are county applications eligible?

All incorporated cities or counties in Kansas that do not receive an annual CDBG entitlement allocation from HUD are eligible to apply to the Kansas CDBG program. The following communities receive federal entitlements and are ineligible to participate in the state CDBG program: Kansas City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Overland Park, Topeka, Wichita, and all of Johnson County.

Are northwest counties or cities likely to be eligible?

All regions from Kansas are eligible to apply, depending on service area and LMI qualification.

Riley County is eligible, but Manhattan isn't, correct?

Correct. Manhattan already receives its own allocation from HUD, making it an entitlement community. Non-entitlement communities within Riley County are qualified to participate in the Blueprint to Build program depending on service area.

Building Qualifications

How far away from "downtown" is allowed? A community might not have enough space downtown per se; however, they might have a couple potential locations on the edge of town near other amenities like a hospital and/or 4H grounds—all within a mile as the community is barely a mile wide on both directions.

Depending on available facilities, CDBG is open to discussions of what is an acceptable location for such facilities. Ideally, we want these in traditional downtown areas, but with the unique layouts of small cities across Kansas, this availability may differ and can be part of the conversation.

Does an uncompleted building currently under construction qualify?

This program is for new construction only. Uncompleted currently under construction buildings do not qualify for this program.

Is the demolition of an existing building eligible?

Demolition of an existing facility is eligible under CDBG regulations, but CDBG funds for this program are for new construction, and demolition should be taken care of on the local side. CDBG does not want to permanently relocate individuals either, so please do not incur demolition of this variety and keep demolition in mind for vacated or currently unused structures only. All acquisition must follow URA.

Do you have more specific measurements for room sizes, etc. on the current designs?

Measurements are included in the blueprints provided by Hutton. If requested, specific room sizes can be provided.

Features**Is there an option for storm shelters in these designs?**

Storm shelters are included in all three designs and the hardened spaces are located in the restrooms.

Are solar panels included in each design?

Yes, solar panels are included as part of the estimated building cost to promote energy efficiency and long-term cost savings. They ensure the buildings are modern, sustainable, and capable of saving hundreds of thousands of dollars over time.

Can the medium design with a gym use the footprint but not create a gym? Can it be an expanded event space instead?

There are options to configure spaces for different uses, but the mechanics of each space are fixed. Taping could be permanent or temporary depending on intended use. The HVAC system for the gymnasium is part of the blueprints and designed for gymnasium use and would require a lot more discussion but may be consideration for applicants. For example, if a community uses the gymnasium as an event center or theater space, they may not want the high, exposed ceilings, or may want to address different lighting and AV features.

Are the gyms designed to meet KSHSAA guidelines to host events?

Yes, all areas for events and pertaining to sports competition are designed with KSHSAA guidelines in mind.

Would indoor turf fields be possible within the design?

It is an option, but not one that is part of the original blueprints and would require modification and discussion with architects due to adding a recess to the slab. If desired, this modification must be done in coordination with the site and structural aspects of design such as ADA compliance and would likely become a permanent installation.

Modifications**Can modifications be made to the designs?**

Minor modifications to the approved design are permitted but must be funded by the applicant and approved by Commerce on a case-by-case basis. Major modifications are not allowed. Facilities can be designed to accommodate future additions, but these features cannot be included in the initial grant application. For example, a pool slide may be planned for future installation after project completion.

Is there any flexibility in choice of structural building materials?

There is some flexibility for the project regarding building materials, but the current blueprints and cost estimates are provided for conventional steel materials. Other considerations for construction materials are dependent on building codes.

What would it look like to add an addition to the building post-construction?

An urban downtown setting that allows for future expansion beyond the CDBG project is encouraged. This opportunity can be explored in Phase 2, when the community selects from the available blueprint designs.

Inspection

Will Hutton do any inspection on the building during or at the end of construction to confer adherence?

Hutton will be available as consultants and will be involved in completion of the design documents, and can inspect on request, to approve of final designs, but ultimately the architect of record or engineer of record will be the entity reporting for construction inspections during the project.

Do communities still need to hire an architect to inspect, do pay apps, etc.?

Yes, an architect of record or engineer of record needs to be procured. Hutton is only providing designs for these buildings.

If a community has an architect on board to modify and to perform construction inspection, are the files easily transferable them or will they need to redraw?

All bridging documents are 50% complete by Hutton and they will transfer these designs and specifications to the architect of record via secure file transfer post-award.

More Questions?

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