PROJECT BRIEF

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

ProjectName: Establishing KS as a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

Grant Program: BASE 1.0

Project Date: Jun 2022 - Jun 2025

Project Summary

BASEfunds supported EnterpriseKC in delivering the foundational components of a statewide innovation and cybersecurity infrastructure for Kansas. The initiative created the Heartland Cyber Range, the EKC DataSphere, and the TalentSphere, integrated digital platforms that strengthen cybersecurity readiness, expand talent development, and enhance data-driven decision making. Together, these assets position Kansas as a national model for collaborative innovation.

Location

Kansas City, Kansas

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Build the digital and talent infrastructure required to develop a world-class, job-ready cybersecurity workforce for Kansas.

Goal 2: Expand and diversify the cybersecurity talent pipeline by engaging students, educators, and employers across all regions and education levels.

Goal 3: Strengthen statewide cybersecurity readiness through learning environments and data systems that connect talent, training, and enterprise needs.

Objective: Deploy educational tools and virtual training environments through the Heartland Cyber Range and TalentSphere platforms.
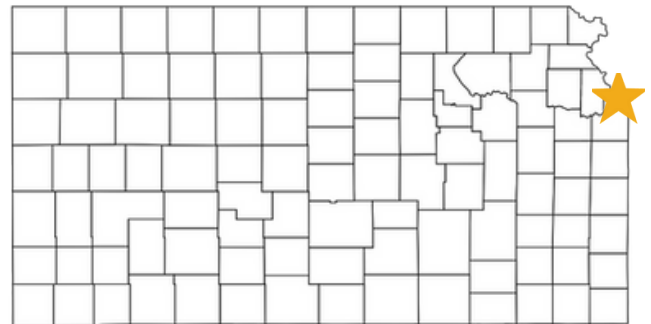
Objective 2: Identify and support individuals with cybersecurity aptitude, including students, veterans, and displaced workers.

Objective 3: Engage underrepresented groups and rural communities through accessible, no-cost learning resources.

Objective 4: Complete planning for a secure innovation campus to enable future collaborative research and testing facilities.

Budget Overview

- **Grant:** $7,499,773
- **Match:** $2,499,923
- **Total Budget:** $9,999,696

Expense categories:

- Research: $1,322,647.01
- Project Management: $1,322,647.01
- Software Development: $3,913,828.03
- Product Implementation: $17,437.78
- Equipment: $601,572.71
- Miscellaneous: $31,596.87
- Administration: $290,043.59

Activities and Timeline

- **Q3 2022 – Q4 2024:** Design and deploy HeartlandCyberRange:
- **Q2 2022 – Q4 2024:** Develop and launch EKC Datasphere
- **Q3 2022 – Q4 2024:** Design and pilot the TalentSphere platform.
- **Q3 2022 – Q2 2024:** Conduct statewide engagement and listening sessions
- **Q3 2023 – Q2 2024:** Develop Innovation Campus and Secure Infrastructure prospectus
- **Q3 2024 – Q2 2025:** Deliver Sustainability framework

Sustainability

The statewide digital infrastructure created will continue to serve as the foundation for cybersecurity education, workforce development, and enterprise support in Kansas. The Heartland Cyber Range remains freely accessible to all K–12 and higher-education institutions statewide, providing an estimated $5.4 million of annual in-kind value, based on comparable commercial training platforms costing $15–$20 per student per month.

Outcomes

- Established the Heartland Cyber Range with 89 modules and free statewide access for K–12, higher education, and workforce learners.
- Developed the EKC Datasphere and TalentSphere platforms, providing real-time data and tools to support talent and enterprise growth.
- Engaged education, government, and industry partners across every region of the state, reaching more than 200 stakeholders directly.
- Created the framework for continued workforce training, research collaboration, and statewide cyber readiness under future phases.

Target Population

Kansas students(K–12, community college, and university), educators, veterans, displaced workers, underrepresented populations, and Kansas companies engaged in innovation and cybersecurity-related fields.

Grantee Information

EnterpriseKC is a nonprofit,think-and-do thank that serves as a collaborative platform for advancing enterprise growth and high-value job creation across Kansas's targeted industry clusters. Its work connects systems of talent, research, and industry to strengthen the state's innovation economy and drive long-term competitiveness.

Contact Information

Forany queriesoradditionalinformation, please contact

Project Owner: Jay Konomos

+816-215-1124   jkonomos@enterprise-kc.com

Kansas
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
Department of Commerce