

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Radio Kansas KPB ARPA Funding

Grant Program: Legislative

Project Date: Nov 2023 - Sep 2025

Project Summary

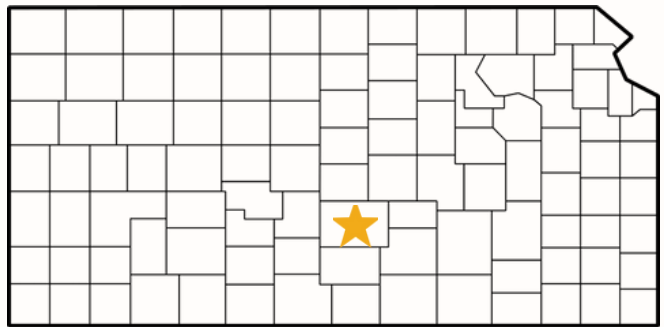
RadioKansas, a three-station public radio network operated by Hutchinson Community College, provides vital news, cultural programming, and emergency communications across rural and urban communities in central Kansas. However, the network's core infrastructure—transmitters, antennas, studio systems, and tower lighting—has reached end-of-life after decades of service. Post-COVID economic shifts and rising operational costs have further strained the station's ability to replace failing equipment, threatening FCC/FAA compliance and risking broadcast interruptions. Without external support, the station cannot sustain reliable service to the region.

Goals and Objectives

- **Goal:** Ensure uninterrupted public broadcasting service across all coverage areas.
- **Goal 2:** Reduce long-term operational costs through modern, energy-efficient infrastructure.
- **Goal 3:** Strengthen emergency communications and equitable access to cultural programming for rural residents.
- **Objective:** Replace aging FM/HD transmitters to cut electricity usage by 40% and restore full HD multicast channels.
- **Objective 2:** Install FAA-compliant LED tower lighting to eliminate recurring tower painting costs.
- **Objective 3:** Replace outdated antennas, studio consoles, acoustical treatments, and remote-control systems for greater reliability and network-wide interoperability.
- **Objective 4:** Upgrade studio-transmitter links to ensure equal audio quality across rural and urban receivers.

Location

Hutchinson, Kansas



Budget Overview

- Grant: \$981,000
- Expense categories:**
- Equipment: \$981,000

Activities and Timeline

- Transmitters contract finalized: Q4 2023
- Transmitters installed: Q1 2024
- Tower lights installed: Q4 2024
- Antennas replaced: Q2 2025

Sustainability

This project prioritizes one-time capital investments that permanently reduce recurring operational costs through high-efficiency transmitters, LED lighting, and modernized equipment.

Target Population

Radio Kansas serves a diverse rural-urban listening base across central and south-central Kansas, including low-income, aging, and underserved residents who rely on free, over-the-air access to news, public safety information, and cultural programming unavailable through commercial media.

Outcomes

- Continued access to trusted news, classical music, folk, jazz, and emergency alerts for thousands of Kansans.
- A 40% reduction in energy consumption for transmission and cooling operations.
- Elimination of approximately \$10,000 annually in tower painting expenses.
- Restored redundancy and compliance across all transmission sites, reducing service downtime risk.
- Improved emergency alert routing for community specific notifications.

Grantee Information


Radio Kansas is a public broadcasting network licensed to Hutchinson Community College. With decades of experience operating multi-site transmission infrastructure, the organization delivers trusted news, cultural programming, and emergency communications across rural and urban regions of central Kansas. Supported by loyal listener contributions and managed by seasoned engineering and broadcast staff, Radio Kansas maintains a strong record of service and operational stewardship.

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

Ken Baker, General Manager

 1-800-723-4657

 kbaker@radiokansas.com

