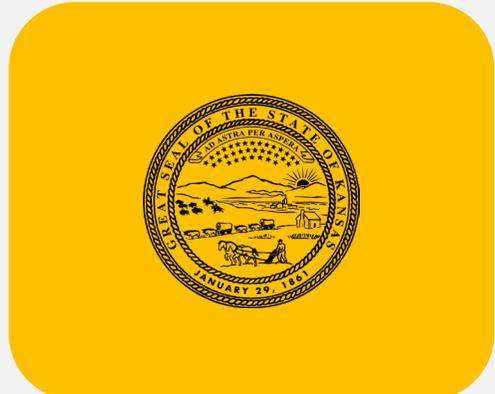




KANSAS COMMERCE



Sara Bloom

Quality Places Director

KANSAS

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INTRODUCTION TO KCE KICKSTART AND IMPACT GRANTS



TODAY'S AGENDA

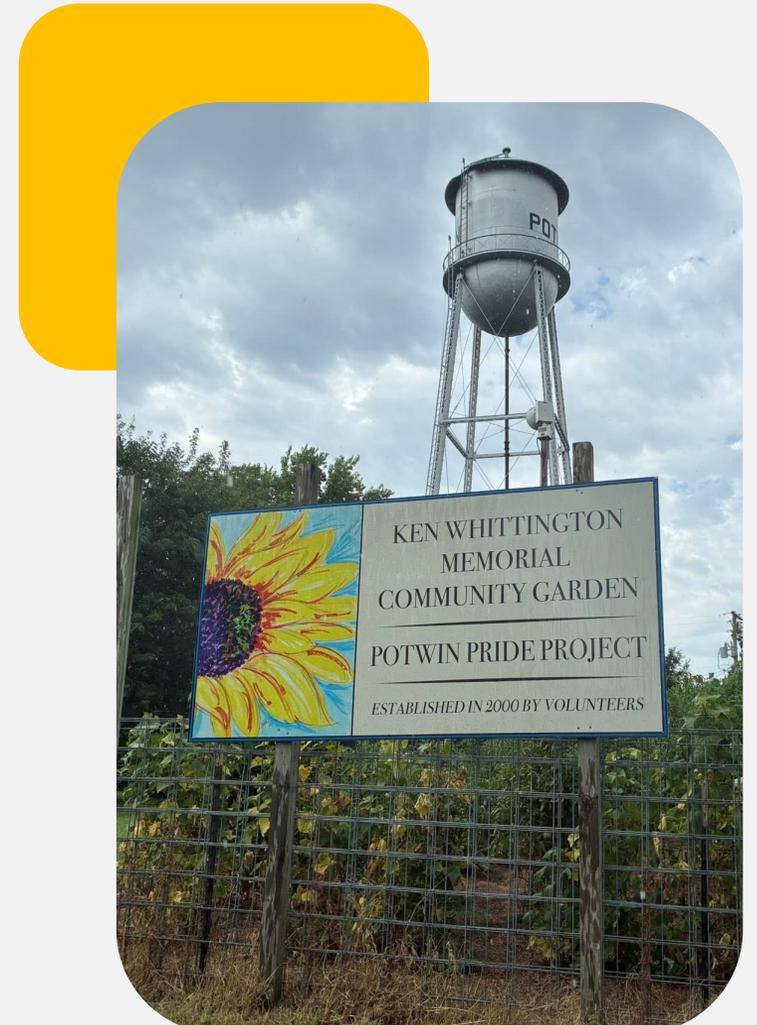
- Introduction to the KCE Grants
- Funding
- Timelines
- How to Apply and Site Walkthrough
- Let's Talk



KANSAS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (KCE)

On July 1, 2025, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced that the Kansas Department of Commerce officially assumed administration of the KCE program, formally Kansas PRIDE.

The program has long stood as a cornerstone of grassroots community development in the state of Kansas.



CURRENT ENROLLMENT

16 – Communities of Growth

10 – Communities of Action

33 – Communities of Excellence

Total – 59 Communities!



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE KCE GRANTS?

- Support locally driven projects that strengthen quality of place
- Empower volunteer-led community efforts
- Maintain momentum and invest in long-term community success



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any currently enrolled KCE Community that meets the tier requirements. All projects must occur in a registered KCE city.

Eligible entities:

- County or municipal governments
- Economic Development Organizations
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) non-profit organizations
- Community foundations



FISCAL AGENTS

Organizations that do not fall under one of the eligible entities are still eligible to apply with a contracted fiscal agent, provided that a Letter of Intent is submitted with the application.

A contracted fiscal agent is an eligible organization that has a formal, written agreement to sponsor the applicant, receive and manage grant funds on their behalf, and assume legal and financial responsibility for the grant.



INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

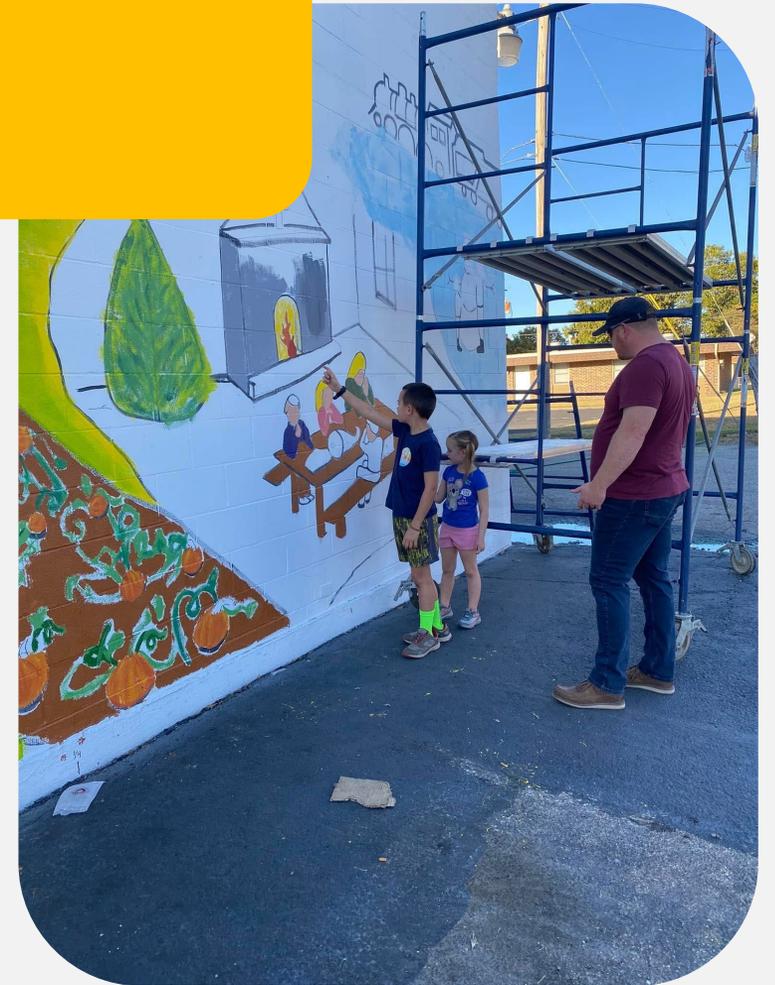
- Communities not currently enrolled in KCE
- Communities not in good standing or that do not meet the tier requirements for the grant being applied for
- Individuals
- For-profit businesses
- Private companies or corporations
- Political organizations or campaigns



TWO GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

KICKSTART GRANTS: Small, short-term, momentum-building projects
(All KCE communities eligible)

IMPACT GRANTS: Larger, long-term, transformational community investments
(Excellence communities only)





KICKSTART GRANTS



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KICKSTART GRANTS

- **\$40,000** is available each year
- Communities may apply for up to **\$5,000**
- Builds engagement, capacity, and community momentum, it KICKSTARTS excitement and action!
- 1:1 match
 - 100% of match can be in kind

Examples: city-wide cleanups, small beautification projects, community events

Communities of Growth are eligible for up to \$2,000

Communities of Action and Excellence are eligible for up to \$5,000



KICKSTART APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Rolling deadline – Applications are accepted and reviewed monthly until funds are fully awarded
- 15th of each month – Applications submitted are reviewed by the Kansas Commerce review team
- Award Notification:
Within 1 month of application submission



KICKSTART PROJECT TIMELINE

The KCE Kickstart Grant follows a seven-month timeline beginning upon grant approval, with defined implementation and reporting requirements.

Months 1 – 6: Project startup, implementation, and completion (must be completed within six months of approval)

Month 7: Final Report due by the end of Month 7





IMPACT GRANTS



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IMPACT GRANTS

- **\$30,000** is available each round
- Communities may apply for **\$5,000-\$15,000**
- Supports permanent or long-term improvements that enhance public spaces and community assets
- 1:1 match
 - At least 50% of match must be cash

Examples: public art, downtown enhancements, parks, community gardens

Communities of Excellence only



IMPACT APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Application Period: February 1 – March 31
- Submission Deadline: March 31, 2026
- Award Notification: May 1, 2026



IMPACT PROJECT TIMELINE

The KCE Impact Grant follows a 13-month timeline beginning upon grant approval, with defined implementation and reporting requirements.

- **Month 1-12:** Project startup, implementation, and completion (must be completed within 12 months of approval)
- **Month 6:** Midterm Report due
- **Month 13:** Final Report due





Let's Talk

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