KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PROJECT BRIEF

Project Name: Ogallala Commons Workforce & Leadership Development

Grant Program: DRAW

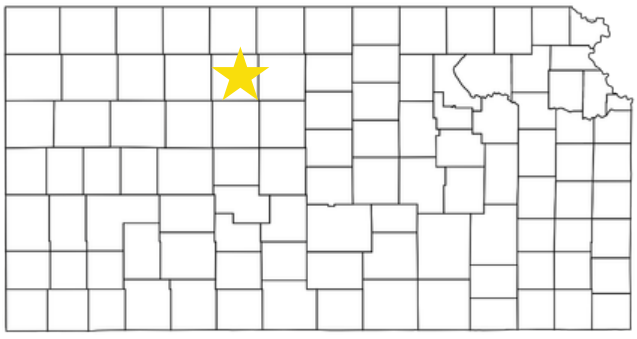
Project Date: Jun 20, 2023 - Jun 30, 2025

Project Summary

Through the KDC DRAW Grant, Ogallala Commons expanded its Rural and Remote program as an effort to empower people in rural communities in Kansas to gain the necessary skills and experience to pursue remote work or relocate to a rural community in Kansas and continue to work remotely. The Rural and Remote process is customized for everyone based upon their experience and unique needs. The program prepares applicants for three main types of jobs: Technical; Professional; and Support.

Location

Plainville, Kansas (High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer)



Grantee Information

Ogallala Commons is a nonprofit education and leadership organization focused on revitalizing communities across an 8-state region centered around the Ogallala Aquifer. Ogallala Commons was initiated in 1999 as a resource development project for reinvigorating the depleted commonwealth in the High Plains region of the Great Plains.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Strengthen rural workforce development through experiential learning.

Objective: Recruit and train new behavioral health professionals, including Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBAs).
Objective: Acquire specialized equipment and technology to support hands-on training.
Objective: Support supervision to guide trainees and ensure quality standards in service delivery.

Budget Overview

- **Grant:** $246,262.00
- **Match:** $82,087.00
- **Total Budget:** $328,349.00

Expense Categories:

- Vendor/Third-Party Training: $18,468.89
- Training Salaries: $159,259.09
- Supplies/Equipment: $83,967.55
- Travel Expenses: $5,731.97
- Infrastructure Expenses: $60,921.50

Target Population

The target population for this project included residents of rural and underserved communities across the High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer region.

Sustainability

Ogallala has integrated training into ongoing community partnerships and continues to collaborate with civic organizations and businesses. Future funding opportunities include USDA Rural Development grants, State workforce development programs, and youth entrepreneurship and education foundations.

Activities and Timeline

Q4 2024 - Served 45 individuals, resulting in 10 full-time job placements in 2024

Q2 2025 - Increased program delivery efforts to support entrepreneurship through remote work channels

Outcomes

- Served 189 people with training, 59 completed the Remote Work Certification Cohorts
- 18 full-time jobs as a direct result of program
- 26 individuals reporting enhanced employment situations as an indirect result of programming.

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

Project Owner: John Wittler

+719-529-0431 john@ogallalacommons.org

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