

IRONED Grant Informational Webinar

Monday, March 23rd at 4:00 PM

What we'll cover:

- Purpose
- Grant Guidelines
- Timeline
- Application Components
- Rubric & Funding Priorities
- Office Hours
- Q & A



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COMMERCE



Purpose

The IRONED pilot grant was created to preserve and bring new economic activity to underutilized, vacant, or dilapidated industrial and manufacturing buildings in rural communities, stimulating local economies and supporting business growth. This grant is meant to be gap financing for projects that need one last piece of their funding stack to get the project across the finish line.





\$200,000 in Available Funding

1:1 Cash Match Required



\$10,000

Minimum
Request Amount



\$100,000

Maximum
Request Amount

IRONED Grant Award Timeline



Application Opens

Wednesday, March 18th



Office Hours

10 – 11 AM on Thursday,
April 16th; Thursday, May 14th;
Thursday, June 11th



Application Closes

Wednesday, June 17th
at 5:00 PM



Awards Announced

August 2026

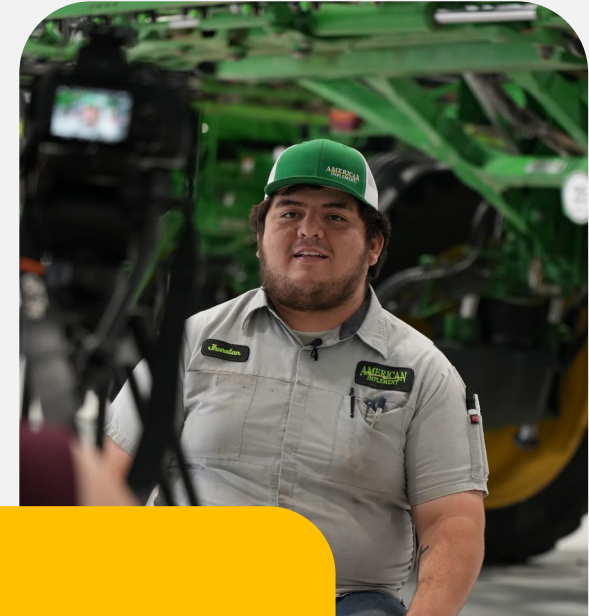
IRONED Grant Project Timeline

Renovation Complete

The renovation project must be completed within
12 months of award.

Project Complete

A tenant operating in the building within 18 months of award.



Eligible Applicants

- Business Owners
- City, County Government Entities
- Local Economic Development Organizations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Non-Profits
- Tribal Nations





Eligible Projects

Renovation of industrial or manufacturing facilities for projects that are ready for implementation and need gap financing. Renovation must be completed within 12 months of award and the tenant operating in the space must be in place within 18 months.

Communities must have a population of 50,000 or less.



Eligible Expenses

To cover construction and renovation costs such as masonry, siding, insulation, foundations, roofs and guttering, fire stairs, windows, doors, chimneys, walls, ceilings, floors, concrete work, interior stairs, elevators, lighting and fixtures, electrical wiring, data and communication, wiring (not including equipment), HVAC systems and components, plumbing systems, fire suppression sprinkler systems, and ADA accessibility solutions or structural changes to support equipment use.



Supplemental Materials

- Preliminary Architectural Drawings
- Bids & Estimates
- Building Photos
- Business Plan
- Signed Letter of Commitment – Building Owners & Support Organization
- Proof of Matching Funds
- W-9 Form
- Sexual Harassment Policy Form
- Office of Procurement and Contracts – Certification of Company
- Israeli Anti-Boycott Form
- Screenshot Proof of Good Standing with the Secretary of State
- Tax Clearance



Application Review



- The maximum number of points an application can earn is 100.
- Reviewers will individually score each application or each section that is assigned to them.
- A scoring rubric will be published with the grant opportunity and on the grant webpage.
- Funding priority criteria may be allocated a higher percentage of the total score or weighted more.
- Applications must earn enough points for their application to fall under “Meets Expectations”, “Exceeds Expectations”, or “Exemplary” to be recommended for funding. Meeting one of these values does not guarantee funding for a project.



IRONED Grant Scoring Rubric

The following are the review criteria the review team will use to score each IRONED grant application. Each grant will be rated based on the criteria listed and given a score out of one hundred.

	Exemplary	Meets Expectations	Insufficient Evidence
(1) Project Readiness & Timeline – 30 Points Possible	The project is fully shovel-ready with permits, plans, and contractors in place. The timeline clearly demonstrates completion of renovations within 12 months and tenant occupancy within 18 months. Implementation risks are minimal and well addressed. (21-30 Points)	The project appears ready to proceed and includes a generally achievable timeline that aligns with program requirements. Some details or minor risks remain, but overall readiness is sufficient to support completion within the required timeframes. (11-20 Points)	Project readiness is unclear or incomplete. The timeline is missing, unrealistic, or does not clearly meet program deadlines. Significant barriers or uncertainties may delay implementation or occupancy. (0-10 Points)
(2) Feasibility – 20 Points Possible	The application demonstrates strong overall feasibility, with clear evidence that the project can be completed successfully. The project team has relevant experience, appropriate staffing, and a sound management approach, with risks identified and mitigation strategies in place. (14-20 Points)	The project appears feasible and the applicant demonstrates adequate capacity to complete the work. Some risks or uncertainties are present but are not likely to prevent successful completion. (7-13 Points)	The feasibility of the project is uncertain. Applicant capacity, experience, or project management structure is unclear, and significant risks are not addressed. (0-6 Points)
(3) Funding Need – 20 Points Possible	The application clearly demonstrates that IRONED funds represent the final gap needed for project completion. All other funding sources are secured, the required cash match is documented, and the financial structure is realistic and complete.	The project shows a reasonable need for gap financing and most funding sources are identified. The match appears attainable, though documentation or clarity may be limited.	The need for IRONED funding as gap financing is unclear. The funding stack is incomplete, match funding is uncertain, or the financial plan lacks sufficient detail to demonstrate viability.



IRONED Grant Scoring Rubric

	(14-20 Points)	(7-13 Points)	(0-6 Points)
(4) Building Reuse & Alignment – 15 Points Possible	The project will return a vacant, underutilized, or dilapidated industrial or manufacturing building to productive use. A tenant is secured or strongly committed, and the project clearly aligns with the program's goal of revitalizing industrial space.	The proposed renovation supports appropriate industrial or manufacturing use and aligns with program goals. A tenant is likely but not fully secured, and the reuse of the building appears reasonable.	The future use of the building is unclear or not well aligned with the program intent. Tenant plans are uncertain, and the project may not strongly support productive industrial reuse.
	(11-15 Points)	(6-10 Points)	(0-5 Points)
(5) Economic Impact & Community Benefit – 10 Points	The project demonstrates strong potential to create or retain jobs, stimulate economic activity, and provide meaningful benefits to the rural community. Long-term positive impacts are clearly described.	The project is expected to generate moderate economic benefits, including some job creation or business growth. Community benefits are described but not fully quantified.	Economic impact and community benefit are limited, unclear, or not well supported. Job creation or broader economic outcomes are minimal or uncertain.
	(7-10 Points)	(4-6 Points)	(0-5 Points)
(7) Project Budget – 5 Points	The budget is clear, reasonable, and aligned with eligible construction and renovation costs. Expenses are well justified.	The budget generally aligns with eligible costs and appears reasonable, though minor clarifications or adjustments may be needed.	The budget is unclear, includes ineligible costs, or lacks sufficient detail to determine whether expenses are reasonable and allowable.
	(4-5 Points)	(2-3 Points)	(0-1 Points)
Total: 100 Points			





Selection Criteria

Kansas Commerce has \$200,000 available for the IRONED Grant. All grant applications approved by the Department of Commerce will be funded according to the process set forth in the following:

- Grant reviewer scores
- Geographic distribution of grant applicants
- Services to specified populations
- History of grant applicant as a state grantee
- Applicant's capacity to perform the work
- Pre-award capacity assessment of applicant
- All awards must be approved by the Secretary of Commerce.



Grant Payments

Payments will be distributed in two installments:

- 1st Payment – 75% of the award – Upon fully executed grant agreement
- 2nd Payment – 25% of the award – Upon exceeding 50% of the grant award amount





Virtual Office Hours

- Thursday, April 16th from 10 – 11 AM
- Thursday, May 14th from 10 – 11 AM
- Thursday, June 11th from 10 – 11 AM





Let's Talk

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