

Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) Grant Informational Webinar

HEAL 7.0

September 22, 2025

Trisha Purdon

Director, Office of Rural Prosperity

KANSAS

COMMERCE

Agenda

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- HEAL Partners
- Timeline
- Eligibility
- Eligible & Ineligible Expenses
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- Main Street Design Guidelines
- State Historic Preservation Law Review
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Purpose

Created to preserve and bring new economic activity to underutilized, vacant or dilapidated downtown buildings in rural Kansas.

Building grants are intended to bring buildings back into productive use as spaces for new or expanding businesses, childcare, housing, arts and culture, civic engagement, or entrepreneurship.

Façade grants are intended to rehabilitate the façade or street view of downtown buildings in need of repair to stimulate economic growth and reinvestment in the downtown district.





HEAL Partners

The HEAL program is made possible through state legislatively directed funding. The program is administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce's Office of Rural Prosperity, with support from partners in the Quality Places Division.



Timeline

- **Grant Application Opens:** September 21, 2026
- **Office Hours:** 11:00 – Noon A, every Monday until November 20th.
- **Grant Application Closes:** November 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM
- **Review Period:** Nov 23 – January 8
- **Notification of Funding Decisions:** January 2027
- **Awards Publicly Announced & Contracting:** February 2027



HEAL Applicant Eligibility

A non-profit or local government organization must apply on behalf of the building owner.

Eligible organizations include:

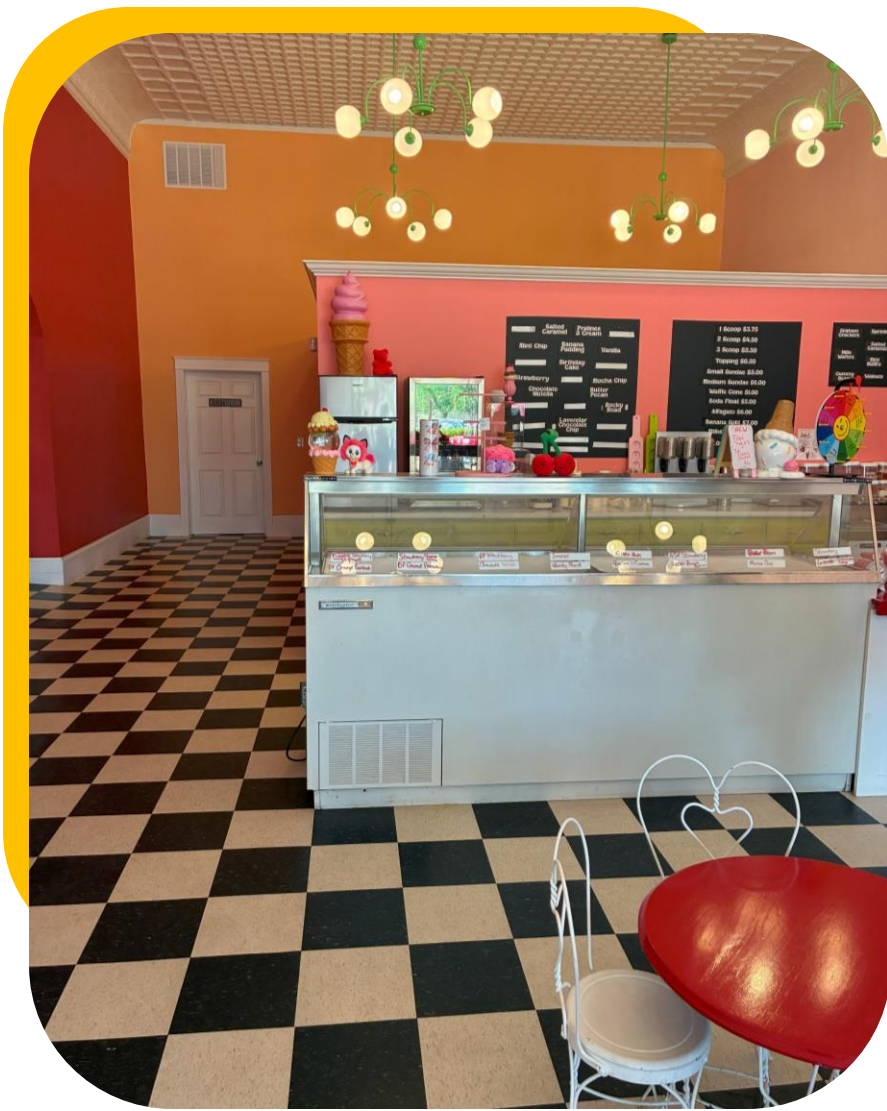
- Designated Kansas Main Street Programs
- Economic Development Corporations
- Cities
- Counties
- 501(c)3 or 501(c)6 organizations
- Local Community Foundations
- Tribal Nations or Organizations
- Businesses – As long as there is also a fiscal agent from one of the above organizations.



Project Eligibility Updates!

- Communities who have not received a HEAL grant in the last round (HEAL 6.0) are eligible for this round of funding.
- Communities with a Façade 6.0 HEAL project ARE eligible for HEAL 7.0.
- Communities that have populations of 50,000 or less
OR
- Communities with populations of 50,000 that are ALSO considered Urban Distressed communities as defined by the US Census Bureau:
 - <https://eig.org/distressed-communities-interactive/?regions%5B0%5D=20&geo=states&lat=38.51&lon=-98.32&z=6.96>





Project Eligibility

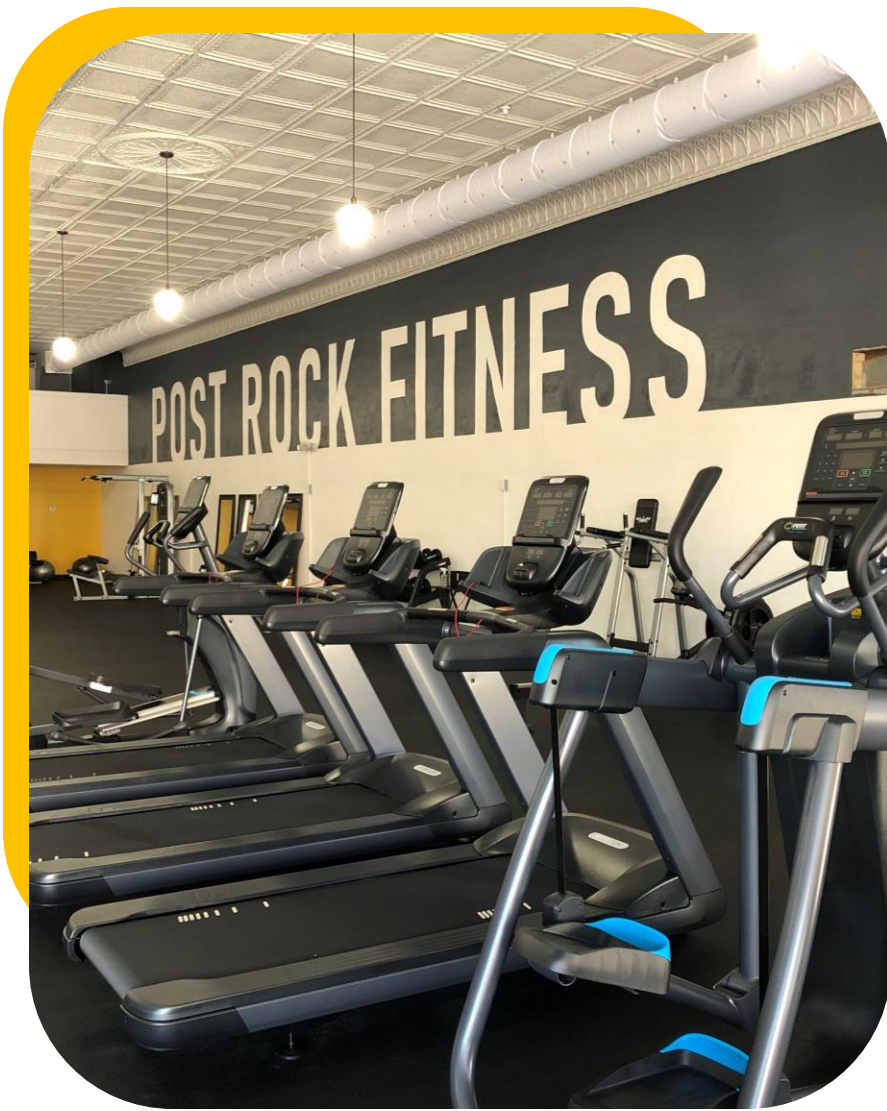
- Communities who have not received a HEAL grant in the last round (HEAL 6.0) are eligible for this round of funding.
- Previously awarded HEAL projects are not eligible to apply for HEAL – no duplicative benefit.
- Properties must be within the downtown business district or corridor and hold architectural significance.
- Projects must show potential for reuse and revitalization as economic drivers in the community.
- Projects must incorporate Main Street Design Standards and follow local ordinances and code.
- No more than one HEAL grant may be awarded to any city per funding round.



Project Eligibility (cont.)

- Work must not begin before the award of the grant except for:
 - removal of façade slipcovers such as metal, stucco, tiles, stone veneer,
 - OR critical work that is determined to be an emergency need in order to prevent the building from collapse or significant further damage. This must be verified by the contractor and submitted with the application or by email if construction happens after the due date.
- Projects must begin construction no later than July 1, 2027 with construction complete by July 1, 2029 with a tenant in place by December 31, 2029.
 - NOTE: Site cleanup, removal of debris and demolition do not qualify as construction.





Eligible Building Grant Expenses

Masonry, insulation, foundations, roofs and guttering, fire stairs, windows, doors, chimneys, walls, ceilings, floors, 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, CDBG environmental review, and ADA accessibility solutions. This list is not exhaustive. Project expenses not listed here are at the discretion of the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce for eligibility under the grant.

Up to 5% of the grant award may be retained by the applicant organization for project administration expenses.



Ineligible Building Grant Expenses

Professional services (architect and engineering fees), acquisition costs, or leasing contracts. This list is not exhaustive. Grant funds are to be utilized for the physical construction of the project.

Examples of ineligible expenses include but are not limited to: kitchen equipment, refrigeration (flower shops or food service), AV equipment, phone systems, tools needed for construction.

If is it not permanently attached to the building or if the tenant can move and take it with them, it is an ineligible expense.





Eligible Façade Grant Expenses

Masonry, windows, storefronts, cornices, doors, awnings, ADA accessibility solutions, and signage. Removal of façade slipcovers such as metal, stucco, tiles, stone veneer must be performed before applying for a façade grant.

Up to 5% of the grant award may be retained by the applicant organization for project administration expenses.



Ineligible Façade Grant Expenses

Professional services (architect and engineering fees), interior improvements, roof, sidewalks (unless it is for ADA accessibility or drainage at the foundation).

Grant funds are to be utilized for the physical construction of the project.



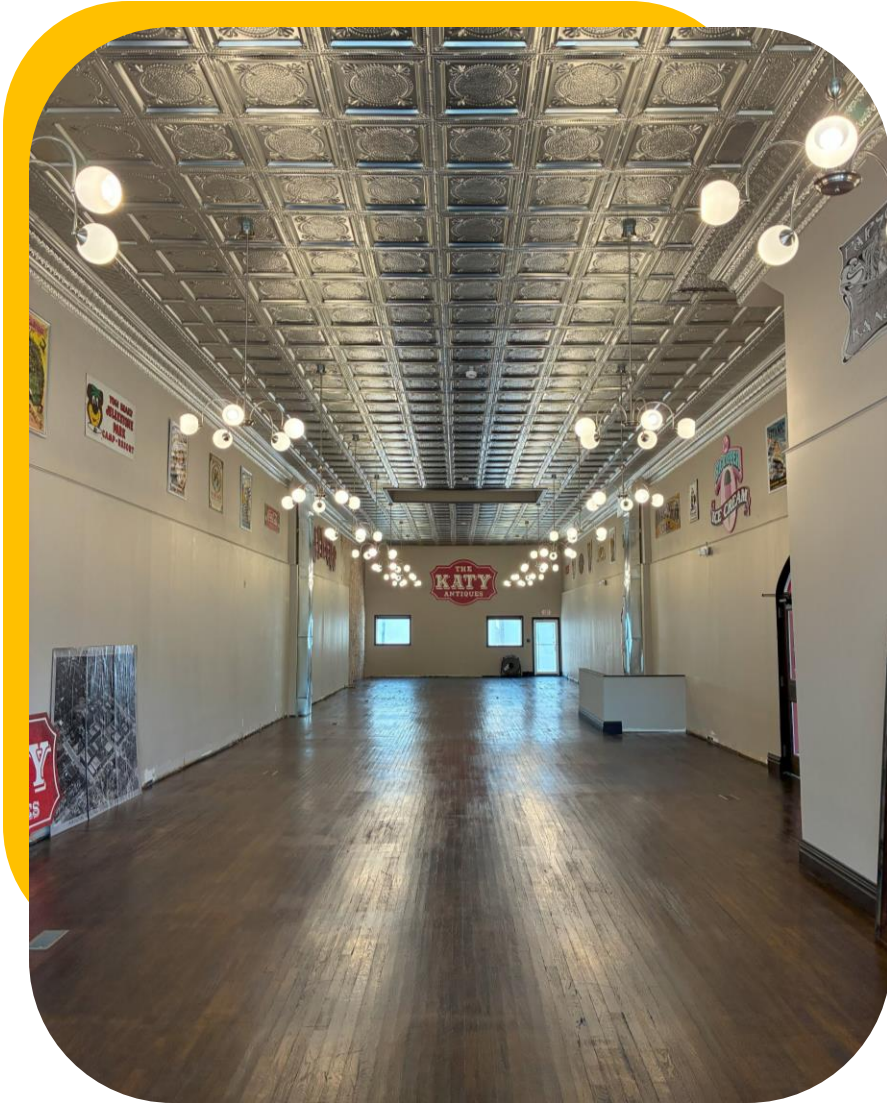
Application Components

- Register Salesforce account
- Complete the following in the Salesforce portal:
 - Capacity assessment questions
 - Narrative questions
 - Budget section
 - Timeline section
- Upload required supporting materials (*more info on next slide!*)
- Upload any supplemental materials
- Click submit application and you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF copy of your application



Required Supporting Materials

1. Preliminary Architectural Drawings
2. Bids & Estimates
3. Building Photos – Interior & Exterior
4. Simple Business Plan
5. Signed Letter of Commitment from Building Owner and Applicant Organization
6. Proof of Matching Funds
7. Signed W-9 Form for Applicant Organization
8. Signed State Policy Regarding Sexual Harassment Acknowledgement Form
9. Signed copy of the Office of Procurement and Contracts – Certification of Company Form.



Additional Attachments

1. Required for Non-Profit Organizations: Screenshot Submission of Kansas Secretary of State Good Standing Status.
2. Required for Non-Profit Organizations: Submission Tax Clearance Certificate.
3. If applying with a request of \$100,000 a signed copy of the Israeli Anti-Boycott Form will be needed with your application.





Proof of Matching Funds

Required to be submitted with the application. Matching funds must be cash or monetary. Property, equipment, inventory, etc. are not acceptable.

Acceptable proof of matching funds:

- Bank letter on official letterhead with signature of bank official stating that matching funds in the amount of the grant are available and for the project
- Statement of account for financial match from personal or professional accountant that matching funds are secured for the project
- Statement from loan officer or third-party financier that matching funds are secured for the project



Main Street Design Guidelines

Guidelines are available on the HEAL website.

Scope of project must follow these guidelines, as stated in the program guidelines and assurances of the application. This will also be included in the grant agreement.

Questions regarding the design guidelines with the project scope should be directed to Robert McLaughlin, Kansas Main Street at robert.j.mclaughlin@ks.gov.



State Historic Law Review

Projects that are on the State or National Register of Historic Places or contributing buildings in a Historic District must follow these standard and best practices guidelines and receive appropriate state approvals before beginning work.

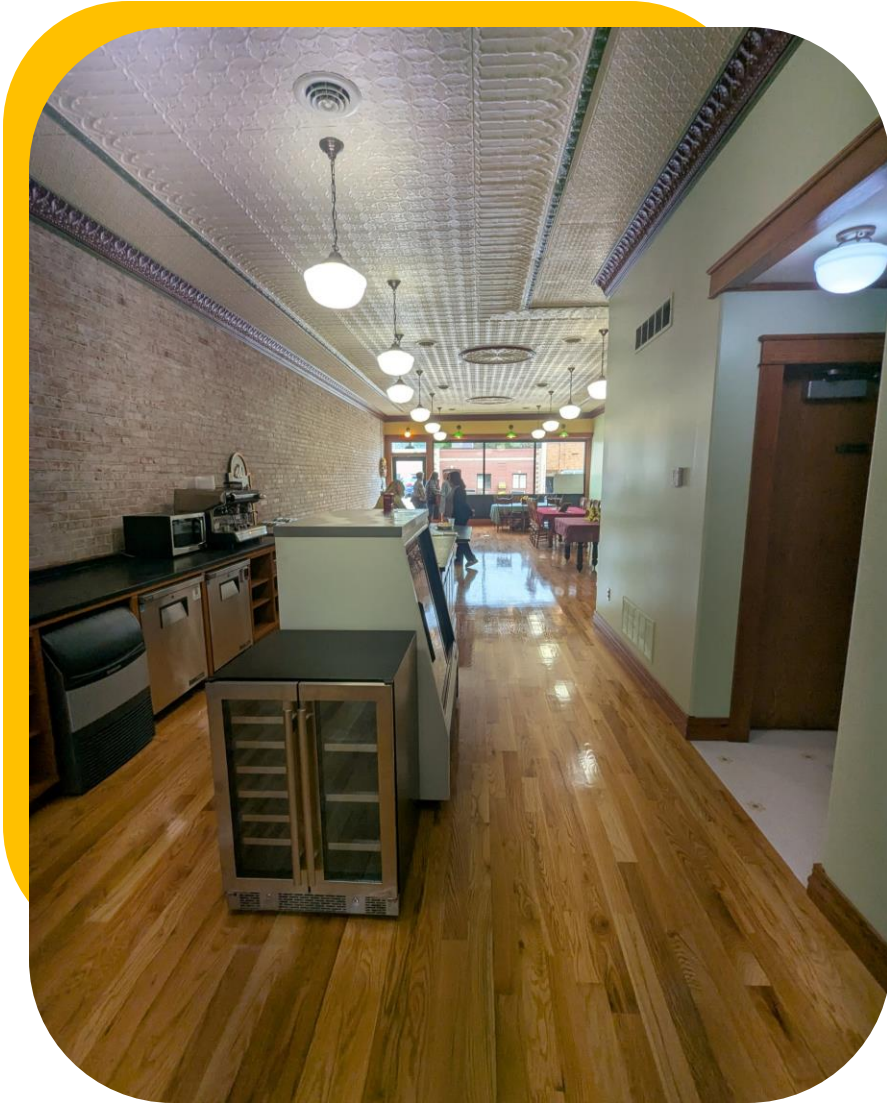
State approvals will be provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). They will require information such as scope of work, current and proposed floor plans, photos of affected areas, details on finishes (flooring, walls, lighting, etc.), renderings (especially elevations), blueprints and engineering drawings. They will also inquire if the building owner plans to apply for tax credits.



Project Milestones

Awarded projects will be funded on the following schedule with the corresponding project milestones and deadlines:

- 50% of the grant will be paid when proof of commencement of construction is verified. Site visit required. Deadline: July 1, 2027 (NOTE: Site cleanup, removal of debris, and demolition do not qualify as construction.)
- 50% of the grant will be paid when 50% construction completion has been verified. Site visit required. Deadline: July 1, 2028
- 75% construction deadline: March 1, 2029 - site visit or video walkthrough required.
- 100% of construction completion. Site visit required. Deadline: July 1, 2029
- Tenant in place. Deadline: December 31, 2029



Reporting Requirements

All awarded projects will require quarterly progress reports, receipts and progress photos.

Quarterly reporting is due at the end of March, June, September and December.

Timely completion of these reports are necessary to ensure the project stays in compliance.





Office Hours

Register in advance to attend virtual office hours via Zoom from 11am – Noon each Monday:

- Sept 28 - 11AM
- Oct 5 – 11AM
- Oct 12 – 11AM
- Oct 19 – 11AM
- Oct 26 – 11AM
- Nov 2 – 11AM
- Nov 9 – 11AM
- Nov 16 – 11AM
- Nov 20 – 11AM
- Deadline: November 20th at 5:00 PM





**Additional technical
assistance available
upon request at
HEAL@ks.gov.**





Questions?



Frequently Asked Questions

- Will property owners be able to apply on their own?
- Is there a population limit for applicants?
- Is the project required to be in a specific area of the community?
- Once the building is rehabilitated is it required that a viable business will be occupying the space?
- Are there any requirements about the materials to use on the project?

