

# **RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES**

## **CDBG and Community Assistance Programs**

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**CDBG Community Development Block Grant Program** - The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program allows the Department of Commerce to distribute federal funds to Kansas cities and counties looking to improve their community. To receive funds, a project must meet at least one of the following federally mandated criteria:

- The project benefits low- and moderate-income individuals.
- The project removes or prevents slum or blight condition.

Go to: [www.kansascommerce.gov](http://www.kansascommerce.gov) to find out more about Community Development Block Grants

**CDBG Annual Competitive Round** - The Annual Competitive Round category includes the following four categories:

### **Community Improvement and Housing**

Community Improvement projects include, but are not limited to, water and sewer improvements, fire protection, bridges, community and senior centers, streets, architectural barrier removal, natural gas systems, electrical systems and public service activities. Housing grants support rehabilitation of owner- and renter-occupied residences within targeted areas to encourage neighborhood revitalization.

#### **1. Water and Sewer Grants**

The maximum award is \$500,000 with a funding ceiling of \$2,000 per beneficiary. Applicants are encouraged to appear before the Kansas Interagency Advisory Committee (KIAC) prior to application submission.

#### **2. Community Facilities**

Projects may consist of, but are not limited to, fire protection, bridges, community / senior centers, streets, architectural barrier removal, natural gas and electrical systems, health, mental health and other public facilities projects. **The maximum award is \$400,000 with a funding ceiling of \$2,000 per beneficiary.**

#### **3. Housing Rehabilitation Grants**

These rehabilitation funds are awarded to local units of government (cities and counties) and the maximum amount awarded is \$400,000. Eligible activities include Homeowner and Rental Rehabilitation. A Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) must be completed by the unit of government prior to submitting an application.

**CDBG Economic Development** - Economic Development grants to cities or counties are loaned to provide gap financing for private businesses that create or retain permanent jobs. Eligible activities include infrastructure, land acquisition, fixed assets and working capital. At least 51 percent of the jobs created or retained by the for-profit entity must meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development's low- and moderate-income standard.

Some repayment is required for all economic development categories. Grants are made to cities

and counties, which then loan funds to developing businesses. Repaid funds are returned to the state revolving loan fund. Funds may also be used for infrastructure on a loan / grant basis. The funding ceiling is \$35,000 per job created or retained with a maximum of \$750,000. **Matching funds are required.**

**CDBG Urgent Need** - Urgent Need Grants address an immediate threat to health or safety resulting from a sudden and severe emergency. These awards assist in meeting community needs created by a severe natural or other disaster. The need must be certified by the state agency that has regulatory oversight.

Applications are reviewed on an as-needed basis throughout the year. The maximum amount awarded is \$400,000 per grant. Applications must be received within six months of the occurrence.

**CDBG Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation Program** - The purpose of the program is to help cities improve the quality of their downtown commercial districts by assisting private property owners in the rehabilitation of blighted buildings. It is hoped that a strategic investment of grant funds in a key building would prevent the spread of blighted conditions to other nearby structures. Also, it would encourage other property owners to make improvements to their buildings, thus starting to reverse the cycle of blight, deferred maintenance and disinvestment.

**Rural Opportunity Zones** – (Check the website for complete information at: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/programs-services/community-development-assistance/rural-opportunity-zones/> )

*(Green font designates SEK ROZ counties)*

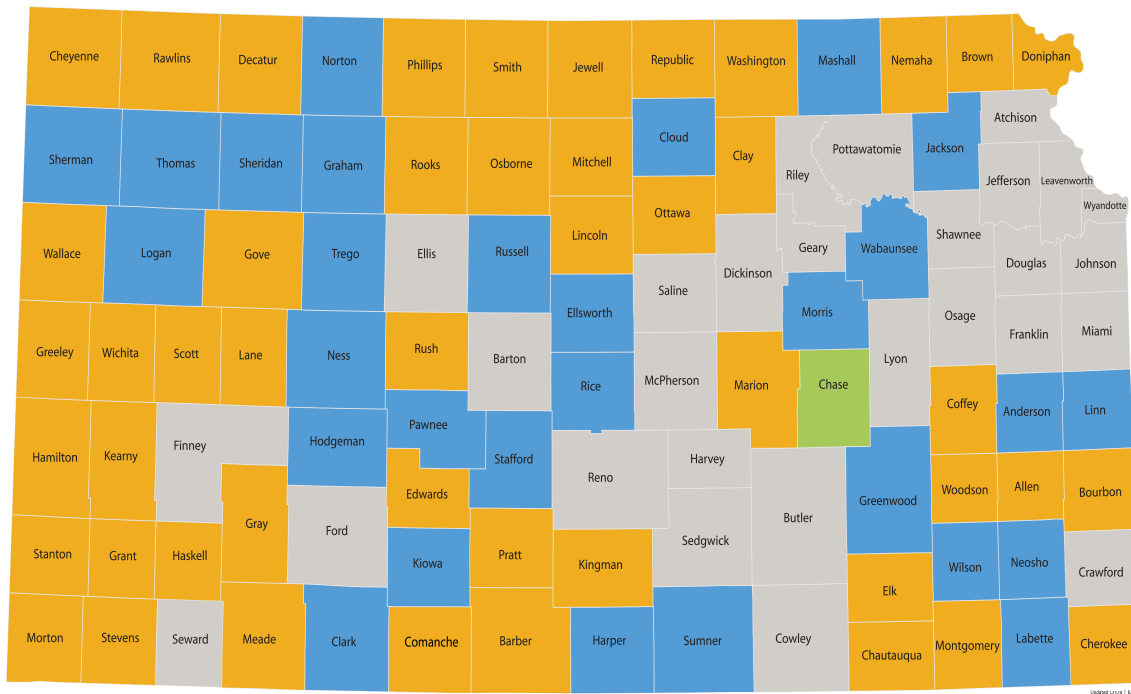
The ROZ 77 counties are:

<b>Allen</b>	Comanche	Harper	Marion	Pawnee	Stafford
<b>Anderson</b>	Decatur	Haskell	Marshall	Phillips	Stanton
Barber	Doniphan	Hodgeman	Meade	Pratt	Stevens
<b>Bourbon</b>	Edwards	Jackson	Mitchell	Rawlins	Sumner
Brown	<b>Elk</b>	Jewell	<b>Montgomery</b>	Republic	Trego
Chase	Ellsworth	Kearny	Morris	Rice	Thomas
<b>Chautauqua</b>	Gove	Kingman	Morton	Rooks	Wabaunsee
<b>Cherokee</b>	Graham	Kiowa	Nemaha	Rush	Wallace
Cheyenne	Grant	<b>Labette</b>	<b>Neosho</b>	Russell	Washington
Clark	Gray	Lane	Ness	Scott	Wichita
Clay	Greeley	Lincoln	Norton	Sheridan	<b>Wilson</b>
Cloud	<b>Greenwood</b>	<b>Linn</b>	Osborne	Sherman	<b>Woodson</b>
<b>Coffey</b>	Hamilton	Logan	Ottawa	Smith	

***These ROZ Counties have been authorized to offer one or both of the following financial incentives to qualified new full-time residents:***

- **Kansas income tax waivers** for up to five years for new residents moving from out of State
- **Student loan repayments** up to \$15,000, as available (*county payment is matched by the state*)
- Employers in counties that have chosen to opt into the Student Loan Repayment Program may participate in the **Employer-Sponsorship Program**. Employers will provide the local match for employees of their choosing.

For more information go to: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/programs-services/community-development-assistance/rural-opportunity-zones/>



**Blue, Gold and Green** are ROZ counties and are **all eligible for the Kansas Income Tax Waiver**

**Gold** are ROZ counties that have opted in to the **Student Loan Reimbursement Program and Employer Sponsorship**

**Blue** ROZ counties opted in for the **Employer Sponsorship only**

**Rural Opportunity Zones Map**



**Kansas PRIDE Program** - **PRIDE** is a free community-initiated effort that helps local leaders prepare for and manage change through a hands-on approach to community self-improvement. The program addresses such areas as planning, community services and community enrichment. The Department of Commerce and K-State Research and Extension co-administer PRIDE, providing technical assistance and training opportunities for the local programs.

For more information, please see the website: <http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu> or contact Barbara Anderson at 620-717-5713 or [Barbara.Anderson@ks.gov](mailto:Barbara.Anderson@ks.gov)

**\*CSP Community Service Tax Credits Program** - The Kansas Community Service Program (CSP) has given **nonprofit** organizations a way to improve their ability to undertake major capital fund-raising drives for various projects. Each year since 1994, the Kansas Community Service Program (CSP) has given nonprofit organizations a way to improve their ability to undertake major capital fund-raising drives for various projects. Tax credits are allocated each year and are awarded to selected nonprofit organizations to offer Kansas tax credits for contributions made to approved projects.

***Projects eligible for tax credit awards include community service, crime prevention, health care, youth apprenticeship and technical training.*** Tax credit awards are distributive through a competitive application process. Based on the scope and cost of the proposed project, applicants may request up to \$250,000 in tax credits. Applicant organizations in rural areas (less than 15,000 population) are eligible for a 70 percent credit. Applicant organizations in non-rural areas are eligible for a 50 percent credit.

***\*EFFECTIVE 2016 for CSP – PLEASE READ (BELOW)!!***

**The following policies for the Community Service Tax Credit (CSP) Program will be effective for FY 2017 and beyond:**

- **UPDATE:** Applications will be accepted online
  - A Nonrefundable application fee will be assessed beginning in FY 2017 per Senate Substitute for House Bill 2509.
  - The **\$250 CSP program application fee** can be paid online by Credit Card\*, Debit Card\*, or ACH\*\* (online fee payment); --OR--
  - Mail a paper check to the Kansas Department of Commerce.

**Applications will not be processed until the application fee is received by Commerce.**

- A 2.5 percent service fee will be applied to online Credit and Debit Card payments (2.5 percent of the total charge)
- A \$1.50 service fee will be applied to online ACH payments

**For more information go to:** <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/programs-services/community-development-assistance/community-service-tax-credit-program/>

**The Individual Development Account (IDA) Program** allows qualified Kansans of low income levels the opportunity to achieve financial self-sufficiency through education and asset development via special savings accounts. The IDA program allows qualified Kansans of higher income levels the opportunity to help others achieve financial independence while receiving income tax credits for program contributions.

**IDA program participants** must meet income and asset guidelines and complete an online money management course before they can open a special savings account that is eligible for a 2:1 match for every dollar they save. The online course allows Kansans to improve their financial responsibility skills and provides the foundation for future stability and self-sufficiency. Program participants **can use the accumulated savings to:**

- Purchase a first home
- Pay for home repairs
- Capitalize a small business
- Pay for college or specialized training

For more information about IDA go to: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/programs-services/investor-programs-and-services/individual-development-accounts-and-tax-credit-program/>

**IDA program contributors** provide the matching funds for participant savings accounts and **are eligible receive a Kansas income tax credit valued at 75% of their contribution amount.**

The Kansas Department of Commerce oversees the program and allocates up to \$500,000 in state income tax credits each calendar year.

- Commerce has designated Interfaith Housing Services, Inc., a community-based organization located in Hutchinson, as the sole provider of IDAs in Kansas.
- Commerce also partners with the Kansas Department of Revenue to administer the tax credits for qualified program contributors.

For more information contact Rachell Rowland at 785-296-3345 or [Rachell.Rowland@ks.gov](mailto:Rachell.Rowland@ks.gov)

**INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE  
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WEBSITE at**

[www.kansascommerce.gov](http://www.kansascommerce.gov)