



Office of Recovery

Office of Recovery Update: 11/9/2020 - 11/13/2020

All In For Kansas Kids



SPARK provides funding for "Technology for Families" program through the Kansas Children's Cabinet.

Recognizing that the pandemic has increased the need for technology to allow children to continue learning safely, the SPARK Taskforce created and approved the Technology for Families program to provide support for families who may not be able to afford access to technology. This program provides connectivity, equipment, and devices to support virtual access for families receiving home visiting services. We've checked in with some families who've benefitted from this program and the program administrators to see how these investments are making a difference for Kansans. Below are their thoughts.

- "After having no updated technology, we have been blessed with the opportunity to get an iPad with WiFi and a data plan. **It has changed our lives and allowed us to continue home visits to support our child with a disability by using Zoom.** We don't have to worry about exposure to COVID-19 and we can still get support!"
- "We are a family new to services and struggling to complete virtual visits due to lack of access to technology. The Technology for Families program improved our ability to connect with the outside world and **receive coaching and support more reliably.**"
- "One of our family's only access to connecting with others, except for a land-line phone, is through the connectivity and device acquired through Technology for Families. I have seen **improvement in their mental stability**...interactions are much more rich and I am able to model and demonstrate support with them."

SPARK Investments in the News

USD 250 (Pittsburg) receives more funding for new WiFi network:

- This week, Pittsburg Community Schools secured additional funding from the State of Kansas and the City of Pittsburg to set up a new wireless broadband network. USD 250 has decided to call it "DragonNet." The first segment

of funding amounted to \$100,000, which was awarded to USD 250 by Crawford County in the first round of SPARK funding. The most recent addition of \$160,000 came in Round 2 of SPARK funding, specifically from the Broadband Partnership Adoption Grant program.

[Read more here](#)

More than \$210,000 in rent, mortgage assistance awarded to Manhattan families:

- Through the round 1 funding the SPARK taskforce made available to local governments, 69 Manhattan families have received their share of \$210,000 in rent and mortgage assistance from the City of Manhattan. Despite this significant investment, another 40 Manhattan families remained in need. These families will be directed to the statewide Kansas Eviction Protection Program, which SPARK approved in September.

[Read more here](#)

Fort Scott School makes critical technology upgrades:

- St. Mary's Catholic School in Fort Scott will make technology upgrades, including laptops for students, cameras and more WiFi throughout the school with the funding provided to local governments by the SPARK taskforce. The school will also make software upgrades to support remote learning for students in quarantine.

[Read more here](#)

State Finance Council releases Essential Needs & Services Reserve

Today, the State Finance Council approved moving the \$25 million in the Essential Needs and Services program to support State Agency Operations. This is the last installment of the \$75 million that was set in reserve. Previously, SFC released \$20 million for Small Business Grants and \$30 million for COVID-19 testing in reserve funds.

Coming up this week:

The Office of Recovery will host two county webinars this coming week:

- Thursday, November 18th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Each webinar will discuss the following 4 topics: ***supply chain disruption, spend-down rate, subrecipient monitoring, and audit expenses.***

The webinars will be recorded and available to view on our website the following week.

Resources available to you:

- **SPARK Taskforce Process FAQ.** Please click [here](#) to learn more about how the Governor's taskforce developed the investment priorities.
- **Grant Programs:** Please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/grant-applications/> to see what programs are currently accepting applications.
- **County Resources:** You can view all updated county resources and guidance,

including the updated **Kansas Supply Chain Disruption and Delays Memo**, by visiting <https://covid.ks.gov/spark-county-resources/>

Thank you for your interest in our State's recovery efforts.

Julie L. Lorenz

Executive Director

Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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