



Office of Recovery

Office of Recovery Newsletter | January 14, 2022

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This week's edition of the Office of Recovery Newsletter features an article that details the funding request that was approved by the State Finance Council for \$154M in ARPA funding on January 10, 2022. This edition also includes information about the release of the US Treasury's Final Rule document and some of the most notable changes from the Interim Final Rule.

Also included is an article highlighting two completed, CRF-funded programs that were implemented by the Office of Broadband Development. The Broadband Partnership Adoption Grants (BPAG) and the Connectivity Emergency Response Grants (CERG) worked in tandem to update broadband infrastructure across Kansas and provide affordable internet services and electronic devices to low-income families.

For the latest information about resources available to Kansans, see the “Updates to Services and Support” section of this newsletter. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Office of Recovery website at: COVID.ks.gov

SPARK Programs



SPARK Executive Council Approves \$154M for Economic Revitalization, Health and Education and Connectivity

The Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Executive Committee approved a funding request for \$154M of SLFRF funding on December 20, 2021. The resolution was then presented to the State Finance Council and approved on January 10, 2022. The \$154M proposal included spending across three categories: Economic Revitalization, Health and Education and Connectivity.

The SPARK Committee allocated \$100M to Economic Revitalization which includes investments to support building development, modernization of business park facilities and other infrastructure development, and the attraction and retention of Kansas businesses. Additional details around specific services available, eligibility criteria, and how to apply are under development and will be released once finalized.

An amount of \$50M was allocated to provide Individual Education Learning Loss Grants. These funds will provide direct grants of \$1,000 per child to families to purchase materials to offset learning loss. Purchases could include educational materials, computers, software, tutoring services, etc.

The remaining \$4M was allocated to match funds for school districts to use alongside the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-rate program to invest in high-speed broadband buildout to increase connectivity for Kansas students.

This allocation brings the 2021 State Fiscal Recovery Fund allocations by SPARK to a total of \$261M, including prior investments in the Frontline Hospital Employee Retention program (\$50M), an extension of testing funding (\$27M), and the 24/7 Facility Pay Plan (\$30M).

To learn more about the SPARK process and approved funding programs, visit our website: [SPARK Information](#). If you have any questions, please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/> and click on “**Contact Us**” on the top right corner.

Treasury Updates





ARPA Update – Final Rule Released

The US Department of Treasury has released the [Coronavirus State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \(SLFRF\) Final Rule](#). The Final Rule details eligible uses for SLFRF funds, restrictions on use, program administration provisions, and regulatory analyses. Recipients are also encouraged to consult the [Overview of the Final Rule](#), which provides a summary of Final Rule provisions.

Local governments should be aware of a significant change that states, “The Final Rule offers a standard allowance for revenue loss of \$10 million, allowing recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation. Recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount – in many cases their full award – for government services, with streamlined reporting requirements.”

The guidance outlined in the Final Rule will take effect no later than April 1, 2022.

The Office of Recovery will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 11 a.m. to discuss the Final Rule document. You can register to attend this webinar here: [Webinar Registration](#).

For more information, resources and documents regarding SLFRF funding and the Final Rule please visit this [Treasury webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/> and click on “**Contact Us**” on the top right corner.

Program Spotlight





The Office of Broadband Development Invests in Connectivity in Kansas

In 2020, approximately \$60M in Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) was allocated to the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBBD) to increase connectivity in the State of Kansas. Increasing access to Broadband became an urgent priority as the COVID-19 pandemic forced many to stay at home to fight the spread of the virus.

As a result, KOBBD launched two pandemic response programs. Connectivity Emergency Response Grants (CERG) and the Broadband Partnership Adoption Grant Program (BPAG) were created to drive immediate access and long-term impact. Expanding broadband infrastructure and supporting internet access is vital to enabling telehealth care, remote learning, and remote work, while also investing in the state of Kansas for future generations.

The Office of Broadband Development in partnership with the Office of Recovery funded 91 pandemic response projects. This included 66 infrastructure construction projects (CERG) and 25 digital equity and adoption (BPAG) projects to provide broadband access for Kansans.

The Connectivity Emergency Response Grant (CERG) program dedicated \$50M for infrastructure deployment projects across the state. A total of 66 grants were awarded which resulted in the construction of nearly 700 miles of high-capacity fiber and the installation or improvements for 226 towers reaching many unserved rural communities.

The Broadband Partnership Adoption Grant (BPAG) program provided support for

low-income households through internet subscription services and access to hotspots and devices during the COVID-19 pandemic. KOBD partnered with school districts and service providers across the state to identify areas of critical need during this critical period. This \$10M program funded 25 projects in total.

Overall, the CRF programs have helped connect over 50,000 Kansas homes, businesses and community institutions, and have helped 40,000 students and low-income households get access to affordable internet services and devices.

To learn more about how the Office of Broadband Development continues to service Kansans and view a map of current and past broadband projects, you can visit their website: [Kansas Office of Broadband Development](#)

Updates to Services and Support



Treasury Final Rule Overview Webinar

Attend this presentation by the Office of Recovery that provides an overview of the Final Rule released by the US Department of Treasury. This webinar will take place **Wednesday, January 19, at 11 a.m.**

You can register for this webinar here: [Webinar Registration](#)

Upcoming Reporting Deadline for Some Metropolitan Cities and Counties on January 31, 2022

As a reminder, Metropolitan cities and counties with populations exceeding 250,000 residents or received more than \$10M in SLFRF funding and Tribal Governments who received more than \$30M are required to submit their Project and Expenditure Report by January 31, 2022. For more information on the requirements for reporting, Treasury has supplied a [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#) document.

Tier	Recipient	Interim Report	Project and Expenditure Report	Recovery Plan Performance Report
1	States, U.S. territories, metropolitan cities and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents	By August 31, 2021 or 60 days after receiving funding if funding was received by October 15, with expenditures by category	By January 31, 2022, and then 30 days after the end of each quarter thereafter ⁹	By August 31, 2021 or 60 days after receiving funding, and annually thereafter by July 31 ¹⁰
2	Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents which received more than \$10 million in SLFRF funding			Not required
3	Tribal Governments which received more than \$30 million in SLFRF funding			
4	Tribal Governments which received less than \$30 million in SLFRF funding		By April 30, 2022, and then annually thereafter ¹¹	
5	Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents which received less than \$10 million in SLFRF funding			
6	NEUs	Not required		

Contact the RO

The Office of Recovery is here to offer support and coordination, and you can submit a question or inquiry via the [Contact Us form](#). Please visit [covid.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov) for up-to-date information and resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas residents, businesses, and communities.

[Question/Request Form](#)

Warm Regards,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D. Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

On behalf of the Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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