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Preliminary Investment Ideas for SPARK Advisory Panel Consideration					
Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Motor Vehicle and License Renewal Moderization	SPARK Advisory Sub Committee member	\$25,000,000	The cost to implement this is a wild guess and will require research. This should not be too difficult since there are states that have already implemented this approach. The funds would allow for the development and implementation of online vehicle registration and drivers license renewal providing a significant benefit to taxpayers through convenience and time savings. I'm told that the State should consider the program developed by California as a model that has worked well. Once operational it should result in a reduced administrative cost that could be passed back to taxpayers through lower fees.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	License plate replacement	KDOR	\$22,700,000	This is a one-time investment to replace all standard vehicle plates in Kansas. Kansas' standard license plate has not had a design update in over twelve years. Last full replacement of license plates was done prior to 2010. The Director of Vehicles has been doing a continuous one-year extension since 2015 due to lack of funding resource
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	PPE for Kansas Judicial Center and District Courts	Judicial	\$1,100,000	One time expenditures in this area allows the crucial work to continue on the ground in judicial districts across the state while adhering to public health safety measures.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Laboratory Equipment Replacement KBI		\$580,000	The increase in violent crime, case submissions and requests for services in the various Sections of the KBI Laboratory during the COVID pandemic has created a need for additional instrumentation. These requests address the increase in crime and the numbers of cases submitted. The request will be for a one-time use of funds. The instruments requested will allow the laboratory to process those increased case submissions. For example, the SEM/EDS is used to detect primer gunshot residue (Trace Section) often associated with the discharge of a firearm and the Comparison Microscope is used to evaluate and analyze bullets and cartridge cases (Firearms Section) left behind at crime scenes. The Leeds LCF3 is primarily used for the evaluation and comparison of firearms related evidence (bullets, cartridge cases and firearms) in violent crime cases. This instrument will allow each of our scientists to have a microscope to perform the analysis and ensure consistency in the manner in which specimens are evaluated and documented.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Laboratory Equipment Replacement KBI		\$368,000	The increase in violent crime, case submissions and requests for services in the various Sections of the KBI Laboratory during the COVID pandemic has created a need for additional instrumentation. These requests address the increase in crime and the numbers of cases submitted. The request will be for a one-time use of funds.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Centralized Case Management Conversion Consultants	Judicial	\$10,280,000	Many of these areas for investment are one time - utilizing contractors to assist with the case management rollout. Rolling out timely an effectively is important.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	KDOL UI Surge Support	KDOL	\$10,000,000	Additional staff support to assist with unemployment insurance fraud investigation, and frontline staff to answer phones and conduct information gathering activities to assist in the adjudication of unemployment insurance claims.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Specialty Courts	Judicial	\$3,380,992	Investing in specialty courts inceases equInvesting in specialist courts increases equitable outcomes. Individuals in these programs receive help they need, and those programs address root causes for their actions. These courts help to reduce recidivism rates.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Temporary Court Personnel	Judicial	\$2,420,757	One time use for temporary personnel will allow the Branch to meet needs faster. For example, reducing caseloads for judges helps existing judges and all involved in the system.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Court Employee Training and Support	Judicial	\$1,372,400	One time expenditures for training to better retain judicial and nonjudicial employees allows the branch to invest in people, build home grown talent, and retain that talent.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Kansas Wildland Firefighting Grant (KWFG)	State Fire Marshal	\$3,000,000	Agency requests funds to support volunteer and part-time fire departments across Kansas by no-match grant funding for fire departments who have suffered losses when responding to local and/or mutual aid wildland fires in Kansas. Funds would be used for the replacement of equipment or fire apparatus that was destroyed or damaged in large wildland fires as well as equipment that is minimally functioning or non-operational, outdated, and/or unsafe. Funds will not be used for fire apparatus or equipment that would otherwise be covered by insurance or funds that become available under natural disaster or other declarations. Providing financial aid to these departments is a State investment in a safe and efficient wildland firefighting operations by Kansas volunteer and part-time firefighters. This no-match grant does not burden the fire department's local community with added financial mandates, instead it provides a long-term positive impact, helping to modernize the department and more efficiently serve their community and the surrounding communities.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG)	State Fire Marshal	\$1,200,000	Agency requests funds to support volunteer and part-time fire departments across Kansas by no-match grant funding for personal protection equipment (PPE) including structural fire and wildland firefighting gear. Funds will support an annual grant not to exceed \$400,000 for the next three fiscal years (FY) beginning in FY2023. Funds requested could also be used for extractor washing machines to aid in decreasing the rising occurrence of cancer in the fire service which is above the normal public rate. Funds may also be used for assisting departments with their junior firefighter programs as well as medical physicals for firefighters when not covered by department or individual insurance. Providing this aid to these departments will meet guiding principles by investing in the safety, recruitment, and retention of Kansas firefighters. This no-match grant does not burden their local community with added financial mandates, instead provides long-term positive impact on recruiting and retaining well trained and equipped personnel for their community and surrounding communities.

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Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Laboratory DL Reinstatement Fee Fund Reduction due to Court Closure	KBI	\$694,982	<p>These funds will serve as a one-time stop gap in our reduction of revenues. Without support of these funds the laboratory is unable to procure the necessary supplies for operation. This will result in an increase of case backlog. The KBI laboratory receives 20% of fees relating to Driver's License (DL) Reinstatement. Early in the pandemic courts closed or drastically reduced services. Furthermore, many of the Driver's License stations across the state were shuttered as a response to the pandemic. This had a negative impact to the amount of revenue received from the DL Reinstatement fee fund. The FY 19 actual revenues are being used as a baseline.</p> <p>Our methodology is that FY 19 was prior to the pandemic and Q4 of FY 20 is when the pandemic began to be prevalent. This is reflected in April of 2020 when the agency received \$285 in fees whereas the normal amount received would have been approximately \$48,000. As a reduction in services within the court and Drivers Licenses stations have continue the DL Reinstatement fee fund has continued to experience a deficit. These funds are critical to supporting the operations within the laboratory. The shortfall of this fund compared to FY 19 was \$164,051 in FY 20, \$242,985 in FY 21, and is estimated at \$287,946 in FY 22. Q2 of FY 2022 net the lowest earnings in the last 14 years, clearly showing the impact from the pandemic.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Laboratory operating supply increase from FY 21 to FY 22	KBI	\$442,997	<p>Laboratory supplies have risen dramatically in cost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disrupted supply chains, specifically with regard to scientific supplies. The KBI laboratory have seen these costs reflective in agency expenditures. Additionally, case submissions to the laboratory have increased as a result in increased violence within the state.</p> <p>The FY 21 approved budget is being used as a baseline compared to FY 22. The FY 21 approved budget did not include significant operating increases, however the agency was required to increase projected expenditures in FY 22 as supply chains have worsened. These include contractual, commodity, and capital costs impacting the laboratory.</p> <p>These funds are intended to be a one-time investment as inflationary costs subside towards the conclusion of the pandemic. These funds will also address the need to purchase additional laboratory supplies as case submissions related to crime have increased during the pandemic.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Laboratory OOE Increase from FY 21 to FY 23	KBI	\$436,497	<p>Laboratory supplies have risen dramatically in cost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disrupted supply chains, specifically with regard to scientific supplies. The KBI laboratory have seen these costs reflective in agency expenditures. Additionally, case submissions to the laboratory have increased as a result in increased violence within the state.</p> <p>The FY 21 approved budget is being used as a baseline compared to FY 23. The FY 21 approved budget did not include significant operating increases, however the agency was required to increase projected expenditures in FY 23 as supply chains have worsened. These include contractual, commodity, and capital costs impacting the laboratory.</p> <p>These funds are intended to be a one-time investment as inflationary costs subside towards the conclusion of the pandemic. These funds will also address the need to purchase additional laboratory supplies as case submissions related to crime have increased during the pandemic.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Premium Pay for essential workers	Allen County Sheriff's Office	\$312,000	<p>This will be a one time payment to those essential workers that were required to continue working through the shut down of the county.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Sheriff's Office Retention Initiative	Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office	\$1,250,000	<p>The use of these funds would have two intended uses.</p> <p>1) purchase and deploy 20 industrial/mobile air purifying units in the adult detention center, juvenile detention center and all other Sheriff's Office occupied spaces.</p> <p>They provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of the art air cleaning technology. - Provides multiple layers of protection. - Versatile, mobile and modular. <p>The Benefits of the filtration system is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 99% effective in inactivating many viruses and bacteria. - Effective against SARS – COV2, the virus that causes COVID19. - Helps reduce allergens/particulate matter. <p>2) the second part of funding would be to offer all employees that worked through COVID a one time \$4,500-\$5,000 bonus. Sheriff's Office employees worked through COVID and continue to do that work. All sheriff's Office employees have worked in conditions that have made them susceptible to COVID exposure. This bonus would be a tool to retain current employees.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	Brown County Sheriff's Office Retention & Recruiting incentives	BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$140,000	The funds we are requesting from the SPARK committee will be used to provide incentives for recruiting new talent and retention of current staff. Under the SPARK advisory panel Economic Revitalization and the Guiding Principles of Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans, as well as Consider equitable opportunities and outcomes. We intend to meet the aforementioned Guiding Principles by maintaining professional pre-COVID staffing by attracting new talent and incentivizing current employees to remain at their posts. Brown County is located in a diverse and economically depressed part of our state, hiring and keeping talented people is a challenge. Brown County is the only county in Kansas that is home to three (3) separate tribal entities, the Sac and Fox Nation, Iowa Nation, and the Kickapoo Nation which makes up approximately 10% of our county's population. Many surrounding Law enforcement agency's beginning pay is significantly higher than ours. This results in a heavier turnover for our agency. Our proposal would include a \$5,000.00 retention payment for all full-time employees (23), a \$2,500.00 for the agency's part timers (7), and 3 recruiting incentive payments of \$2,500.00 to help us in filling our 3 vacant slots.
Efficiency & Modernization	Continuity of operations	KLETC Telecommunicator Training Equipment	Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (University of Kansas)	\$784,453	At present, there is no statewide telecommunicator (dispatcher) training in Kansas. The law enforcement community, recognizing the need for well-trained telecommunicators, approached KLETC with an interest in providing basic training for telecommunicator professionals. Larger jurisdictions are able to provide training, but smaller "single seat" public safety answering points (PSAPs) struggle with resources to provide the necessary training. This funding request would provide the equipment for training as well as remodel costs for dedicated classrooms at KLETC. The request also includes funds for an extended warranty that ensures the equipment will remain state of the art and eligible for integration into the state network.
Efficiency & modernization	Facilities modernization	Deferred Maintenance - #3	TAG	\$36,000,000	The average age of the KSARNG Readiness Center is more than 60 years old. Our current State Funding levels only allow us to perform reactive maintenance on our facilities. Additional funds are needed in order to update our aged facilities into locations that can better support State Active Duty missions.
Efficiency & modernization	Facilities modernization	State Defense Building / SEOC Facility - #1	TAG	\$20,000,000	The current KDEM facility was built in 1978 and is extremely out dated. The facility structure is in good shape however the electrical systems, information technology systems, and current layout are in dire need of upgrades. The facility upgrades would significantly improve KDEM's ability/flexibility to manage emergency operations.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	HVAC Replacement for Topeka City Hall and Topeka Performing Arts Center	City of Topeka	\$10,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the building needs of the Topeka City Hall and Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) Building. The venue of TPAC is an elegant performance hall that can host up to 2,400 people. With its ability to attract 75,000 people a year the TPAC is an asset to the downtown Topeka economy. However, the HVAC system is in dire need of replacement. In 2020 PKMR Engineers checked the HVAC air handling unit of the system and gave it a rating of 1 – the worst score. This inspection revealed that the HVAC system is not up to code and is in dire need of replacement or else it can become a fire hazard. Funding for a new HVAC system will meet the SPARK guiding principle of Economic Revitalization by way of Business Innovation and Supporting Infrastructure. Replacing the HVAC system will allow TPAC to continue its innovative approach to the arts and attract thousands of residents to Topeka's downtown. This program would also support the current infrastructure of Topeka City Hall.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Roeland Park Community Center Renovation	City of Roeland Park	\$5,000,000	Funding will be used to address accessibility issues, energy efficiency issues, obsolescence issues and limited versatility that the facility currently faces. The facility was built as an elementary school in the 1940's and was repurposed into a recreation, events, health/fitness, meeting, and education center in the 1980's. The facility is used by all ages and serves a variety of needs within our community. Its age and design focus for a school hinder its ability to perform as well as a modern purpose built structure. Renovations have been planned for two phases following a community led visioning and design process.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	City Hall Environmental Systems Renovation	City of Olathe, KS	\$3,500,000	As significant project adjacencies present, City Hall Environmental Systems/HVAC and Roof System replacement projects are being combined. HVAC design studies reflect necessity for upgrade/enhancement of equipment capacities to not only meet occupant health building air requirements but also pro-actively address failing critical system components. The existing Berridge "Bermuda panel" roof at City Hall exhibits ongoing and worsening leak issues warranting replacement. Roof modification to a Mansard type system, will create rooftop area for placement of new HVAC equipment while existing systems (to be eliminated) continue building support. This approach will greatly reduce occupant/organizational disruption

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Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Public Housing Fire Sprinklers & Elevator Modernization	Manhattan Housing Authority	\$2,000,000	<p>The Manhattan Housing Authority requests \$2M from ARPA or SFRF funding to modernize the elevator system & install a fire sprinkler system in the tallest building in Manhattan (12 floors). The Apartment Towers is located in the downtown area and underwent \$8M of rehab between 2015-2018. There wasn't adequate funding to modernize and replace the elevators and they are original to the building (1971). Additionally, there wasn't funding to install a fire suppression sprinkler system which is required to be in compliance Appendix M of the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC).</p> <p>Fire Sprinkler System Orazem & Scalora Engineering have completed their initial assessment and MHA and the Manhattan Fire Department with a compliance timetable with a cost of labor and installation of \$820,800 in 2017 dollars, which is equivalent to \$944,529 today.</p> <p>Elevator Modernization Thyssenkrup has provided a moderation proposal for the elevators in Apartment Towers with a cost estimate of \$450,088.</p> <p>ADA Compliance Manhattan Housing Authority will utilize any additional funding available beyond the Fire Sprinkler System and Elevator Modernization for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and improvements throughout MHA properties.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Facility Razing & Consolidation of Academic Space	Emporia State University	\$1,500,000	The Butcher Education Center facility is on Emporia State University's Campus Master Plan for demolition. This funding will provide \$1 million for abatement and demolition, with the remaining \$500,000 used to make modifications in other campus buildings to accommodate the relocation of the academic departments currently located within Butcher Education Center, except for the Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE). Demolition of this facility will reduce deferred maintenance requirements by \$3.9 million, reduce the campus footprint by 35,000 square feet, and improve space utilization in existing building(s).
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Jefferson County Jail Addition & Remodel	Jefferson County Sheriffs Office	\$1,000,000	The intended use for the funds that are requested in this submission to the SPARK Committee is to remodel the plumbing in the existing jail and then add an additional five cells for the use of quarantining inmates as they enter the facility during any pandemic. Also the cells could be used as a holding area for the mentally ill while waiting to see the judge or get into a State Mental Facility. This facility holds inmates from several different Cities as well as the State and County. This addition will have filtration and positive pressure to assure that that COVID should not enter the general population.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Building HVAC systems in some commercial spaces can drive Covid-19 transmission	Corrections	\$91,800,000	HVAC system additions/improvements meets SPARK guideline 1.Improved air circulation is proven COVID mitigation strategy. Climate controlled space makes employment with KDOC more attractive and provides a better learning environment for residents.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Capitol Complex Air Handler Replacement	OFPM	\$4,500,000	Intended use of the requested funds is to replace the remaining 1980s air handling equipment in within the Capitol Complex. This will provide for improved filtration, indoor air quality and efficiency. These practices have been identified as effective mitigation measures in response to pandemic.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Laboratory HVAC Replacement and Remodel	KBI	\$910,000	The KBI laboratory HVAC is in need of replacement and renovation. This is a renovation of existing space. The project includes replacement of the existing HVAC which is past life cycle. This will allow for installation of a single-pass unit increasing the amount of outside air brought into the facility. Additionally the project will allow for installation of non-touch LED lighting, touchless entry, asbestos abatement, replacement of flooring that can be disinfected easier, and reduce touch-points of other high contact areas. This will be a one-time request for use of funds. The impact of this remodel will improve laboratory services for years to come supporting the Kansas criminal justice community.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Great Bend HVAC Replacement	KBI	\$440,000	The Great Bend facility has two HVAC's, one located in the laboratory and one for the rest of the facility. This HVAC is also past its useful life and is in need of replacement. This request is a one-time use of funds. Replacing this unit will allow for additional outside air to be brought in and enable to agency to provide a safer work environment for years into the future.

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Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	ADA Accessibility	City of Topeka	\$500,000	<p>13. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Ramp Program provides for the maintenance and installation of accessible curb cuts and sidewalk ramps at intersections in accordance with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. The proposed project would help address the 1,200 locations the City has previously identified as priority locations. In the City's current capacity, it would take 10 years to address these priority locations.</p> <p>In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, public accessibility became even more important for many disabled residents. Access to private transportation for disabled residents is often limited due to cost. Because of this lack of private transportation, disabled residents often rely on public transportation where their risk of exposure to COVID-19 is heightened. Faced with this decision, many disabled residents have been stranded in their homes and unable to access adequate food, social services, or participate in community life.</p> <p>The City can leverage expenses from other projects to promote equity and access in the community for people who are otherwise physically excluded. These architectural adaptations are long-term investments in sustainability and equity.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Kansas Museum of History HVAC Modernization	Kansas State Historical Society	\$3,706,250	<p>The intended use for the funds requested will be to modernize the current HVAC system within the Kansas History Museum. Many areas must be environmentally controlled to preserve historic collections. The current pneumatic system is 38 years old and is at end of life. Replacing the pneumatic system with a modern digital system will ensure the continued protection of the collections from deterioration and damage. These Historic collections are utilized to teach the history of our State to K-12 children and our adult population. Only a portion of the modernization plan was addressed in our 5-year Capital Improvement plan. This current proposal includes the remainder of a complete and needed HVAC replacement on the Kansas Museum of History's side of the building. Utilizing SFRF funding will minimize the use of State General Funds for the project and in turn save Kansas tax dollars. This project will also have a positive economic impact on Kansas as all engineering and construction will be contracted out.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Blue Valley High School HVAC and workforce development	USD 384 Blue Valley	\$475,000	<p>Blue Valley USD 384 would like to install HVAC equipment in our high school gyms to bring in and circulate fresh outside air. We can't do this with our existing HVAC heating units. This upgrade would allow for the facility's usage year-round. During the hot months, the facility isn't used because of the heat and lack of ventilation. Installing the HVAC equipment for the new gym, old gym, front hallway and gym common area will allow for better air circulation and the ability to circulate fresh air at scheduled intervals during the day and during events.</p> <p>We would also install PlasmaPURE ionization units on all our existing HVAC units. This will help mitigate the COVID virus and many other viruses and bacteria that are common in a school setting. This upgrade will directly support our response to the pandemic. It will provide many years of all-season use to our community.</p> <p>We are also asking for premium pay to pay out over the next two consecutive years. By providing premium pay for work done that is above and beyond expectations during the pandemic, we will be able to compensate staff for the extra work they are doing. It also adds incentive for staff to know that the work they so is appreciated.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Construction/Addition of Medical Isolation Pod for the Crawford County Jail	Crawford County Sheriff's Office/Jail	\$237,500	<p>Our Sheriff's Office operates 108 bed jail. The biggest challenge that we have faced during this pandemic, has been the inability to medically isolate incoming arrestees from the general population. The same could be said for the isolation and quarantining of positive and exposed inmates of COVID-19. In order to prevent an outbreak in the jail, it is vital that we can limit and mitigate any exposures of COVID-19 to inmates in our facility. The new addition would provide seven(7) medical quarantine/isolation cells. It is our hopes that this project will help protect the health of the inmates, which in return will also reduce the liability and medical costs associated with a COVID-19 outbreak in our jail. We will be able to meet applicable guiding principles as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This project is a one-time investment to permanent infrastructure to promote a healthy environment to inmates - This funding request for this project will be a partnership with other ARPA funds awarded to the county - Preventing and reducing the spread of disease along with other established strategies (inmate incentive for vaccinations). Our vaccination program helps reduce spread within the jail and community spread upon release.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	City Hall Modernization Project	City Of Liberal	\$200,000	<p>The City of Liberal struggles to keep up with modernization and energy efficiency at City facilities. Energy efficiency is necessary to keep up with emissions mandates. City governments do not have the means to achieve emissions goals set forth by the U.S. government. IT modernization is essential to improve operational efficiency, reduce overall technology costs, boost security and support employee productivity. IT modernization includes data center optimization, high-performance mobile devices, networking and security.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Doniphan County Courthouse ADA Accessibility Improvement	Doniphan County, Kansas	\$100,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested is to construct an ADA compliant ramp, with the required safety measures. This project will foster long term impacts for those individuals with mobility issues by an increased access to courthouse services.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	State Printing Plant Systems Enhancements	OFPM	\$4,300,000	<p>Intended use of the requested funds is to address existing conditions with State print plant to provide safe work environment for staff, protect investments in new modern equipment and overall efficiency in services provided to State agencies, Legislature and Kansans.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Kansas Judicial Center Capital Improvement Projects	Judicial	\$2,100,000	Modernize key areas in Kansas Judicial Center as a one-time expenditure that will enable flexibility within the judicial branch to foster long-term systemic impact for Kansas (guiding principles 1,3,5,6).
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	State Universities' Facilities Capital Renewal Initiative	Kansas Board of Regents	\$50,000,000	COVID-19 has impacted the universities' enrollments, reducing tuition revenues available to the campuses. To rightsize the campus footprint and to ensure buildings with optimal ventilation, the Board of Regents requests funds for the state universities. The buildings of the state universities represent places where learning and research occur. They also aid in the recruitment and retention of students, faculty, staff and inspire ongoing participation of alumni and donors. Most importantly they provide the physical environment in which the academic missions of the institutions can be fulfilled. The Board of Regents' Facilities Capital Renewal Initiative addresses facilities deferred maintenance and building/systems renewal on the campuses of the state universities with a new policy framework. Fundamental to this initiative is the retirement of obsolete facilities. Establishment of a \$50 million fund to finance the engineering and razing of buildings that no longer provide a safe, healthy, and productive space for educational purposes will be a first step toward revitalization of the state university campuses to serve the higher education aspirations of future generations in Kansas.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Power Factor Correction	Ally Energy Solutions	\$10,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Factor is a measure of electrical efficiency Many KS electric utilities impose a penalty to customers for low Power Factor efficiency. Penalties can increase customer demand charges by 5-25%. Power Factor Correction technology can eliminate penalties Return on investment ranges between 15%-50% per year <p>First, a bill analysis is done to determine whether or not a particular facility is a candidate and the potential opportunity. Engineering and equipment are selected depending on the relevant circumstances. The work is performed with the inclusion of monitoring equipment for verification and measurement of savings. Typically the installer will underwrite the savings guarantee until the payback of the investment. Because of their very high rates of return, this program would support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a financial manner.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Stand-by Generators for Fire Department & City Building	City of Albert	\$17,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing service Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Establish Career Center Campus at all 9 KDO Corrections operated facilities	Corrections	\$149,275,575	Construction of career campuses meets SPARK guidelines 2, 3, 4, and 5. Public/private partnerships to establish training facilities and infrastructure to ensure that more KDOC residents have the marketable job skills necessary for successful reintegration and provides employers with a skilled workforce.
Efficiency & modernization	Facilities modernization	Hays Armory & Land - #2	TAG	\$20,000,000	The KSARNG provides facilities in and manpower when called for by the State Government. The current facility in Hays severely limits the ability for the KSARNG to respond to the State's call for emergency operations (condition of the facility, site/facility space limitations, and location). A new Armory would dramatically improve the KSARNG ability to respond to future State Emergencies and would act as a stationing point for emergencies in the western part of the state.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Construct Work Release Center at Topeka Correctional Facility	Corrections	\$18,568,687	Constructing a work release center to support reintegration of inmates into the Kansas workforce meets SPARK guidelines 3 and 4. Work release provides a valuable opportunity for residents to find employment prior to release. This allows residents to start saving for release, pay restitution, court costs, child support, and taxes as well as room and board back to the state.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Construct Work Release Facility at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Facility	Corrections	\$13,020,545	Constructing a work release center to support reintegration of inmates into the Kansas workforce meets SPARK guidelines 3 and 4. Work release provides a valuable opportunity for residents to find employment prior to release. This allows residents to start saving for release, pay restitution, court costs, child support, and taxes as well as room and board back to the state.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Access to Justice	Judicial	\$4,194,500	Bettering access to justice is good for all Kansans. Those that need access to the judicial branch can better access materials, including self-represented litigants. nsans.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Hesston Consolidated Government Services Facility	City of Hesston	\$12,000,000	<p>As part of our master plan to redevelop, revitalize, and reinvigorate the downtown core of the City of Hesston, we are excited to embrace and highlight this project as the "centerpiece" of our downtown. We are extremely excited to lead the way and set the standard regarding fund leveraging for other small cities across the state and demonstrate how recent legislation will transform rural Kansas.</p> <p>The City of Hesston has been selected as the pilot program for the launch of TEFFIE. Out of this landmark legislation comes a dedicated, well-rounded master plan. and the ability to leverage public and private funding to extend investment. This one-time investment project will serve as a launch into stimulating long term growth, circulating millions of dollars, expanding opportunity in retail and commercial venues while enhancing sense of place and hometown pride. It doesn't get any better.</p> <p>This project will serve as one of two starting points in redevelopment. Other components include:</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Osage County Law Enforcement Center	Osage County Sheriff's Office	\$10,000,000	<p>Osage Co. Law Enforcement and Public Safety Center: \$10 Million</p> <p>The proposed facility is capable of responding to COVID19, the physical and mental health needs of Osage County's incarcerated population. The proposed building includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity to isolate and quarantine inmates for purposes of mental health observation and COVID19 response by providing more bed space, a nurse's station and facility for mental health services to be provided on site. • Facilities for inmate visit, (many of our incarcerated feel depressed due to the inability to have in person/video communications with their loved ones and isolation from other inmates as we try to reduce the spread • An air filtration system using positive pressure & air scrubbers to mitigate airborne contaminants and contagions to help minimize the spread of diseases between staff, inmates, & the general public. • Upgrades to dispatch center including improved 911 system, CAD system, more space to allow for social distancing for dispatch staff, and weather resiliency to ensure our dispatch is operational during emergencies and natural disasters • Upgrades to radios to allow interoperable communications with fire & medical first responders that meet Federal guidelines
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	West Patrol Division Community Center	Kansas City KS Police Department	\$4,000,000	<p>Building a West Patrol Station with a community outreach building/space attached will increase community ties. The KCKPD has an operating budget to which includes infrastructure/building maintenance but it's not enough for a new station. By building the West Patrol Division Community Center would provide long term positive impact in our neighborhoods and attract future economic development. This project would attract potential businesses to invest in Western Wyandotte County and help revitalize the area East of I-435.</p> <p>Also, it will help build relationships to foster transparency between the community and the police officers that serve Wyandotte County. In addition, we would be able to measure the positive impact in several different ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Outreach to build stronger relationships. - Bring new economic development to the area and lower the tax burden for Wyandotte Countians. - Crime reduction and lower homelessness to attract more families to live in Wyandotte County. - Improve streets for traveling and engineer sidewalks to encourage outdoor activities for everyone. <p>Encouraging outdoor activities is critical in overall health and happiness.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	A City Hall for St. George, KS	City of St. George, KS	\$3,000,000	<p>As far as is known, St. George never had it's own City Hall. City Hall has bounced from one yucky building to another wherever one could be found. Currently we have one room in a rented steel building that has been partitioned off. Also in the building is a junky garage and an additional room the owner lives in. It's smoky, full of gasoline and diesel fumes, does not meet our needs, and makes a terrible impression upon people moving into town and having to come in to arrange to have their utilities turned on. On top of this, because City employees are on top of each other in the room, if one gets COVID or sick, all our employees get COVID or sick. There have been times in the past 18 months that the City has had to close the office because all of its employees were sick.</p> <p>Until recently, our city was the fastest growing community in the fastest growing county in the state. We have just completed our Comp Plan and are holding implementation meetings. Historically, our community has been a place people drove by and would never think of moving to. Now, we're growing and we NEED a City Hall that gives our community a pleasing focal point so those who are moving in think they've landed in paradise rather than some garbage dump.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	KLETC Training Infrastructure	Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (University of Kansas)	\$12,922,000	<p>The most pressing need for the KLETC campus is housing facilities. Typically, students are housed on campus for a week at a time and for up to 14 week stays. Presently, there are two dormitory buildings. Welch Hall is a renovated facility designed for 53 double-occupancy rooms, but providing 40 single occupancy rooms plus guest facilities for adjunct instructors on the ground floor. The newer East Dormitory provides 126 beds in 63 double-occupancy rooms. Between 50 and as many as 200 additional beds are sometimes needed, but an additional 80 beds in single-occupancy rooms would satisfy most of the anticipated need.</p> <p>Current dining facilities provide seating for 188 now, serving students and KLETC Staff. Professional Development programs are catered into classroom space. Additional capacity of 300 to 400 is anticipated. Catering capacity will need to expand, and a separate warming kitchen is needed to support the Integrity conference spaces that are used for large training events.</p> <p>KLETC is pleased that the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas Sheriff's Association set KLETC's needs among their top recommendations for the use of SPARK funds.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	State Fire Service Joint Facility	Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, University of Kansas	\$3,000,000	Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, housed at the University of Kansas, and Kansas Forest Service, housed at Kansas State University, would like to collaborate to build a mixed-use, climate-controlled joint facility in Manhattan, Kansas (on land that KSU owns) to properly house training props and equipment and to provide work space to maintain them. This facility will provide both the space to service and maintain fire equipment issued to the State's fire service at no cost, and to store props used in enhancing training realism and increasing training consistency. This request is for a one-time use of funds that will have a long-term impact to Kansas communities through properly equipped and trained fire and emergency services personnel. Funds received through this request can be combined with or leveraged against agency funds and/ or private donations. This is an exciting opportunity for two State universities to scale resources and gain efficiencies on behalf of Kansas communities, consistent with Kansas Board of Regent's desire for State universities to work together more collaboratively.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Soldier Township Fire Station	Soldier Township Fire Department	\$3,000,000	Soldier Township is in desperate need of a new Fire Station. Our current station is near 50 years old and is beyond its functional life expectancy, is dated in its design/features, and requires increasing operational costs to maintain and operate at the expected service level necessary to protect residents in Soldier Township. Our Station, constructed in 1976, was designed to be used as a volunteer Fire Station and is inadequate for our current staffing levels as we evolve into a career fire department. We have seen the population and call loads of the department increase substantially over the years necessitating the evolution from volunteer to career delivered services.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Emergency Services Building (Fire / EMS / PD) / City hall	Ranson Financial	\$1,000,000	Emergency Services is needed every day. Grant funding for a building to house personnel, equipment ,and vehicles does not exist. We would like to see a special round of funding for this. Buildings are falling down, new fire trucks are larger and do not fit into smaller buildings. Many communities have their equipment stored outside. These first responders run emergency calls every day. Covid 19 has increased their calls significantly. Some services do not have an office to perform clerical duties required after a call. City Halls service the entire community, State, and Federal government. Many City Halls had to design make shift equipment to keep staff safe.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Nashville City Hall and Fire Department	City of Nashville Kansas & Fire Department	\$200,000	<p>The funding will be used to build a new dual purpose fire station/city hall that will be able to accommodate storage of fire trucks and gear as well as a meeting area for city hall and local township meetings. The fire department is managed by The City of Nashville but provides protection of all of the City of Nashville, Liberty Township and 2/3 of Kingman Township. Our local VOLUNTEER firefighters cover areas in south central Kansas if needed, as well as helping out with the Oklahoma Anderson Creek Fire in 2016.</p> <p>Volunteer Fire Fighters currently have to move one truck out at a time from housing to get to fires. The trucks are housed in a concrete block building that was built over 50 years ago. We struggle to maintain proper electrical maintenance in the building as well as trying to keep fire trucks maintained.</p> <p>The Nashville City Hall is about a 15 x 15 concrete block building. We currently are unable to use the hall. We have been sharing the Nashville Senior Center space with our citizens. The City Council members have to keep all local city information at their residences.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	Emergency Mobile Dispatch and Training Center (EMDTC)	Kansas 911 Coordinating Council	\$840,270	<p>On August 2, 2020, Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus COVID-19 task force leader, warned that the United States is in a different phase of pandemic. With the advent of several coronavirus variants, the pandemic today is more widespread than beforehand. In addition, COVID is as prevalent in rural areas as urban areas. Even a possible compound incidence of COVID with regular flu season could overwhelm Kansas 9-1-1 emergency dispatch centers. Based on these scenarios, the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council ("Council") is requesting a State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) grant to be fully prepared for pandemics, epidemics, and natural disasters.</p> <p>Our grant proposal satisfies all the acceptance criteria and priorities established by the federal guidelines and Kansas SPARK Executive and Steering Committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement to the Kansas NG911 program. • Innovative approach to sustaining 9-1-1 service • Infrastructure exists, "shovel-ready" project • Provide 911 infrastructure for Kansas emergency health/safety. • Outside of Council Budget. • Implementation plan is ready to execute with delivery of goods starting within 180 days of grant award • Total cost of the EMDTC is \$1,201,869.83 fully integrated, tested and delivered.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Cybersecurity	OITS	\$12,000,000	By investing in cybersecurity efforts, the State of Kansas can increase our efforts and abilities to secure all Kansas citizens information and protect access to critical services delivered by the State of Kansas during situations like the Covid-19 pandemic. Consulting will assist agencies in hardening and securing environments. In addition it will provide much needed resources and will also help prepare us for future events and cybersecurity incidents by expanding on cybersecurity capabilities and further developing our resilience.

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Cybersecurity upgrades	Judicial	\$6,808,564	Bettering network security will have a lasting impact on all Kansans who come into contact with the Judicial Branch. Securing our systems, including the case management system, ensures that potentially sensitive information is safe.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Constituency Identity Governance and Access Management (SSO)	OITS	\$3,000,000	Investing in the stand up of a citizen identity portal that integrates into multiple applications from multiple state agencies can provide citizens a secure method of identifying them and granting access to various applications. This also generates a significant level of convenience for the citizens it not having to remember multiple usernames and passwords and to easily access state services. This will also use modern secure authentication mechanisms to protect citizen credentials.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	KS Employee Identity Governance and Access Management (SSO)	OITS	\$2,500,000	Implementing a central employee identity and access management system increases enterprise security as well as advancing towards a zero trust architecture. It allows for better support of remote work and employee productivity.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Public Universities' Information Technology Cybersecurity	Kansas Board of Regents	\$20,000,000	The COVID-19 pandemic affected the delivery of instruction by necessitating ever greater reliance on online functions for instruction and administrative processes. The funds requested in this submission to the SPARK Executive Committee will be used to improve the Cybersecurity posture for all of Kansas Public Universities. Cyber attacks on universities are an ever increasing threat, and securing private information of students, faculty, staff, and researchers is critical. Continuing confidence in a University's Cyber Security will allow students from diverse backgrounds to enroll and benefit all Kansans with a more educated population.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Cyber Security SCADA Enterprise Computer System	City of Topeka	\$2,000,000	<p>This project involves the contracting of Managed Defense Services (MDS) to protect the City's Enterprise computer system and control systems of the Water Production and Water Pollution Control treatment and collection system in the event of a cybersecurity attack. Cybersecurity attacks have become commonplace over recent years, especially those aimed at local governments like our own. Critical infrastructure such as our water production and pollution control plants could have extreme, potentially life-threatening consequences if they are breached and disabled by a cybersecurity attack. Because of this, having a robust means of protecting those assets is critical for both the health and safety of our citizens.</p> <p>SCADA protects the enterprise system that contains the personal information of vendors, customers, and employees. Compromised information on Wastewater Collections performance analysis can pose an acute public health risk. Infrastructure security has been an ongoing program since 1992, and the water/wastewater sector has been added to the U.S. Industrial Control System cybersecurity initiative.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Water and Wastewater SCADA Security	City of Olathe	\$2,000,000	<p>The City's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants utilize an electronic Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that allows staff to control all aspects of system operation from centralized locations for water and wastewater respectively. This system is essential for regulatory compliance as it controls the treatment processes and measures process variables that are reported to KDHE. The SCADA system also ensures there is adequate water pressure in the water system for Olathe's 130,000 customers and for emergency responders fighting fires. The network design that supports SCADA function is antiquated and vulnerable to cyber-attacks. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principle of leveraging local funds to maximize use of discretionary funds.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Pandemic caused much more remote work for our staff at the water and wastewater facilities. This remote work will likely continue as the pandemic continues and ensuring unhealthy staff are able to remain home to keep our workforce is a priority for our utility. This process change puts us at a higher risk of being hacked by cyber terrorists. These improvements will help to increase security with remote access and strengthen the resilience of our utility.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Digital Fingerprinting Machines	Children's Cabinet	TBD	The request meets SPARK guidelines on multiple levels. 1)The request would use onetime funding to create a sustainable plan for modernizing the fingerprint and background check process. 2) The SPARK funds would layer on top of funding being provided by DCF and KDHE, as well as contributions for certain local law enforcement agencies with LiveScan equipment who enter a partnership with the two agencies related to child care fingerprinting. 3)SPARK funds would hae long-term impact by allowing a more efficient process for all state agencies to follow when fingerprinting required professionals. 4)Levels the playing field so that all job-seekers in the state have access to electronic fingerprinting and speedy results. 5)This funding can be used to add LiveScan equipment to more locations in the state and modernize IT systems to ensure they can communicate requests for fingerprint and background checks and the results of those checks back to the agencies involved and the prospective employers needing clearance to hire. 6) Extensive data has been gathered to document the points of delay in the process. This data can easily be used to compare results in a more modern system to document the efficiency and effectiveness of these investments.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Complete Unemployment Insurance (UI) system modernization	KDOL	\$20,000,000	Modernization of the Unemployment Insurance system will retire the current legacy IT system that caused significant disruption to the payment of unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. A modernized system will ensure quick and smooth payment of benefits to entitled Kansans.

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Court Processes Modernization	Judicial	\$6,992,500	Leveraging technology has always been important, but it is even more important today. These projects will allow Judicial Branch employees to be more effective in their jobs. When we are effective, we can have a huge impact on the longer-term impacts to all Kansans who come into contact with the judicial system.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Workflow Automation: System Software and Process Automation/Workflows	OITS	\$2,300,000	enhanced efficiencies for delivering IT services across the state. Standardization of processes, leading to increased resilience and ease adoptability by and for state agencies, increasing efficiencies and modernization.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Digitization of Law Library	Judicial	\$1,500,000	One time expenditures in this area will allow for better equity across the state. Everyone, regardless of where they are located, who has an internet connection can gain better access to the law library.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Computer assisted mass appraisal system	KDOR	\$500,000	This investment will add an additional component to the state appraisal system used by KDOR Property Valuation staff and county appraisers.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	O&G lease operator process digitization	KDOR	\$500,000	This investment with automate a manual process n the KOLAR system for submitting and valuing oil and gas renditions. It will also integrate data with the KCC and KGS.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Update & Secure State Election & Revenue Equipment and Software	Private Citizen	\$3,000,000	This will fill current and future need of pandemics need for secure transactions; elections; future global electronic disruption of our State's infrastructure.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Children and Families Electronic Records	SPARK Advisory Sub Committee member	\$10,000,000	Currently foster care caseworkers keep the records for each foster child in a 3-ring binder. This leads to lost records and poor communication between caseworkers and foster parents. Its time the state have a secure electronic records system that allows for more efficient and complete record keeping. The cost to implement this program is purely a guess. There are other states that have implemented electronic records in this area and we should emulate those systems that have been successful.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	OAH Modernization Proposal	Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings	\$175,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the modernization of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) website and case management system (CMS). The CMS is based on an Access model which is inefficient and difficult to navigate for both external and internal users. Complete modernization of the CMS and website will take four to five years to fully implement because of budget restrictions.</p> <p>OAH provides due process by providing fair and impartial hearings for affected parties when they contest the actions of state agencies determining their legal rights and in resolving their disputes. About 75% of the parties who appear before OAH are self-represented. Unlike district courts and municipal courts, OAH considers cases from across Kansas. Upgrades to the website and the CMS will improve the administration of justice by using upgraded technology to provide more information to self-represented parties, and increase efficiency for external and internal users.</p> <p>In many OAH cases, medical records and other personally identifiable information is included in filings or exhibits. The requested funds will be used to modernize and increase security for that information.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Kansas Sentencing Data Modernization	Kansas Sentencing Commission	\$363,000	SPARK funds will be used to create a digital sentencing journal entry form that will be accessible to prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges via district court Efiling systems. This will allow the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) to permanently improve data collection by providing a completely digital collection process. As the statistical analysis center for Kansas, the KSSC must utilize three full-time employees to enter hard copy data into multiple databases prior to completing any type of analysis. Data collection modernization will not only speed up the collection process but will allow the KSSC research team to create more detailed reports, analyses, and criminal justice policy recommendations to stakeholders in the legislature, the courts, and corrections. This project will be a permanent solution to sentencing data collection in Kansas. Additionally, this project will increase data accuracy by reducing human error during the collection process but will also provide more time for analysis that will make long lasting impacts on the Kansas population across numerous different groups, including racial, ethnic, and numerous other demographic factors that will improve the criminal justice system in Kansas.

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Transition skilled labor credentialing into the 21st century	Merit International, Inc	\$10,000,000	<p>Merit’s verified identity network helps trusted organizations across government modernize and solve critical real-world problems in licensing, occupational regulation, workforce, and education. Merit’s proposed SPARK project aims to streamline and modernize government operations by connecting occupational regulation and professional licensing agencies to make licenses and credentials digital, accessible, and more valuable.</p> <p>For Kansas, the proposed partnership will strengthen resilience and support response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reducing wait times to get licensees to work fast and enable Kansans to work safely and efficiently, -Connecting licensees to jobs, training, and other opportunities that they uniquely qualify for based on their licenses and credentials, -Modernizing government by interfacing with licensing boards, associations, and continuing education and training providers, -Providing a free digital wallet for every credential, training or certificate, all secure and verifiable. <p>Merit’s proposed partnership is a key step in building an infrastructure that will help ensure that Kansans with the right skills find the right jobs.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Modernization of EMS Basic Life Support Skills Examinations	Kansas Emergency Medical Services Board	\$2,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested is to modernize our state skills certification examination for Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians by migrating to a virtual reality solution. Migration to this platform would require a one-time use of funds to develop and obtain the technology and existing scenarios into a virtual reality format. Sustainability of this project would be achieved through existing appropriations for the examination process. The development of this virtual reality format will meet the SPARK guiding principles through fostering a long-term systemic impact for EMS in Kansas and creating an equitable opportunity and outcome for all candidates examining. Results are monitored within our agency to be able to globally track end results (pass vs. fail) and to potentially identify any frequently performed inaccuracies allowing for identification of potential issues or areas to focus upon in instruction.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	BOTA Modernization Initiative	Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)	\$590,000	<p>Yes. Covid-19 pandemic exposed a significant weakness in BOTA’s IT infrastructure, as it did not have the ability to offer remote hearings as an alternative. BOTA for a period was unable to hold hearings in person. The Board consequently suffered from a backlog of cases that it is currently still working to clear. While BOTA has recently upgraded its regular division hearing room to be able to host videoconference hearings, it lacks the funds to provide the same upgrade for its small claims division. BOTA anticipates that the addition of remote hearing options in both its regular and small claims divisions will allow it to process cases more quickly while providing participants an improved hearing experience. BOTA anticipates that SFRF funds would address the security and longevity of the BOTA’s current IT systems. For example, BOTA currently runs several applications on outdated servers; those applications could likely be transitioned to cloud-based alternatives that would be more secure, less costly to maintain, and have greater long-term storage potential – thus protecting the security of taxpayers’ information as well as preventing a lapse in services if BOTA’s servers were ever to crash due to old age or malware attack.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	SCaaS, DocAI	Resultant, LLC	\$2,000,000	<p>Resultant is a technology, data analytics, and management consulting firm headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. Resultant works with clients to help better achieve their organizational goals by maximizing their people, processes, and technology. Our team works to ensure that clients are maximizing their technology investments and working within secure, productive, and compliant environments. The team includes project managers, business analysts, technical subject matter experts (SMEs), and infrastructure and cloud SMEs. The deep technical skillsets paired with strategic business experience ensure that clients’ solutions are completed with both technical and change management expertise.</p> <p>The intended use of the funds requested for this submission to the SPARK committee is to digitize, OCR and perform data analytics for any paper documentation the State of Kansas has possession of. Example use cases include DHHS, DOC and Revenue (tax). We would leverage Google DocAI technology to improve forms, processes and provide analytics necessary to influence business processes. Currently, Resultant is contracted by the IRS to perform the task of digitizing tax forms and improving business processes surrounding the innovation branch.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Enterprise Cross Tracking Platform (Assessment and Implementation)	Google Gloud	\$0	<p>Public health relies on timely, accurate information to make prompt and insight-driven decisions to inform programs, policies, and investments. These decisions require robust data and health information systems and data science talent and informatics infrastructure. To advance public health in Kansas and enable timely, accurate, and well-governed exchange of data for programs at all levels of government for all diseases and conditions, the Department of Health must modernize its data systems, enhance its workforce, and implement technologies to better protect the public's health. To do this, the State must assess its current state system with regards to informatics workforce, data systems and interoperability, and data governance and identify areas needing improvement and modernization. This effort is to guide and implement immediate and long-term data modernization initiatives in combination with subsequent environmental assessments of State's health information systems and interoperability, and associated data governance.</p> <p>We propose a solution that enables strong data governance, curation and a scalable visualization tool with built-in AI</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Conversion of Paper Licensing and Disciplinary Records to Digital Records	Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB)	\$65,000	<p>Depending on the amount of funding that is provided, we would contract with state-approved providers for boxes of records to be converted to digital records. If less funding is provided, we could purchase a high quality scanner (approximate price-point of \$5,000) and we would use available funds to provide salary for a staff members to manually scan the records. Some funding would be used for the infrastructure of the project to ensure that the records are secure, are hosted appropriately, and are safe from malware and other similar issues. We currently contract with the Board of Healing Arts for our online licensing system and the Office of Information Technology Services for most of our computer services, but we would follow the model of other state agencies who have already begun to convert their records to hold to best practices of state agencies in this area. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability of BSRB staff to locate and follow up with callers and e-mailers was negatively impacted due to our paper-records system. This conversion would allow services to be provided to the citizens of Kansas more quickly if staff had to return to remote work.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Digitization and Centralization of Vital Records	Google Gloud / SpringML	\$0	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to enable and support the state to completely digitize and centralize vital health records for the State to develop an integrate information for optimized decision-making that meets the highest possible standards of care while improving public service efficiency and delivery, and to boost transparency and citizen trust.. Digital platform with interconnected health record systems and processes that assembles and structures a wide variety of data in a user-friendly format provide the necessary care and service with much greater efficiency and accuracy. Health Record can be accessed from anywhere, anytime by the patients and also by physicians, thus increasing flexibility for a patient to visit any doctor without carrying the burden of physical files, and thus benefit both the citizens and the physicians. It helps the physician to understand patient's past medical history for improved diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Public Broadcasting Equipment Modernization	Commerce	\$26,143,801	
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Inmate education materials and equipment	Corrections	\$6,665,392	<p>This initiative meets SPARK principles 3, 4, and 5. Expanded educational and vocational opportunities will increase the number of residents who are able to participate in such programming, providing them with the education and skills needed to transition to work release or private industry jobs and ultimately back into the community.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Audio/Visual Upgrades	Judicial	\$2,753,438	<p>Updating audio/visual equipment throughout the districts and judicial branch is a one-time investment that foster long-term systemic access to justice through previously unexplored channels and will provide more equitable access to justice for Kansans and enable the judicial branch to be more flexible with the disbursement of justice. Results are measurable as the quality of viewing and audio experience for hearings throughout the state will be sufficient evidence (guiding principles 1,3,4,5,6).</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	KBI Computer & Laptop replacement	KBI	\$585,900	<p>This investment is a one-time purchase of computer and laptop replacement for the agency. As the agency shifted to a remote or hybrid work status the amount of laptop computers increased significantly. This technology assist the agency in communication efforts with the public, local and state agencies, and vendors. The laptop replacement program specifically helps the agency continue to decompress employees physical work stations and encourage social distancing.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	KDOL Call Center Phone system upgrade	KDOL	\$400,000	<p>Modernization of the Unemployment Insurance phone system will allow KDOL to be flexible with staffing needs across the state and not require call center staff to be located only in Topeka. This flexibility will allow KDOL to hire staff across the state to provide better customer service to unemployment claimants and will ensure quick and smooth payment of benefits to entitled Kansans. This also allows the agency to consider other call center locations in the future.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Modernizing Kansas Public Broadcasting Network	Kansas Public Broadcasting Council	\$26,000,000	<p>COVID-19 clearly demonstrated the importance of the need for communities to stay connected and informed. Public broadcasting is an essential service in the Emergency Management System for Kansas and the country, and now it has proven to be an even more critical community connector. Kansas public broadcasting provide free over-the-air educational, cultural and informational service to all 105 counties.</p> <p>Kansas public broadcasters have not been able to upgrade to FCC approved advanced technologies for more than a decade. This request is specific to the critical need to modernize our broadcasting infrastructure. A need precipitated by long term funding shortfalls. It does not include operations or personnel.</p> <p>Recent outages left thousands of rural Kansans without access to public television. The KWKS transmitter at Brewster is currently dark, with no signal at all for the rural residents of northwest Kansas. Likewise, the KSWK transmitter at Lakin in southwest Kansas was dark for most of January. It is unacceptable that rural Kansans should have to suffer such outages due to equipment failures, while their counterparts in neighboring states are served by well-supported and equipped public broadcasters.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Modernization of Judicial Council Conference Room	Kansas Judicial Council	\$12,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to modernize the Judicial Council conference room, located in the Judicial Center, via a one-time purchase and installation of audiovisual equipment to support video conferencing.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Enhancing Communication Accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kansans	Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)	\$800,000	<p>The KCDHH seeks to create funding mechanisms to enable communication accessibility for Deaf & Hard of Hearing people when they receive or participate in state services, programs, or activities. Many state agencies now conduct their public meetings and appointments online in response to the pandemic. Virtual means have made previously inaccessible areas of the state accessible.</p> <p>Effective communication via virtual technology is now required. Budgets are inflexible for increased access or to establish protocols. Even beyond pandemic, accessibility regulations and virtual accommodations apply. Deaf & Hard of Hearing people are requesting for this current arrangement to continue. Otherwise, they would not have interpreters. Additionally, virtual technology brings interpreters to remote areas where they could not physically be present.</p> <p>This fund request is a cushion startup giving these agencies enough time to integrate their budgets beyond FY2023. KCDHH will collect the data necessary for permanent allocations or other arrangements by the governor, the legislature or both. Through KCDHH, Kansas will be capable of supporting coordination of communication access for state services, programs, or activities after funding runs out.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	SKI - Smart Kansas Initiative	Viaanix	\$750,000	<p>Many state buildings face aging/outdated systems which leads to inefficiencies and lost revenue. Currently, there is no system to monitor the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility (Electric, Water &/or Gas) usage by building or department Air Quality Service areas (restrooms) Water leakage Space usage & occupancy <p>Viaanix will deliver a state-of-the-art IoT platform to collect data from gateways/sensors and provide an analytics platform to create efficiencies, safety, and better data-based decisions. The platform will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide custom notification—email, text, & alarm—to management, maintenance, & security Provide useful data to reduce inefficiencies & raise safety awareness by monitoring utilities, air quality, service areas, space occupancy, and any data point you choose to monitor Serve as an interoperable platform & centralized point of collected data of all state buildings & assets for analysis, action, & conversion to SMART buildings Offer access to +800 sensors <p>Once a platform is deployed, gateways/sensors will be added to individual buildings and collect data. The baseline platform cost is \$500K with gateways/sensors prices negotiated per building and application. The platform is scalable and able to monitor anything from existing sensors.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Technology Upgrades	Judicial	\$13,367,354	<p>Updating technology equipment throughout the districts and judicial branch is a one-time investment that foster long-term systemic access to justice through heightened internal financial controls. These upgrades will provide more equitable access to justice for Kansans through standardized equipment and ability to access judicial resources. Results are measurable as the technology can be tracked and audited to ensure what is requested is what is provided throughout the state (guiding principles 1,3,4,5,6).</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	KANWIN Network Modernization and Augmentation	OITS	\$12,500,000	The upgrade and modernization of the Statewide KANWIN network will provide the state of Kansas with a robust, modern and redundant network services. This will allow for the continued support of current service offerings as well as the potential to augment services and offerings by and for the state. The current network is in need of hardware replacement for roughly 1200 individual devices for which in the event of a failure, would cause an outage to all or some components of the KANWIN network, causing major government operational impacts and disruptions. The modernization would also continue to allow expansion of state services as well as improve the overall security, management and availability of the KANWIN network.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Data Warehouse	OITS	\$5,000,000	Assess, evaluate and implement a single data source for users and applications to provide, exchange and maintain commonly used data. This will also improve our data security and allow agencies to share information effectively across all departmental applications that shared the same data. The result is a solution that will improve user experience and provide intuitive reports to enhance data-driven decision making.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Centralized IT Projects	Judicial	\$1,703,789	Modernizing IT infrastructure will have a lasting impact on all Kansans who come into contact with the Judicial Branch. Well built systems will allow for full functionality moving forward, reducing changes for outages and disruptions to work and services.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Modernization and Upgrades of Infrastructure	OITS	\$1,500,000	Upgrades and Modernizations needed to infrastructure, for multiple physical locations to ensure the continuation of government services, business continuity and disaster recovery. The upgrades and Modernizations are needed to key and critical infrastructure such as fiber extensions, Cooling units, engineering study for upgrade to cooling and fire suppression units with a core network switch location. UPS batteries and switches in support of a key network location. Fire suppression, HVAC upgrades needed to a key infrastructure and network location for the state of Kansas. Without these upgrades/modernization efforts, failure of these infrastructure components will cause outages and service interruptions to agencies and services that reside on the KANWIN network.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	KDOR System: Upgrade computer systems & software	KDOR	\$1,000,000	This investment will upgrade the software for the Business Analysis and Design team at the Department of Revenue.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Installation of equipment to facilitate WiFi in KDO Corrections agency work units and facilities	Corrections	\$841,916	Addition of Wifi capabilities meet SPARK principles 3, 4, and 5. Remote work is increasingly becoming the norm. Increasing access to programs and behavioral health services through remote services will allow KDOC to reach more residents and better prepare them for release. Additionally, wireless connectivity improves staff mobility within the facility, thus increasing efficiency.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	New Highway Pavement Management System	KDOT	\$55,000	This aligns well with the SPARK principle of being a sustainable investment as it's a one-time cost for a much-needed improvement. It will also "foster a long-term systemic impact for Kansas. Kansans invest about \$500 million annually on highway preservation and this will help us maximize that investment. It follows the measurable and transparent principle since all Kansans can view our pavement metrics on the KDOT website. And KDOT will be utilizing the data from the new management system to help us make a more resilient highway system. The funding request is for the upfront cost required to purchase a new system based on vendor cost-estimates and to cover some of the implementation expenses likely to occur as we transfer from the old system to the new. KDOT will release an RFP later this year and once a vendor is selected can provide receipts for reimbursement should SPARK chose to award funds for this.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Community Building	City of Montezuma	\$43,000	The intended use for the funds requested from the SPARK committee would be to help develop the technology and broadband infrastructure in our Community Building. This building will have many uses for large and small groups and because of it's design it will be able to hold several people and be able to allow them to have adequate space for an individual's comfort and safety. The development of technology in our building will meet the SPARK guidelines and principles by fostering a long-term impact on our community members by having a good safe building to house many people for activities and meetings and to make sure the technology is up to date and working properly for good communication.
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Critical System Upgrades to Serve Kansas Children in Care	Mainstream Nonprofit Solutions	\$1,296,000	As we strive to keep our software and systems up to date, our information technology staff is constantly maintaining programs and unable to make worthwhile upgrades to increase the efficiency of our processes. With extra resources, we would be able to make necessary upgrades that will create efficiencies across the agency. SMS Integration (Consolidating our SMS text messaging to families, parents, etc.), Upgrades to Computers (Case workers and other key field staff are operating outdated machinery that impacts efficiency and ability to serve families in a timely manner.), Facial Recognition (Implementing facial recognition software to gain entry to field offices would increase safety and security for our workers), TFIOne (Building out the clinical portions of the software), Data Fix Screens(able to dedicate resources to implement a "data fix" screen that will allow the user to make updates to their submission.), Electronic Signatures (Significant time and paper is spent printing and signing documents in our system. With funding, we could dedicate resources to implement an electronic signature framework)

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Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Agency-wide technology and security modernization project	Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office (KCAVO)	\$1,862,000	<p>The intended use of the funds requested from the SPARK committee is to invest in network/infrastructure modernization and security enhancements at the Kansas Veterans Home (KVH), the Kansas Soldiers Home (KSH), the Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries, and Veteran Services Field Office locations throughout the state. If received, these SPARK monies would enhance the outstanding services already provided by the KCAVO. The upgrades and enhancements listed below will have a long-term systemic impact for the 196,000 veterans and their family members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Upgrade to single mode fiber for increased bandwidth and efficiency. -Expanded capacity exchange server to remain compliant with records retention requirements/data governance -Replace near out-of-life access (IDF) switches and cabling at the KVH and KSH -Install NVR, cameras, proximity door locks, and paging system for physical security to ensure safety of residents at the KVH and KSH -install security appliances at remote field offices -Purchase Multi-Factor authentication software licenses -Replace outdated computers and end-point devices for the agency -Upgrade the gravesite kiosk locator systems at all State Veterans' Cemeteries <p>The KCAVO will continue to serve Kansas Veterans with pride.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Modernization of IT infrastructure and network including communication with our Emergency Services	City of Mount Hope	\$100,000	<p>Our network is in need of modernization to keep up with communication standards that will allow us to interact with both the county and state operations; in the area of emergency services. Our existing network needs to be upgraded in order to be in compliance with the county and state standards, in addition to being able to operate updated applications.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Infrastructure Modernization Assessment and Roadmap	Google Cloud / SpringML	\$0	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to develop and implement a strategy to migrate all major State IT assets to Cloud including - Assessing the inventory of workloads, Workshop to analyze and rank candidate migration workloads, to Piloting the first workload. Following the assessment phase, a detailed migration strategy will be laid out and executed to fully operationalize migration of identified on-premise workloads. The funding estimate provided as part of this idea includes only the Assessment and Pilot phases. The outcome of the Assessment phase will include a detailed plan and estimate of complete migration.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	IT infrastructure	Comprehensive Software Platform	Viaanix, Inc.	\$7,500,000	<p>The State of Kansas currently experiences certain inefficiencies from a software architecture platform that was constructed with disparate software vendors and perhaps limited user input. Viaanix Inc. seeks to collaborate with the State of Kansas to develop and deliver a customized, comprehensive system/software architecture that serves as an integrated, interoperable, efficient, and secure single point of entry—including payment systems capability—for all state IT-based functions. This one-time funding will yield a deliverable based on a four-part process of a) consultation & research, b) development, c) proofing & implementation, and d) transfer of ownership with training and support. By accessing a customized, integrated system, the state will realize ROI through enhanced efficiencies vs. multi-incompatible vendors and products. Through working directly with state users/stakeholders, the platform team will develop and implement a customer-based deliverable within the timeframe. Now is the optimal time to invest in and procure a customized, comprehensive system/software platform that streamlines operations and functionality through software and design compatibility based on the stated needs and expectations of the end-user.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Patrol (Law Enforcement) Aircraft Modernization	KHP	\$18,100,000	<p>KHP is the sole provider of law enforcement airborne assets, and KHP is in dire need of updated aircraft and equipment to continue to provide air support for all public agencies across the 105 counties. In 2021 alone, the KHP Air Unit assists over 140 different agencies. Throughout the course of the pandemic, the Air Unit assisted various agencies in transporting blood, personnel, critical medical equipment such as ventilators, life-saving medicine, and personal protection equipment to meet the demanding needs of the citizens of Kansas. This one-time use of funds will foster a long-term systemic impact for Kansas and be a leading contributor to measurable outcomes. As the equipment and assets continue to age, the availability will diminish and could result in long travel time in getting vulnerable citizens across the state the goods & services that may save their life.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Patrol (Law Enforcement) Radio Modernization	KHP	\$17,915,115	<p>The new AES encryption standard will affect all users on KSICS and requires an investment into KSICS infrastructure. The largest user on KSICS, the Kansas Highway Patrol, also maintains Central Dispatch. Central Dispatch is the primary state communication point for radio users and handles all request for assistance from the KHP, as well as implementing interoperability patches utilizing Motobridge which ties VHF, UHF and other conventional users to the statewide interop talk groups on KSICS.</p> <p>Many counties and cities currently use ADP, DES, or AES encryption, which is currently an accepted standard, however; it has caused issues for standardization and reliable communication across the state.</p> <p>Compliance with the CISA mandate crates a financial hardship for both KDOT and KHP at a time when budgets are lean. The new AES encryption standard requires a large investment in the infrastructure to update all KSICS users, and because KDOT is the financial backing of the equipment (hardware and software), system maintenance, and monitoring, this unbudgeted expenditure is currently without funding.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Replace radios for all KDWP law enforcement staff	KDWPT	\$750,000	<p>The money would be used to purchase new radios for 57 fully law enforcement certified park rangers, improving public safety, especially in rural underserved areas where state parks are located.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Vehicle Mounted Radio Replacement	KBI	\$501,446	<p>KBI vehicle radios are currently past their life expectancy and on an old frequency. The agency utilizes radios as a central point of communication, specifically during times of emergency or disaster. As we must transition into the new frequency we do so without the financial capability to do so and require an investment into the infrastructure. This would be a one-time use of funds in order to make the necessary upgrades.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Handheld Portable Radio Replacement	KBI	\$269,705	<p>KBI portable radios are currently past their life expectancy and on an old frequency. The agency utilizes radios as a central point of communication, specifically during times of emergency or disaster. As we must transition into the new frequency we do so without the financial capability to do so and require an investment into the infrastructure. This would be a one-time use of funds in order to make the necessary upgrades.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	First Responder Equipment	Cowley County Sheriff's Office	\$42,000	<p>The current communications radios utilized by the Cowley County Sheriff's Office were obtained via a grant in 2005. They are past their shelf life and Deputies commonly experience malfunctions and radio failures. The request is to replace all handheld radios as well as vehicle mounted radios. The Cowley County Sheriff's Office is a First Responding agency that responds to calls for service throughout Cowley County and assists surrounding communities. Many of the smaller communities in Cowley County do not have their own law enforcement agency and those services are provided by the Sheriff's Office. Adequate communication is vital to calls for service, whether traffic related, criminal or to assist in mass disasters or pandemics. During the Covid-19 era the Sheriff's Office has responded with other emergency responders to assist. Many of these could be Covid related. The Sheriff's Office has also provided delivery of prescription medications to those who were not able to leave their home due to the pandemic. As the future is unknown the Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to calls and the updated radios will greatly impact the Sheriff's Office and the community it serves.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Rush County Emergency Communication Upgrade	Rush County Sheriff's Office	\$580,000	<p>The funding would be a long term solution to provide effective emergency communication abilities for Sheriff, EMS, Fire, Emergency Preparedness and essential personnel in Rush County. The Upgrade of our communication platform would allow for effective communication with all Kansas Emergency Response Agencies and improve emergency response. The funding would allow for the upgrade of 911 radio communication equipment, mobile and portable 800MHZ radios for emergency personnel and the possibility of radio repeater upgrades.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Communications Equipment Upgrade	Stanton County Sheriff Office	\$243,480	<p>Funds will be used upgrade out dated communications equipment in the dispatch center as well as emergency response vehicles and Deputy radio's. This should be a long term solution to maintain a rapid response to emergency needs to the citizens of Stanton County and Kansas.</p>
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Implementation of Mobile Data Terminals	Marysville Kansas Police Department	\$40,000	<p>The Marysville Police Department found it extremely difficult to police during the COVID-19 pandemic due to computer capabilities. We felt it necessary to remove half of our department from our building due to the potential of an outbreak. We knew the responsibility to continue to offer policing services to our community. In an effort to increase our connectivity, we are hoping to purchase and install mobile data terminals in our patrol vehicles. This would allow the officers to work directly from their vehicles and complete necessary reports per state law. Additionally, during the COVID pandemic, we saw an increase in response to mental health calls. The implementation of MDTs in our patrol vehicles allows us to coordinate mental health screenings remotely, thus further protecting the licensed mental health screener and the subject experiencing a mental health crisis. It additionally allows us another tool to interact with our community remotely, for those individuals that do not feel safe leaving their home during the pandemic. This is especially necessary to interact with individuals with a compromised immune system.</p> <p>Funding is necessary from the SPARK grant to support installing MDTs and serving our community.</p>

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Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Public Address System for the Kansas State Fairgrounds	Kansas State Fair	\$1,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to purchase a public address system for the Kanas State Fairgrounds. Currently, there is no way to warn/notify attendees on the Fairgrounds of pending weather, events, or lost/missing child/parent. The Kansas State Fairgrounds encompasses roughly 280 acres and more than 75 buildings. Currently, during the 10 days of the Kansas State Fair, the Kansas Highway Patrol is responsible for notifying attendees of any issues that arise via the use of golf carts and bullhorns. During the rest of the year, it is the responsibility of Fair staff to inform on-campus events of issues that may arise. With the technology currently available, we are given a little more advance notice for pending inclement weather but even then, we still need to get the word out.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Interoperable Communications Upgrades	Andover Police Department	\$259,000	The Andover Police Department has to replace 23 mobile radios and 22 hand held radios due to the federally mandated change to band width requirements. The Andover Police Department has currently replaced 13 hand held radios that were received from Butler County. The replacement of these radio's is vital in the direct support of Kansas' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and it will strengthen Kansas' resilience. Officers will need these radio's to communicate with other law enforcement officers, EMS, Fire, and other first responders dealing with COVID-19, or other major critical events.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Interoperable Communications Upgrade	Valley Center Police Department	\$140,000	Interoperable communications upgrades focusing on federally mandated change to band width requirements will require the Valley Center Police Department to purchase new mobile and portable radios before the year 2023, currently VCPD have both mobile and portable radios used for emergency communications, emergency responses daily operations, flooding, tornadoes, fires and civil unrest that only operate on 800MHz and will not operate with the new federal frequency band requirements. This is most critical to address because emergency communications will be limited for VCPD to respond to address public safety and officer safety. This technology improvement is within the Governor's five year Statewide Strategic Plan. VCPD is in the most critical need of 22 APX 6000 Series handheld radios with accessories, 4 APX6500 Enhanced 7/8 base units and 10 APX6500 Enhanced 7/8 mobile (vehicle) radios totaling approx. \$140,000. Without the purchase of this much need communication equipment VCPD will not be able to communicate with Sedgwick County 911 and all other surrounding agencies.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Body and Mobile Device and Equipment Modernization	Andover Police Department	\$325,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to upgrade the outdated aging Body and Mobile Camera systems used by the Andover Police Department. The use of body worn and car cameras are critical in to improve officer safety, increase evidence quality, reduce civilian complaints, and reduce agency liability.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Dispatch Console Upgrade	Greenwood Co. Sheriff	\$56,222	The intended use of these funds will be updating devices and equipment in the Greenwood County Dispatch Center. Current system is 14 years old and unable to be updated or supported. This is a current cyber and physical security risk. The upgrade is intended to strengthen our radio and dispatch console network as well as integrate the NG911 and AT&T Avaya phone network. The integration of these networks will modernize our network in these areas and will provide our IT department the ability to build a more robust security protocol for cyber and physical intrusions. This is a sustainable program that will combine with local funds to create a systematic impact for not only Greenwood County but the entire State of Kansas.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Computer Aided Dispatch and Record Management System Modernization	Andover E-911 Center	\$220,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the upgrade of the Andover Police Departments outdated and broken computer aided dispatch and record management system (CAD.) The new CAD system will meet the SPARK guiding principles of improving device and equipment while also improving officer information inputted into a records management system that works. The current system was bought by another company and now they do not support any major changes or upgrades needed.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Soldier Township Personal Protective Equipment	Soldier Township Fire Department	\$190,000	Soldier Township Fire Department is seeking assistance to acquire new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to replace our outdated units currently in service. This project is the most pressing concern to the department as we want to ensure that our firefighters are as safe as we can make them in the many IDLH environments that they face. Our current inventory of SCBAs and associated components were purchased used 15 years ago to match what our regional partners were using at that time. Our regional partners have updated their equipment since then leaving us once again with a different and out dated SCBA. Our SCBAs are now nearing 20 years of service and were designed to meet to 1997 standard and were field updated to the 2002 NFPA standard. Our current inventory is also starting to show its sign of age and wear and is becoming costly for us to maintain. In addition, all of our carbon fiber cylinders have had their last hydro testing are to the end of their service life. The project is to replace all of our SCBAs currently in service with new assemblies meeting the latest standard.

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Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Interoperability 800 Communications	Ellinwood Police Department	\$30,000	Interoperable communications upgrades focusing on federally mandated change to band width requirements. Barton County Communications has made the change over to the 800mg/htz system. These radios will allow Ellinwood Police Department to Explanation: The federal government has implemented a major change in the emergency services frequency band necessary to accommodate the increased demand within those frequency bands. The change is narrowing the operating band of current radio systems that requires all radios to be capable operating on the new narrower band width by some time in 2023. Funding assistance is needed for some of our agencies to meet the costs of this transition. This is not only critical for our daily operations but is most critical to address the interoperability needs in major critical events such as flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, and civil unrest
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Upgrade Radio Capability	Marysville Police Department	\$30,000	The Marysville Police Department needs to upgrade our radio system by adding three mobile radios to be installed in patrol vehicles and one base station radio to be installed in office. This would provide us the necessary communications capability to add vehicles and work stations to keep employees safe during the pandemic. This is a direct effect of the COVID pandemic.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	GPD Equipment Upgrade	Garnett Police Department	\$25,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans Ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency0
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Radio Communication Interopability	Coffeyville Police Department	\$151,822	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARKS committee is to support the ability of radio communication interoperability within our region. Our communication center serves as the heart beat or known as the emergency operation center from minor to major critical incidents. Currently our center has limited radios that they listen to surrounding agencies however with this one time use of funds would bring the center up in technology to listen and communicate with surrounding agencies. During high times of covid all of our agencies were mutual aiding other agency and radio communication was problematic with the different frequencies. With these funds we would have the ability to patch/motobridge frequencies together for our first responders to be able to communicate at one large radio. It does not matter if it is covid, tornado, flooding, wildfires, earthquake or man hunt for a fugitive radio communication is the ultimate important piece of equipment and with the assistance of purchasing the additional radio equipment would provide the coverage needed to all first responders in our region to have the capability to communicate by having their frequencies patched/motobridge together no matter frequency.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	800 mhz Radio upgrade	City of Russell Police Department	\$180,000	Police: It is imperative that police officers be able to communicate with other law enforcement agencies in the region. With KHP and other state law enforcement agencies switching to the new AES encryption, it is important that we be able to upgrade our communications equipment to meet the new standards. With upgraded equipment we will be able to maintain critical communications between law enforcement agencies. Fire: The City of Russell Fire Department provides rescue services for the whole county and provides mutual aid to LEO partners during high stress emergencies (active shooters, large disasters, and severe weather). It is imperative that the fire department upgrade communications to maintain the critical line of communication between different agencies. 911 Communications: In our communications center, the two radios we utilize are beneficial when seconds count. Russell Dispatchers monitor KHP radio traffic 24/7 and in the event of a vehicle pursuit, a unit requesting backup, or trouble on I70, we are able to relay that information without delay to Russell deputies. While upgrades to our radio system are costly, so are those seconds/minutes it takes for KHP to call us during a calamity.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Electronic Equipment Modernization	Ellsworth Police Department	\$78,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the replacement of both Mobile and Portable Radios used by the Ellsworth Kansas Police Department and supplement the Department's Electronic equipment by adding an additional mobile data terminal. The Police Department frequently responds to medical calls and emergencies where exposure to COVID-19 is likely. Radio equipment is necessary to keeping open lines of communication between first responders and dispatch. COVID-19 has indefinitely delayed some of the City of Ellsworth's capital improvement plans, negatively impacting the Police Department's plan to replace antiquated lifesaving equipment in the form of our current radios. This equipment replacement and upgrade would directly impact the ability of the Ellsworth Kansas Police Department in responding to all emergencies. Access to the mobile computers in patrol vehicles has greatly reduced instances of multiple officers being forced into close proximity in the department's small shared office space. This has helped prevent inadvertent exposures between officers after responding to a COVID-19 incident.

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Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Updating and Upgrading County Emergency Services 800 mghtz radios	Russell County Sheriff's Office	\$450,000	The radios would be used to upgrade Russell Counties ability to communicate effectively between all branches of our local government. During the last two years of pandemic any upgrade in communication between local agencies has been helpful. During the Covid experience we have noticed that our need to speak directly to County Health and EMS has been at a level never before experienced. We find ourselves working closer than ever on this problem on everything from emergency worker safety to providing security and assistance during vaccination pods. An added benefit of having all band 800mghtz radios based with Law Enforcement and EMS would be able to communicate directly with rural fire units in the field. This would have been of great service to Russell County on night of the Four County Fire.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	First Responder Communication Advancement	Rush County Economic Development	\$1,750,000	Program would supplement local fire/EMS budgets to purchase 800 MHz radios for all active emergency vehicles to allow departments from neighboring cities and counties to communicate with each other. The state of Kansas has upgraded towers, so basic infrastructure is already established. Many smaller all-volunteer departments do not have adequate budgets to upgrade to modern 800 MHz radios. Some smaller departments have apparatus with outdated or non-existent communication equipment. During the pandemic, responders relied heavily upon electronic communication. This program would require a small cash-match from existing departmental budgets to maximize benefit to allow these funds to reach as many localities as possible. Other local funds may also be freed up for iincreased flexibility to utilize local funds to purchase other needed personal protection equipment. The enhanced 800 MHz will allow first responders, fire, and EMS to communicate across the state seamlessly. The radio system allows for communication within a specific department or county and communication between agencies. This will reduce response time and improve coordination during widespread emergencies that cross jurisdictional boundaries and improve public safety.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Yates center Fire Department radios	City of Yates Center	\$11,990	The intended use for the funds requested in the submission to the SPARK committee is to support communication for the Yates Center Fire Department. These funds will be used to purchase seventeen SL300 U99 - UHF, 3WY, 99CH, DISPLAY radios, seventeen PMMN4125 - REMOTE SPEAKER MICROPHONE, and six CM300D U40 - UHF, 40W, 99CH, DIGITAL. This will support keeping our fire department in radio contact with the county emergency departments and local police department. The county will be switching to a 800 mhz digital radio system in the near future. We only have four out of nineteen that are capable of going digital. These radios will help our FD to stay connected during any time of emergency.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Special Mission Specialist	Private citizen	\$50,000	To stop, reduce and prevent corruptions, violences, terrorist, arresting, warrant, investigate, imprison or jail or Deporting, fired or request of resigned, Law suit case, subpoenas, secure and safety, and monitoring, to be required to be under Mental and psychology treatment.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Hazmat Truck	City of Topeka	\$1,200,000	The City of Topeka Hazardous Materials Team currently responds to all hazardous materials emergencies for the City of Topeka and Shawnee County. The Hazardous Materials team is designated as a Kansas State Regional Response Team for the North East Region of Kansas. This team can be requested by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office to respond to one of the other 21 counties in the NE Region. The response team is critical to assisting numerous local rural counties that do not have the capabilities to provide this service. The Hazmat team needs a hazmat-specific fire truck. This truck will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term impact for Kansans by supporting the whole NE region for hazmat calls. The Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad companies transport hazardous materials through downtown Topeka on a daily basis and have switching yards that frequently hold hazardous materials until they can be transported. Topeka's rails are consistently used to carry large quantities of hazardous chemicals. Topeka is also located where two major highways, I-70 and Hwy 470, intersect. These highways carry thousands of vehicles each day through the city, many of which carry hazardous materials.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	FIREFIGHTER PPE Replacement	Oketo Rural Fire District #5	\$15,000	Replacement of the PPE worn by our firefighters during the Covid pandemic. PPE is personal protective equipment, such as clothing, (SCBA) self contained breathing apparatus, and equipment used to respond to incidents of all types.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Capitol Complex Security Enhancements	OFPM	\$6,000,000	Intended use of the requested funds is to address deficiencies related to physical security within the Capitol Complex. The measures would include upgrade of access control, surveillance, touchless entry and other technology to assist OFPM and KHP in protecting employees and public.

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Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Physical Security Upgrade	Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training	\$104,840	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to institute security, access control measures and modernization in our leased Wichita office so that employee and stakeholder safety is enhanced. The office currently lacks appropriate access control leaving employees and stakeholders vulnerable. This project funding would be used for building materials and contracting work to add a layer of access control and physical barrier in our lobby and fortifying two additional entry ways. It would also add to the face-to-face barriers between people to reduce the spread of Covid. There would not be any ongoing costs after completion of the project, but the project would have a long-term positive effect on personal safety. The project would be subject to contractor availability, but we expect it could begin as soon as funding is received. Due to the lateness of the fiscal year and limited funding, the POST could only comfortably contribute \$1000 agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Jail Cameras	Cowley County Sheriff's Office	\$520,000	The jail camera system in the Cowley County Jail is now failing. This system is used to assist Corrections Officers in their daily duties and assists when staffing levels are reduced.
Efficiency & Modernization	Safety and security	Vision Zero Public Awareness and Transportation Safety Program	NovoaGlobal, Inc	\$6,500,000	REQUEST: 4yrs, 30 systems State-wide (types TBD), \$4.5k/system/month. Aligns w/ Federal 2022 National Roadway Safety Strategy (zero traffic deaths) and KDOT's Highway Safety Plan. NG has extensive Vision Zero experience & offers fixed and portable custom solutions focusing on photo warnings for various types of traffic & moving violations. In cities w/ a Vision Zero strategy, photo warnings have proven very effective in educating drivers & modifying aggressive driving behavior. NG systems have shown a reduction in traffic violations, accidents, injuries, and fatalities at a time when all incidents are increasing nationwide. NG systems reduce violations and enhance child/parent safety in busy school zones and other unprotected road users. SPARK funds would be used to develop Vision Zero in the Great State of Kansas, implementing a Safe City approach to improve traffic incident trends and promote general community safety at all hours, downtown and across urban and rural communities. Photo enforcement and license plate recognition (LPR) does not discriminate and will help law enforcement identify violators and apprehend only wanted criminals, eliminating suspicions based on race or ethnicity, ensuring social justice for all Kansans.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	SPARK funding request - Kansas State School for the Blind	Kansas State School for the Blind	\$2,770,807	206,648 FY2022 HVAC upgrade-Brighton Bldg; \$1,300,000 FY2023 HVAC upgrades in additional buildings & IT Network Infrastructure, \$1,043,352 for final HVAC efficiency upgrades and IT Network Infrastructure, \$107,130 for extended school year for blind students across Kansas and \$113,677 retention incentive to retain qualified employees. Total request of \$2,770,807 provides learning opportunities throughout the state for blind students to improve outcomes, and ensures students will have access to safe and efficient buildings as they achieve their highest educational goals. Improved efficiency in campus buildings through HVAC upgrades will have a positive impact on agency budgets for many years, allowing focus to remain on educational impact for students.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	SPARK funding request - Kansas State School for the Deaf	Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$5,862,610	\$220,000 FY2022 Cap Improvement HVAC upgrade, \$1,355,700 additional HVAC upgrades, \$174,508 IT Network Infrastructure Phase 1, \$386,000 for Language Assessment Program ages Birth-up to third birthday, \$3,430,000 Final HVAC upgrades in remaining campus buildings, \$104,574 IT Network Infrastructure Phase 2, \$192,128 Retention Incentive to retain qualified employees. The Language Assessment Program will provide access for children ages Birth up to Three years old to a language assessment by a qualified professional. Results will provide information on the child's language development and possible areas for improvement. HVAC upgrades will provide safe and efficient buildings for student use on campus.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	SPARK funding request #2 Kansas State School for the Blind	Kansas State School for the Blind	\$1,311,361	This 2nd application for additional funds is submitted at the request of the Senate Education Committee. In reviewing the Treasury Department Final Rules for eligibility, the agency is unclear whether the projects on this application qualify for ARPA funding and requests additional review by the Health and Education panel. These one-time investments in capital improvements will finance rehabilitation and repair of campus buildings (\$541,816), safety and security systems upgrades, service and repairs, access control, cameras, elevator safety service and doors/gates service (\$144,545), plus phase 1 and 2 of new elevator installation for student use (\$625,000). These improvements provide a safe and accessible campus for blind students across Kansas, whether they attend daily classes or participate in annual events such as the Braille Challenge, Extended School Year or Boys/Girls Weekend.
Efficiency & Modernization	Facilities modernization	SPARK funding request #2 - Kansas State School for the Deaf	Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$958,678	In reviewing the Treasury Department Final Rules for eligibility, the agency is unclear whether the projects on this application qualify for ARPA funding and requests additional review by the Health and Education panel. Capital Improvement projects include rehabilitation and repair of campus buildings (\$650,148), safety and security systems (\$194,495), and completion of high school renovation (\$114,035). These projects will provide a safe and secure campus for deaf students across Kansas, whether they attend daily classes or participate in annual events such as extended school year or career exploration day with participating businesses.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Address workforce shortage in behavioral healthcare with recruitment (pay for school, marketing outreach) and retention (tuition reimbursement)	Sedgwick County	\$3,500,000	The shortage of qualified behavioral health professionals in the Wichita area is at a crisis. COMCARE, our local Community Mental Health Center, currently has over 150 provider openings. Ascension Via Christi hospital is currently short 30% of behavioral health social workers. Studies indicate that COVID-19 has increased the occurrence of mental health needs from 1 in 5 to 2 in 5. This program would address workforce shortage through a targeted scholarship program to result in 30 newly licensed master's level therapists over a two year period. 30 new staff would have the capacity to reach approximately 1,500 additional Kansans in need of mental health treatment upon licensure each year. The impact from this infusion of new staff would be ongoing. Focused marketing and recruitment efforts would also have a long-term impact on the diversity of the behavioral health workforce. A short-term tuition reimbursement program would address retention of up to 30 additional staff who are currently being aggressively recruited to border states offering higher wages.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Behavioral Health	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$900,000	Outpatient Mental Health (OMH) provides key services to meet the needs of troubled children, adolescents, their families and caregivers through the provision of professional mental health services. These services include: individual, play, and family therapy, Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT), clinical assessments, classroom observations, and consultation to family and other professionals in the community working with the client. Significant collateral contact and communication is needed to support treatment for children, outside of session. This collateral work is time intensive and in most cases it is non-billable to insurance, but is critical to improvement for the child or youth. We know suicide rates are up in part as a result of COVID and isolation. We also know children are dealing with more grief than in the past as they have been impacted by deaths related to COVID. We would also like to continue using telehealth for as long as it is allowed as we have experienced youth in particular having higher attendance rates.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Behavioral Health Promotion SPARKS	WSU Community Engagement Institute	\$5,250,000	\$50,000 will be awarded to each of the 105 Kansas counties to fund substance abuse and suicide prevention strategies selected by the counties. County leadership will be encouraged to partner with local Kansas Prevention Collaborative coalitions and partners for support in selecting strategies to implement based on community-specific needs as identified by the Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey. Training and Technical Assistance and Capacity-building services will be provided for the counties as consistent with expectations for the Kansas Prevention Collaborative role with KDADS and communities.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Behavioral Health Staff retention Plan	Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas	\$2,089,603	Funding would be utilized to stabilize behavioral health services provided to individuals in South Central Kansas through employee incentives. Employee retention has become an even greater threat to MHA throughout the COVID pandemic. Our staff have been at the forefront of the pandemic, providing quality services to individuals in order to ensure that their behavioral health needs were being met. Residential Care staff were working in the homes and community throughout the pandemic, without the ability to work from home. These essential workers have done all that was asked of them while trying to ensure their own safety and the safety of those that they serve. Other, competing agencies, have had CARES funding that they were able to utilize to increase wages and provide incentives. MHA has not had this influx and thus is asking for SPARK funding to increase base line wages for frontline workers, temporarily provide differential pay for Residential and Case Management staff, and provide a one time premium pay to all staff at the agency.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Behavioral Health Urgent Care Clinic	Central Kansas Mental Health Center (CKMHC)	\$1,000,000	CKMHC is adding a Behavioral Health Urgent Care clinic, the first serving our region. The clinic will provide walk-in services for anyone experiencing a mental health challenge, including psychiatric and medication evaluation, crisis assessment, intervention, and care coordination. We will increase our capacity to identify and treat patients early, mitigating crises, and support greater care integration. This new building will house urgent care and expanded crisis housing. CKMHC will leverage agency and local funds and strengthen partnerships to foster long-term systemic impact by closing service gaps, providing expanded treatment options, creating equitable access, diverting patients from ERs and jails, and delivering better overall health outcomes for the counties we serve. CKMHC has strong fiscal oversight and systems in place to ensure tracking and transparency. Access to mental health care is integral to our COVID-19 response as more people are experiencing anxiety, depression, isolation, and pandemic related stress. This clinic will be a place where people know they can receive the care they need now, boosting our recovery, while providing greater access and expanded services over time to build resilient communities.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Psychological First Aid	Department of Psychology, The Teachers College, Emporia State University	\$1,500,000	ESU will a) train individuals to detect, respond to, and make referrals for mental health and substance abuse issues, and institute suicide prevention programming, b) increase the capacity for mental health services in Kansas, particularly focusing on rural and underserved areas, and c) train school faculty in crisis planning, response and recovery protocols to mitigate traumatic stress. The funds will meet SPARK's guiding principles by a) fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans, by increasing mental health providers in underserved areas, training individuals to respond to and make referrals for mental health concerns, create school safety and response teams to address crisis situations, and implement suicide prevention programming in schools, b) considering equitable opportunities and outcomes, by focusing on underserved regions and populations including rural areas and populations with particular vulnerabilities, and c) generating objective outcomes for each element which are measurable and enable tracking and transparency. This will support mental health recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by identifying and referring those struggling with mental health concerns and increasing service providers in needed regions.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Building Refresh to Better Serve Marginalized Adults	Episcopal Social Services, Inc.	\$411,821	Due to the increase in services because of the strain of COVID-19, the building is exhausted from serving almost 3,000 adults, all who are marginalized and many suffering with a mental illness. Episcopal Social Services (dba Breakthrough) is requesting \$411,821 (with \$110,000 in leverage = \$521,821 total project) to refresh the building in Wichita, Kansas and upgrade the space at the Hutchinson, Kansas location. This includes: 1) replacing mechanical units which often break because of age, 2) replacing wore carpet, 3) installing a new roof, because rain drips on some of the computers, 4) fencing to replace fallen chain link, 5) replacing furniture, 6) redesigning and installing a new space for the Representative Payee area to keep volunteers safe from COVID, 6) cleaning due to COVID, 7) building a kitchen in Hutchinson to address food insecurity, and 8) paying a temporary project manager to ensure the project is completed timely and within budget. These two building refresh efforts will create more effective use of space to serve marginalized adults, many who are essential workers and often impacted by the pandemic.
Health & Education	Behavioral Health	Capacity expansion for behavioral health system of care	KDADS	\$50,000,000	HE157 covers a wide variety of intended uses that have been combined from our previous priority funding requests into a portfolio of behavioral health capacity expansion programs. Generally these funds will be used to enhance access to care for behavioral health services across the continuum of care. Currently much of our continuum of care is struggling with capacity issues that have led to delays in accessing treatment services, limited census capacity, and stressed workloads of available staff. Meeting the increased demand for behavioral health services related to COVID-19 will require significant investment in the capacity of the system. The program will focus on providing grants to providers to increase their capacity which will reduce hospitalizations and wait times. HE157 meets 2-6 of the SPARK Guiding principles by leveraging local funds to create measurable outcomes around access to care and reduction in hospitalizations, as well as creating long term impact through capacity building and equitable access to care. By combining strategies and pooling funds the investment opportunity creates flexibility for the agency to adjust to newly developing capacity needs during the course of the APRA award period. Increasing access to care will directly respond to the additional demand for services created by Covid-19 and speed recovery from the pandemic as well as making Kansas more resilient to the growing mental health crisis.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Center for Children's Resilience	Wichita Children's Home	\$4,500,000	With the current behavioral health professionals shortage WCH is proposing a grief-informed approach to meet the mental health needs of KS children in the foster care system who are grieving non-death (ambiguous) and death losses that have a lasting effect. These children already experience high ACE scores, unacknowledged losses which are now compounded by the increased isolation and unknowns due to COVID-19. With limited clinical professionals available, this project will serve children with facilitators trained by WCH clinical staff. Requested funds will support building a new facility and programming. Intentionally designed rooms and flexible spaces will provide children and families safe and age-comfortable areas to participate in peer-group and individual counseling and support, as well as training areas for educational opportunities. The proposal meets SPARK guiding principles of a one-time use of funds creating a long-term systemic impact on Kansans receiving services by improving health and mental health outcomes in both the short-term as they learn resiliency and begin to heal from their trauma and ultimately, long-term as they become self-actualized, which provides for prevention and promotion of positive mental health.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Capacity Grants	Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas	\$5,200,000	Demand for mental health services continues to increase, and community mental health centers (CMHCs) are providing treatment to increasing numbers of individuals, while also struggling to maintain an adequate workforce. One solution to ensure access to a comprehensive range of services and to adequately fund the system is to implement a new model, the certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC). CCBHCs provide a sustainably financed model for care delivery and provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services. To become a CCBHC, CMHCs must meet specific service and training requirements. The 2021 Legislature established the CCBHC model in Kansas, requiring KDADs to develop a certification process and KDHE to establish a prospective payment system by May 2022. To meet certification requirements, resources are needed for staffing, to implement required services and evidence-based practices, and to meet training requirements. To date, 7 CMHCs have received federal grants to implement the CCBHC model, and another 6 have received mini-grants in the amount of \$400,000 from KDADs. This proposal would provide \$400,00 funding to the remaining 13 CMHCs who have yet to receive funding.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Comprehensive holistic multisector behavioral health campus.	Behavioral Health Campus (BHC)	\$25,000,000	<p>The Behavioral Health Campus, a 70 acre property, is developing a safe, regulated, comprehensive holistic multi-sector system of care for Wichita, Sedgwick County and Southcentral KS.</p> <p>Funds will be used to develop land, design concepts, construction, fundraising & support services to bring providers together on one location to create an enhanced model for collaborative care.</p> <p>This will allow us to address DEI and economic justice for all people from the ground up and greatly reduce the barriers to behavioral health care leading to long-term lasting impact for our community.</p> <p>Timing is perfect for a new innovative approach to behavioral health care. This funding will expedite this new model of care and put our community ahead 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>As we develop land, buildings, and additional supportive services it will trigger economic growth by creating jobs throughout the multiple phases of the project.</p> <p>As a new initiative, this presents the opportunity to design state of the art facilities supporting those impacted by COVID-19 leading to resiliency for Kansans as they receive behavior health services.</p> <p>Through partnerships, we will establish processes for shared data, outcomes and tracking for accuracy and transparency.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Crisis Intervention Team Unit	City of Topeka	\$1,500,000	<p>The role of the Crisis-Co-Responder program is to collaborate and work directly with persons in severe mental crisis and the providing humanitarian support to the unsheltered population. Co-Responders are mental health professionals that work with the Topeka Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The program is designed to provide crisis mental health interventions in the community in conjunction with Law Enforcement personnel to de-stigmatize mental health, reduce incarceration of persons in mental crisis, provided mental health resources, and educate unsheltered persons on available resources. The program works to enhance positive outcomes for persons experiencing intrusive mental health issues negatively impacting their quality of life.</p> <p>Funding for this grant will meet two of the SPARK guidelines. The CIT program works to de-stigmatize mental health in the community which helps to foster long-term impact for Kansans. CIT services and capacity will expand, thereby meeting the health and education criteria for this grant.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Critical Mental Health Staffing Shortage in Essential Services Programs	Valeo Behavioral Health Care, Inc. (Valeo)	\$585,375	<p>COVID19 diminished Valeo's ability to attract & retain staff in safety-net services available to individuals in the NE Region (e.g., crisis stabilization, detox, inpatient substance abuse treatment, & residential care). We seek one-time bridge funding that would allow us to be wage & benefit competitive with local & regional health & social service employers. Our operating losses (due to COVID19 in large part), as well as the fact that some of our funding has been frozen for years, has made it difficult for us to compete in the job market. Since the pandemic, we've had scores of openings (we employ 300 persons). For a long time, we've had 50-60 openings, many of them in the program areas noted. E.g., we closed a residential facility because we couldn't hire staff, & we have a staff shortage in our 24/7 crisis center. At present, we have 516 clients from outside Shawnee Co (6.5% of caseload). Programs noted here serve anyone from any Kansas county, & are unique to much of the NE Region. Funding sought would be directed towards our para-professional/front-line staff working in 24/7/365 programs. Sustainability will be achieved when Valeo transforms into a CCBHC which will bring additional revenue to support better pay & benefits.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Daily Living Activities-20 (DLA-20) Instructor Training	Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas	\$30,000	<p>The DLA-20 is a tool used by clinicians to both determine an individual's needed level of care and to measure and monitor outcomes to support people living with mental illness, substance use, and intellectual disorders to manage their treatment. The DLA-20 is a brief functional assessment tool, integrated nationally with many different electronic health record systems and appropriate for individuals ages six and up, regardless of diagnosis, disability, or cultural background. It provides a 30-day snapshot of 20 domains and a summary of strengths and needs at a specific point related to whole health. The DLA-20 is critical for effective treatment planning and contributes valuable information for Medicaid reimbursement and healthcare reporting standards.</p> <p>The DLA-20 is used systemwide across all the CMHCS. With staff turnover, it is vital that CMHCS have instructors able to train staff on how to administer this tool.</p> <p>In order to ensure an adequate number of trainers to meet the needs of our workforce, we propose to host an instructor training in 2022 for approximately 40 participants at an estimated cost of \$30,000.</p>

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Enhancing Kansas' investment in tobacco control and cessation in response to COVID-19	Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition	\$999,921	<p>The intended use for the funds is to enhance the State's investment in tobacco control and prevention efforts. Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 480,000 lives nationwide every year. Studies have found that smokers have an increased risk of presenting to hospital with severe COVID-19 and are twice as likely to experience severe or critical COVID-19 as former or never-smokers. Tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure disproportionately impact Kansas communities, including communities of color, LGBTQ+ Americans, and low socioeconomic population, much like COVID-19. The funds will be used to support CDC's recommended evidence-based components of a comprehensive tobacco control program, that include Cessation Interventions; Health Systems Interventions; Mass Reach Health Communication Interventions.</p> <p>Combine/leverage state and local level funding to maximize use of discretionary funds: Preventative Health & Health Services Block Grant and the CDC National Tobacco Control Grant.</p> <p>Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansas: Apply evidence-based strategies will reduce smoking rates, and costs of tobacco-related diseases and deaths estimated to be approximately \$1.12 billion.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Expand SB 123 Administrative Platform to include 2021 HB 2026 Diversion Drug Treatment Program	Kansas Sentencing Commission	\$312,186	<p>The intended use of the funds requested from the SPARK committee is to fund needed changes to the billing and tracking platform currently utilized by SB 123 to accommodate the inclusion of the new HB 2026 Diversion Drug Program population. The program provides the opportunity for funded drug treatment while on diversion for non-violent drug offenders. By appropriately administering the program through billing and tracking, this program seeks to address recidivism by providing community-based treatment and support to offenders. In doing this, the program hopes to address the problem of addiction before the individual becomes more involved in the legal system and to assist them in becoming more productive members of their communities. The modification and implementation of this administrative platform will meet the guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact to Kansans by enabling the agency to fund quality treatment for an underserved population suffering with addiction and support local treatment providers across the state, while responsibly managing and tracking state funds. SPARK funding for this project would provide funding that would otherwise be pulled from monies that could directly fund offender treatment.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Friends University Community-Based Mental Health Services Expansion	Friends University	\$10,000,000	<p>Funds allocated by the SPARK committee would support the expansion of the Center on Family Living (CFL) mental health clinic, meeting the guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans by providing more access to in-person and telemental health therapy, addressing the increased need for low-cost mental health services brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. With 4 in 10 adults reporting symptoms related to anxiety/depression and with 93.7% of the counties in Kansas designated as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, the need for more clinics is dire. With the physical, technological, and administrative expansion of the CFL (at Friends University), more Kansans will have access to the mental health resources they deserve, especially underserved minority populations and veterans. With SPARK funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Fees will be waived for those who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. *Scholarships for graduate students in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program will be provided to increase the number of hours devoted to both in-person and telemental health therapy. *Additional faculty, clinical supervisors, and support staff will be hired *Building will be expanded with a 2500 square foot addition
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Frontline Children's Psychiatric Hospitals Employee Retention Plan	KVC Hospitals, Inc.	\$4,794,000	<p>KVC Hospitals serves 3,000+ children ages 6-18 in acute psychiatric crisis annually. Last year, referrals increased 33%, yet COVID related staffing shortages in Hays, Wichita and Kansas City, resulted in limited census. As an independent psychiatric hospital system, KVC fell outside of ARPA state funding plans for frontline healthcare workers in primary care hospitals and mental health centers. Yet, our hospital team cares 24/7 for children (some with COVID) who are struggling with suicidality, violence, depression and trauma. Funding for staffing is critical to provide timely access for children in crisis and reduces kids in emergency rooms waiting for our beds. Current and projected needs exceed received federal, county and private support. One time funding requested will strengthen staff capacity by providing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Premium pay staff recruitment and retention incentives •Hazard Pay •Telehealth triage nurse to work with EDs, providers, families. Facility and equipment funds will strengthen infection control via •Equipment •High-temp washers, dryers, dishwashers •Clorox360 machine •Facility •Air ionization systems •Easily sanitized furniture and flooring throughout •Respirators •Vaccine compliance software.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Health records/Health Data Systems; Opioid Treatment, prevention, recovery; Telemedicine; Recovery Support	The Sims-Kemper Corporation; Sims-Kemper Clinical Counseling and Recovery Services	\$120,000	A shift to electronic health records would potentially allow the agency to serve an extra 100 clients a year that have been impacted by substance use/mental health issues due in part to the impact that Covid has had on our population. Clinicians would have more time available in their day to conduct telehealth services with clients who are quarantined at home and may be suffering an increase in mental health or substance use disorders. Allowing premium pay for front-line staff would greatly reduce turnover in the field and would further increase the quality of care provided to those suffering from opioid abuse and mental health, gambling, or substance use related disorders.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Healthcare Access and Interoperable Platform	Viaanix & Freestate Healthcare	\$7,500,000	Viaanix and Freestate Healthcare will respond to issues of healthcare access and health literacy in Kansas—especially for individuals with behavioral health needs, disabilities, K-12, seniors, and rural Kansans—by developing a comprehensive, patient-centered, data, software, and app telehealth platform available state-wide. The platform will serve as a single source of integrated Patient-Generated Health Data (PGHD), electronic health records (EHR), real-time vital statistics, and medication, appointment, and testing/vaccination location notifications. This one-time funding creates an accessible, communicative, sustainable, open-API platform that expands access and increases health literacy. The platform will create long-term impacts for Kansans by employing technology for expanding healthcare equity, generating efficiencies and ROI for all stakeholders as well as prevention and mitigation of subsequent COVID variants. The platform will empower patients and promote healthy choices across the coverage spectrum. Viaanix and Freestate Healthcare will work with the State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (SOPH/RH) and KDHE to address issues, short-comings, and disconnect within the context of the platform’s development.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Implement a Sustainable, Accessible, and Integrated System of Care for Those With Mental Health Issues and Substance Use Disorders	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition	\$4,000,000	<p>We are requesting support for the strategic plan of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition (MHSAC). MHSAC consists of private, public, non-profit sector partners who adopted a strategic plan in 2020 to improve care for those in crisis with mental health and substance abuse issues. We have been working on multiple projects which bring together numerous partners that create better outcomes for those in need. Our work requires collaboration with an evidenced-based approach.</p> <p>We are requesting funding for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-responder teams that will more effectively address the needs of those in crisis. • A database that will allow providers to find out what other organizations have had contact with their client so they can coordinate care. • An internet-based dashboard that will allow users to navigate the numerous helping organizations to find the best provider as quickly as possible. • Community navigator positions that can help those in need navigate the system to get them connected with the best provider for their situation as quickly as possible. • An integrated database system (IDS) that pulls together data points from multiple provider systems that helps inform evidenced based decision making.
Health & Education	Behavioral Health	Improve discharge process from NFs and NFMHs	KDADS	\$20,000,000	One of the current strains on the Kansas Hospital System is the number of individuals with mental health disabilities that are unable to be discharged to NFs and NFMHs due to those facilities operating at their full capacity. This creates fewer beds available in hospitals to admit patients that need treatment for COVID-19 and other emergent care. By improving the discharge process from NFs and NFMHs to community-based services or independent living, patients that meet medical necessity criteria for NFs and NFMHs would be able to be admitted more quickly and help relieve the stress on the hospital system during the pandemic. ARPA funding would be used to support behavioral health providers as well as NFs and NFMHs in helping identify and plan for the discharge of patients to community settings and making improvements to the continued stay screening and informed choice processes for patients. This proposal would meet all six of the SPARK guiding principles by utilizing a one-time investment to make long-term system improvements as well as short term incentives to make measurable outcomes related to successful discharges and support community integration which will create equitable community-based treatment options for people with disabilities. Combined with the investment opportunities around supported employment and supported housing this program both increases the capacity of hospital systems to respond to the pandemic, but also increases the independence and resiliency of people with disabilities in Kansas.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Behavioral Health	Increase pathways for behavioral health workforce development and reduce workforce shortages.	KDADS	\$75,000,000	HE180 also covers a wide variety of intended uses that have been combined from our previous priority funding requests into a portfolio of behavioral health workforce development programs. Generally these funds will be used to create both short-term and long-term investments in Kansas to reduce behavioral health workforce shortages. Currently the majority of Kansas counties are considered Behavioral Health Professional Shortage Areas, but the pandemic has greatly exasperated this situation and many providers are having trouble recruiting and retaining staff. Meeting the increased demand for behavioral health services related to COVID-19 will require significant investment in the workforce both in terms of recruitment and training. The program will focus on developing capacity within the state to work on long-term workforce development strategies as well as providing short-term relief to providers to assist with filling vacancies. HE180 meets all 6 of the SPARK Guiding principles by addressing short-term needs with one-time funding and leveraging funding from federal and state programs to create measurable outcomes around workforce development, as well as creating long term impact through capacity building and equitable access to education and career advancement. By combining strategies and pooling funds, the investment opportunity creates flexibility for the agency to adjust to newly developing workforce development needs during the course of the APRA award period. Meeting short-term recruitment and retention needs will directly correspond to the additional demand for services created by Covid-19 and long-term investments will make the Kansas behavioral health workforce more resilient to future challenges.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Integrated Behavioral Health Service	Google Gloud / SpringML	\$0	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to enable and support the development of an Integrated Behavioral Health Service. Integrated Behavioral Health is the care that results from Primary Care Providers and community service providers partnering together with patients and families to provide a patient-centered, whole person approach to meet their medical and behavioral health needs. While the integration of health and human services can be much more involved, the proposed integration aims at the lower end of the continuum addressing the low hanging fruits of building the necessary infrastructure needed to support behavioral health care access, treatment and integration that includes screening tools, building a referral platform with local community hubs and removing silos between systems through improved interoperability.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Kansas Children’s Mental Health Workforce Recovery and Placement Stability project	KidsTLC, Inc.	\$1,000,000	<p>This project will involve several one-time sustainable investments including premium pay, training for essential workers, and startup funding for a new “placement stability” day treatment program. This will foster long-term systemic impact for Kansas children by addressing the public health impacts of the pandemic and the increased number of youth with complex mental health issues.</p> <p>In 2020, KidsTLC invested in a new facility to house 50 additional psychiatric residential treatment (PRTF) beds for a total of 111 beds. Over the past year, KidsTLC has been unable to fill over 130 new positions (entry-level positions/licensed mental health clinicians). Funding would support premium pay (one time signing bonuses/retention pay) to eligible workers to maintain continuity of operations and open more PRTF beds. All direct-care staff would receive critical trainings to improve quality of care. KidsTLC will also implement a day treatment program for Kansas foster youth who have yet to secure foster placement. This initial startup funding would get the program up and running to provide activity-based services, targeted psychoeducation groups, and as-needed respite care in a trauma-based therapeutic environment (up to five youth per day).</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Kansas Resilience Initiative (KRI)	University of Kansas School of Social Welfare	\$2,000,000	<p>As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, behavioral health professionals (BHP) have observed emergence of a “second wave” of health crisis centered on mental health with high rates of mental health symptoms and suicide. Navigating both the pandemic as well as emerging mental health crisis is amplifying burnout and negative health outcomes experienced by BHPs themselves, particularly in rural areas already experiencing high need and workforce shortages. To ensure BHPs can provide quality care, there is a pressing need to address the wellness needs of professionals themselves. KU School of Social Welfare will utilize funds for the Kansas Resilience Initiative (KRI) to promote professional resilience and wellness in the behavioral health workforce (BHW). KRI’s integrated approach will:</p> <p>EDUCATE: Provide training & resources about professional resilience to the BHW</p> <p>CONNECT: Provide BHPs with opportunities for connection & integration of resilience learning into the workplace</p> <p>SUPPORT: Facilitate systems level learning focused on developing workplace environments that support & sustain professional resilience & wellness</p> <p>EVALUATE: Study prevalence & consequences of burnout in BHW & evaluate impact of KRI on workforce resilience</p>

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Mental Health	SENT, Inc.	\$50,000	SENT is seeking funding to hire an additional therapist to the mental health department to provide services to the community. This addition will increase the capacity for clients to be served, and increases the diversity of expertise to meet a wider range of needs. Offering free services at reduced rate, is to make mental health support equitable to clients. The mental health department of SENT began in September 2020 with the desire for mental health support to be accessible and affordable for all. In an under-resourced neighborhood that is lower income and higher diversity, we are aiming to overcome some of the barriers that prevent individuals from receiving support by increasing access. In addition, we use an adjusted fees scale that drops to \$5 to assist with services being sustainable for any income level. We provide services for free for those who qualify. By the end of 2021, over 70 clients were served with only one therapist on staff. 30% of clients accessed services free of charge or at a greatly reduced rate. Research has shown that the effects of living in the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the rates of anxiety, depression and PTSD. In addition, those with lower socioeconomic levels struggle even more.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Mental Health Crisis Home	Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas	\$1,004,192	Funds would be utilized to open a six-bed crisis home in Sedgwick County, run by MHA Residential Care, Inc. The crisis home would be utilized to house individuals suffering from the effects of mental illness who are in crisis on a short term basis. Individuals could be leaving hospitalization or diverting from hospitalization. The house would be staffed 24 hours per day. Individuals residing in the home would receive case management, peer support, and/or attendant care services as needed to ensure stabilization. All program participants will have treatment plans with long term goals that include a transition into independence. Individuals currently presenting at hospitals and crisis centers throughout the state are in great crisis. There is a known shortage of beds both within the hospitals and within crisis facilities. Sedgwick County continues to see increased rates of highly symptomatic individuals in need of crisis services. Transition teams within local hospitals work tirelessly to ensure that the needs of these individuals are met, but often struggle to find appropriate placement for them.
Health & Education	Behavioral Health	Online Behavioral Health Services Platform (OBHSP).	KDHE	\$300,000	Effective use of health communications and health information technology can quickly and strategically impact people's health decisions and actions, and can broaden and deepen efforts to reach more citizens delivering actionable health information, enabling quick and informed response to health risks, connecting with culturally diverse and hard-to-reach populations, and providing self-care tools and resources. OBHSP can help quickly communicate and spread your public health response regarding the adverse mental health effects of the pandemic through our localized web and mobile platform. It integrates self-care supports seamlessly into daily life, connects high-risk people to in-crisis resources, and provides soft referrals for at-risk citizens to local supporting agencies, services, resources, and assets. More than 60% of users said they made a change in behavior as a result of the platform, and more than 75% said they understand their mental health strengths and challenges better. Analytics would be provided to KDHE specifically for Kansas. This initiative would foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans
Health & Education	Behavioral health	QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training	Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas	\$12,870	The statistics around suicide, and especially youth suicide, are of great concern for our Association. For several years now, we have referred to the rate of death by suicide as a public mental health crisis. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer, and it is an emergency mental health intervention. This program provides individuals with the information and knowledge to recognize the warning signs of suicide, how to offer hope, and how to get help and save a life. Anyone within the community can be trained to be QPR "gatekeeper," or someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide. QPR certified gatekeepers (instructors) provide the QPR training. The cost of training to become a QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper is \$495 per person for an 8-hour training. We propose to host an instructor training for up to 26 individuals (one individual per Kansas CMHC) at a total cost of \$12,870.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Revive and Thrive by 2025	EmberHope Inc.	\$10,000,000	The intended use for funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is (1)premium pay and workforce development, including sign-on, retention and recruitment bonuses, and other benefits to attract/retain mental health workers to execute the existing services and to thrive by serving others through our mission once again. (2)additional youth psychiatric and treatment/service programming, (3)additional educational classrooms, including a kitchen, offices, and parking lot for our agency school. This will ensure we can continue to offer supportive family community services to an underserved, high need population in a centrally located community in Kansas. We have a one-time financial ask to (4)support existing Foster Homes and pilot a professional foster home program for residential transition, (5)add youth residential therapeutic programming including a single bed facility, and (6)add a mixed-use (therapeutic services) daycare facility for Kansas children. This would meet the criteria for a one-time investment to foster long term systemic impact for Kansas children and families through increased access to services and ensure equitable outcomes for all Kansans by addressing underserved populations impacted by COVID-19.

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Scalable structured recovery housing demonstration	Be Free KC	\$820,000	<p>Be Free will “foster long-term systems impact for Kansans” through our continuum of care model that facilitates a transition from substance use disorder to long-term sobriety. Programs include scalable, structured recovery housing, and a “get well” recovery jobs program.</p> <p>Be Free will “combine with/leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds” by adding new resources to our community and leveraging existing ones. This multi-sector collaborative design features multiple entry points, evidence-based, best, and promising practices, trauma-informed care, and is cultural and person-centered at all programmatic levels.</p> <p>Be Free will “ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency” through our series of data collection measures in accordance with ethical standards. These will include an initial standardized questionnaire of all residents detailing their substance use history and present recovery capital resources, with follow up at one year.</p> <p>COVID-19 has created a devastating collision of health crises in America. Be Free’s housing and jobs programs will “directly support Kansas’ response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthen Kansas’ resilience”.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Sedgwick County COMCARE Community Crisis Center Expansion	Sedgwick County	\$24,000,000	<p>SPARK’s guiding principles related to long-term systemic impact, equitable outcomes, and partnership with other units of government would all be met with this initiative to expand COMCARE’s Crisis Center.</p> <p>In 2019, suicide ranked as the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the US and the 2nd leading cause of death for young adults. It was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34, and the fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 35 and 44. There were nearly two and a half times as many suicides (47,511) in the United States as there were homicides (19,141).</p> <p>Crisis services are the first line of defense against suicide. Crisis centers provide a service that no other entity does. Centers provide an alternative to hospitalization and law enforcement involvement at a lower cost with better outcomes. If crisis centers are not supported by the State, that burden falls solely on local communities, putting the stability of the State Safety Net program at risk.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Southcentral Kansas State Mental Health Hospital	Sedgwick County	\$40,000,000	<p>Sedgwick County is requesting funds to create a 50-bed mental health hospital operated in partnership with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). The regional facility would address the shortage of inpatient behavioral care beds in south-central Kansas and would alleviate the strain on existing state hospitals in Larned and Osawatomie, allowing patients to stay closer to home and family. The additional beds would also ease jail overcrowding by shortening the wait time for inmates needing competency evaluations or mental treatment. The demand for another state hospital is greater than ever, with mental illness and substance abuse worsening during the pandemic. In turn, these problems are often linked to homelessness, increased EMS calls, emergency room visits, and arrests. Preventing this ripple effect from untreated mental illness would clearly impact the entire state, satisfying SPARK’s principle of fostering long-term systemic change for Kansas. Plus, working with KDADS to run the regional hospital would leverage state funds and personnel to provide a sustainable resource to a group often marginalized – those fighting mental illness and addiction in Sedgwick County.</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Specialized Medical Care Nurse Workforce Proposal for SPARK ARPA Recovery Funds	Craig Homecare, Thrive SPC, and Maxim Healthcare	\$4,500,000	<p>REQUEST: \$4.5 million for recruitment and retention incentives for LPNs and RNs providing specialized medical care (SMC) to individuals with complex medical needs under HCBS waivers and Medicaid. SMC has been severely challenged due to the pandemic related workforce crisis as other healthcare have recruited away from these services with generous pay</p>
Health & Education	Behavioral health	St. Joseph Campus ED Expansion/Remodel	Ascension Via Christi Hospitals Wichita Inc.	\$21,429,158	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission is to expand and optimize the Emergency Department at Ascension Via Christi Hospitals St. Joseph Campus in Wichita, KS. The project would add an additional 21,300 sq feet (for a total of 36,000 sq feet) focused on meeting the needs of the growing behavioral health (BH) population regionally, and throughout the State. The project looks to add an additional 20 beds to the existing 29 bed unit ED specifically tailored to meeting the needs of the BH population and enhancing safety for all patients/staff. Additionally, the space will include an 11 bed psychiatric observation area for rapid stabilization and avoidance of inpatient hospitalization.</p> <p>This expansion project meets the SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing sustainable programs that will have a long-term systemic impact on Kansans. The expansion’s focus is to increase access and capacity as Covid has not only affected the number of people presenting with behavioral health conditions, but also the severity and emergent need for stabilization.</p>

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Strengthen and Provide Additional Programs and Services for Behavioral Mental Health and Public Health Sector in Disproportionately Impacted Areas	Breakthrough House, Inc.	\$1,500,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to strengthen and empower the lives of adult men and women who struggle with mental health illness. Breakthrough House will improve on our social services programs and navigate our resources to provide a long term systematic impact for all Kansans by helping to fill the gap in quality housing, homelessness, outreach programs, substance abuse and addiction. Breakthrough House will provide equitable outcomes by focusing on the underserved communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to provide additional resources to our Mental Health Recovery programs is imperative, as we are experiencing a huge increase in requests for help in the Shawnee County area. We will meet the SPARK's guided principles outlined by providing substantial programs and investments, leverage local and agency funds to maximize the use of discretionary funds. We will ensure results are measurable to enable tracking and transparency.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Strengthen behavioral health services to ensure long-term stability and economic opportunity for foster children	Cornerstones of Care	\$3,000,000	Funds will cover one-time costs to transform a transitional living program serving youth, ages 16-23, in foster care or who have been incarcerated. A quarter of youth in foster care will experience homelessness within two years of emancipation. COVID-19 compounds this risk with lasting effect. A national survey found that 73% of 18 to 23-year-old foster youth reported unstable work and financial situations; 67% reported significant negative impact on educational progress or attainment. (University of Pennsylvania, 2020) We will purchase two new facilities in Wichita and Kansas City, KS, and implement new evidence-based practices that will move us from operating at a margin to a more sustainable financial model that pays for the full cost of services and provides for longer lengths of stay for youth. Longer stays are associated with higher levels of educational attainment and greater likelihood of continued employment. (HUD 2010) New facilities and premium pay will be more conducive to staffing that enables an evidence-based model of behavioral health care to address social-emotional and developmental factors that inhibit disadvantaged youth's ability to finish their education, obtain and maintain a job, and secure stable housing.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Strengthening Behavioral Health Capacity Through Workforce Investment	Florence Crittenton Services of Topeka Inc	\$1,000,000	This request is to invest in retention and recruitment of essential staff working in our behavioral health programs- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) and Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. PRTFs are the foundation for providing health and education services to high needs youth in Kansas. It is imperative for PRTFs to have the capacity needed to serve youth who meet medical necessity. There is a waiting list of 152 Kansas youth awaiting PRTF level of care. Waiting lists are also common for outpatient services and those lists have grown as long as 60 days. Florence Crittenton currently has 27% of our behavioral health positions sitting open. These staffing shortages compound capacity issues and delay access to essential services. Strategies including premium pay, hire & retention bonuses, and tuition assistance will be implemented over a two-year period to recruit and retain essential staff. Stabilization of the behavioral health workforce will foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased capacity and access to services. This request also prioritizes sustainable investments by pulling down additional Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) matching funds for the State of Kansas.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Strengthening the Behavioral Health Professionals Workforce	O'Connell Children's Shelter, Inc.	\$400,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of incentives that encourage those who are interested in pursuing a career in behavioral health and make it a viable career field long-term. We would like to do this by providing premium pay, sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses, increased training, and workforce investment to the behavioral health professionals working on the front lines of child welfare. The development of this workforce investment will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased access to services, talent retention and recruitment, ensuring equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities, and ensuring support for the hard-hit sector of child welfare.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	The ECenter of Kansas	VIBE Interactive LLC	\$11,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to support the development of the ECenter's Ecosystem in the Flint Hills aiming to enhance mental health services, (upskilling/reskilling opportunities) summer programs for loss of learning, trauma informed training, workshops, leadership and professional development, mental health retreats, career and technical education, life skills, employability skills and social-emotional development. Located where the first foster care system was originally established, and easy access, right off the I-35 turnpike, the ECenter's ecosystem will continue the intended vision of creating effective and successful cross-sector partnerships by cultivating a long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased mental health access to services ensuring equitable outcomes to underserved communities. Through a multi-tiered approach along with an analytics and collection infrastructure, the ECenter will help close the gap in mental health accessibility by providing low cost inclusive program partnerships, services, licensed professionals, and telecommunications.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	To provide residential treatment houses to aid individuals and families in getting sober mentally, emotionally and physically	N/A	\$25,000	The funds requested will aid in the development of a new sober living house in an urban, low income community in South Central Kansas. A house such as this will help with not only providing a safe space for individuals and families to stay while getting sober and reintegrating into the community and learning positive coping mechanisms. This house can help clean up the streets and help the many people that have turned to drugs and alcohol to deal with the side effects of the pandemic. There will always be a need for a house such as this as the use of drugs and alcohol is at an all time high.

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Trauma-Informed Care Training and Consultation	Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas	\$300,000	CMHCs inherently provide treatment to individuals who have experienced trauma. Across the CMHC system there are varying levels of competence in trauma-informed care. Not only is it important to ensure patients receive the best possible care, but also as CMHCs transition to certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs), they will be required to provide person- and family-centered care that is trauma-informed and recovery oriented. To best support CMHCs to meet the criterion for adequate training in trauma-informed care, we propose to contract with a national organization for training and consultation, using the Trauma-informed, Resilience-Oriented Care Learning Community Model (TIROC Learning Community). TIROC Learning Community includes a combination of face-to-face trainings and meetings, virtual coaching, and access to an array of resources, including webinars, tools, and guidance documents. TIROC Learning Community supports organizations to advance a shared trauma-informed, resilience-oriented philosophy, set of beliefs, and language. This is a one-time expense resulting in the participating CMHCs learning to assess, develop, and implement trauma-informed, resilience-oriented practices, policies, and procedures.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Wichita Workforce Expansion: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship to Improve Mental Health Outcomes for Kansas Youth	KU-Wichita Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences	\$3,000,000	Funds will be utilized to jumpstart a sustainable child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship in Wichita/South Central Kansas. Two physicians who have completed three years' specialty training in psychiatry will join the two year program annually, care for youth with mental illness, and receive education through supervised patient care and didactics. Program facilities and faculty are in place. Accreditation will be through WCGME. Regional collaborators have committed to partner and provide ongoing support. SPARK funds will be used to support required time for a director, who must be a child and adolescent psychiatrist, administrative support, and faculty time. Fellow salaries will be supported once the first class enrolls. The fellowship meets SPARK principles of fostering long term systemic impact and ensuring equitable outcomes for Kansans through increased access to expert psychiatric care. The pandemic has led to significant increases in mental health problems for youth, exacerbating already scant supply of professionals. KU Wichita graduates comprise 90% of the psychiatrists practicing regionally. With similar outcomes, the number of child and adolescent psychiatrists in the region will double in five years.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	WRAP Workers for Eudora Schools	Eudora Schools USD #491	\$420,000	Eudora Schools and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center will partner to provide two additional WRAP (Working to Recognize Alternative Possibilities) workers to work within the Eudora community throughout the year. The addition of these two WRAP workers will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Eudora students through increasing access to mental health services. The COVID pandemic has increased the number of students within the Eudora community who are in desperate need of WRAP services. Eudora currently partners with Bert Nash to provide two WRAP workers within our schools who only work during the school year. With the increase in students requesting WRAP services and the fact that the Eudora community does not have any WRAP services during the summer, the addition of two full-time WRAP workers who will work throughout the calendar year will be crucial in the overall health of our students and our community. WRAP's mission is to provide therapeutic, skill-building, and supportive services in Douglas County Schools. WRAP gives ALL students help to succeed in school and helps students and/or their families with finding resources either in the school or community.
Health & Education	Disability Services	AIMMS for Autism. (Awareness, Intervention, Monitoring, Management and Services)	N/A	\$0	I'm a Kansas citizen who sees a need that the state of Kansas needs to address. Autism is an epidemic in the nation and our state. We need to create and support medical , educational and social infrastructure within our Kansas communities to support individuals with autism from daycare through assisted living (the lifespan). See experts in the state from TASN, create task force, get legislation in place and seek to find innovative sustainable solutions. Fill the need. Families and communities are in crisis. I don't have the expertise to address this need but there are experts that can help best move AIMMS for Autism. Parents are in mental health crisis seeking help for their children. Please see this need and Fill it.
Health & Education	Disability Services	Be Adaptive Sports Facility (BASf)	Be Adaptive, Inc.	\$15,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to support the development of a dedicated, adaptive sports and recreation outreach facility which will service people with physical disabilities, from beginners to paralympians. The development of the Be Adaptive Sports Facility (BASf) will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for disabled Kansans through equitable access to a year round sports facility, and continuous outreach within the disabled community to grow the number of participants, which will both mentally and physically strengthen the bonds in a grossly underserved community.

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Health & Education	Disability Services	CALM Pilot Project: Super Foster Parents and Bonus Social Workers - license parents to care for children needing out of home placement for children with IDD/disabilities	CALM - Child Placement Agency - License Professional Foster Homes	\$840,000	<p>CALM Pilot Project: Super Parents and Bonus Social Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Target and recruit CALM Super Parent (The capacity goal would expand an additional 30 high-needs beds for children identified with disabilities (IDD Waiver care). -Recruit & target unique skill sets for CALM Super Parents to address children with complex health needs. -Place children in CALM Super Parent family setting vs. costly PRTF/QRTP restrictive environment. -Train CALM Super Parents on TRBI, IDD/HCBS/MCO, MAPP/DT, Educational, Medical, and Crisis care. -CALM Bonus Social Workers are licensed and working alongside families (kinship, foster, biological). -Continue to meet directly with families recruitment across the state with funding for travel costs. -Boost local economies with travel funds (hotel, vehicle, gas, food) costs as a part of the program. -Use one-time bonus funding to retain high quality workforce preventing burnout. -Provide adaptive tools to meet a child's complex and disability needs. -Cover gap funding costs for families to be a CALM Super Parent. -Utilize one time Covid funds to retain current essential workers caring for complex children. -CALM Super Parents will have access to the CALM Bonus Social Worker 24-hours - 365 days a year.
Health & Education	Disability Services	Classroom/tornado shelter addition	Southeast of Saline	\$500,000	<p>Southeast of Saline has documented a significant increase in children identified for Special Education. Many of these students are in our youngest grades and the trend indicates that needs are growing in volume and intensity. We are on the verge of overwhelming our current facilities to serve this high needs population. Covid protocols and disruptions to learning dramatically impact this group of students disproportionately. We are looking to build an addition to our building to start a preschool program and expand our special education space so that these populations can be served with greater attention and efficiency. At this time USD 306 does not offer preschool within our district. Starting a preschool on campus would be a major long term investment for personnel and transportation. We are willing to make this investment from our general fund budget but are struggling with finding a space that will accommodate such an endeavor. This project is in the concept phase and no budget has been developed. Significant funding from this source will push the project forward, even if it falls short of the listed amount.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Covid19 – Navigating Health Care Systems for Testing, Vaccination, and Treatment	Envision Inc.	\$100,000	<p>The intended use of the funds is to remediate the systemic challenges in healthcare related infrastructure for blind and visually impaired consumers related to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing access to digital and audio information, referrals to accessible consumer health services and providing accessible technology especially around testing.</p> <p>This one-time investment will make COVID-19 solutions and support systems accessible for blind and low vision consumers – an equitable solution for this disadvantaged portion of the Kansas population - and an important part of Kansas' COVID-19 recovery for its 70,000 blind and low vision residents.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Fund Language Assessment Program (LAP) for one year while sustainability efforts of the program are underway.	KDHE	\$350,000	<p>The LAP program is a language assessment for children birth – 8 that are deaf or hard of hearing. It is set in statute that KDHE deliver the assessments in the birth – 3 age range. Right now, the services are delivered by Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD). KSD has been funding the assessment program since 2018 utilizing their existing SGF funding stream but cannot continue to fund this program. KDHE did a one-time contract with KSD in FY2022 to fund the program. Since the statute lays out that KDHE is responsible for the birth – 3 age range, sustainability efforts are underway.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Funding for IDD Service Providers to Tackle Infrastructure Needs Not Addressed Due to Pandemic	InterHab	\$15,000,000	<p>As the pandemic began in 2020, it was essential that IDD service providers pull out all stops to keep Kansans with IDD as safe as possible. Providers engaged in heroic measures to protect persons with IDD and did so by scrapping regular infrastructure investments in order to free up resources to address the pandemic.</p> <p>We propose using SPARK funds to establish funding for IDD service providers to address unmet infrastructure needs due to the pandemic. Allowable uses would include repairs or modifications to non-residential properties, maintenance or replacement of provider-owned vehicles and purchases of equipment utilized in serving Kansans with IDD.</p> <p>InterHab and Sunflower Health Plan have agreed to explore methods for how the aims of this proposal can be accomplished utilizing Sunflower's extensive capabilities as a Kansas Managed Care Organization.</p> <p>Licensed IDD service providers could apply for up to \$50,000 for one-time expenses related to infrastructure needs during the 2022 and 2023 calendar years. Participants will receive a one-time payment of up to \$50,000 and must agree to provide an annual accounting at the end of calendar years 2022 and 2023 on how the funds were applied.</p>

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Health & Education	Disability Services	Funding to Improve Residential Settings for Kansans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	InterHab	\$15,000,000	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IDD service providers had to shift day services delivery into residential settings for persons with IDD. As a result, residential settings experienced increased wear. The majority of residential settings for persons with IDD are single family dwellings or apartments. Significant investments must be made to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Service providers don't have traditional funding streams that cover such costs. Technology within residential settings is often rudimentary. Promising new technologies exist to help make residential settings safer for persons with IDD.</p> <p>We propose using SPARK funds for service providers for repairs to homes and apartments, accessibility modifications and purchases of technology to better support Kansans with IDD.</p> <p>InterHab and Sunflower Health Plan have agreed to explore methods for how the aims of this proposal can be accomplished utilizing Sunflower's capabilities as a Kansas Managed Care Organization.</p> <p>Participants can apply for up to \$50,000 for one-time expenses related to repairing, modifying and modernizing residential settings during 2022 and 2023. Participants must agree to provide annual accounting on how funds were applied.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Increasing Capacity to Provide Services Children with Developmental Disabilities	Heartspring, Inc.	\$10,000,000	<p>The intended use for requested funds is to develop and secure our workforce, increase our service capacity, and to provide supportive services to employees and the families we serve. Stabilized staffing will allow us to increase our census and serve more children. This includes increased starting wages for direct service personnel, incentive pay for shift workers, increased number of staff providing therapies, 24/7 onsite childcare, enhanced staff training, and assistance to students transitioning to adulthood to increase their rate of unsubsidized employment. These strategies meet the SPARK guiding principle to prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services and foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans. This one-time investment will allow us to stabilize and increase our workforce and establish replicable and sustainable models for 24/7 childcare and adult transitional services. The increase of childcare availability will bridge a gap that worsened by the pandemic and led to parents not re-entering the workforce. The adult transitional services will ensure independence for individuals with complex challenges for life-long success.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Low Vision Mobile Training & Rehabilitation Pilot Program	Envision Inc.	\$945,000	<p>"The intended use of the funds is to provide a comprehensive occupational & rehabilitation program to Kansans who are blind or visually impaired. Funds will be used to conduct outreach, provide professional staff onsite, and deliver services using a mobile van unit outfitted with equipment and technology. By working alongside local independent living centers and healthcare providers, services are delivered onsite more efficiently and invested funds are maximized.</p> <p>Licensed & certified occupational & physical therapists, orientation & mobility, and assistive technology specialists will be deployed in 5 rural Kansas regions to assess needs & provide services related to blindness, low vision or the recent loss of vision.</p> <p>Envision's existing performance tracking provides a platform to report outcomes by geographic area and number of clients served. Sustainability will be achieved through third-party reimbursement, vocational rehabilitation contracts, public and private grants and donations, providing patient employment, etc.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Perfect Fit Therapy Clinic	Perfect Fit Foundation and Therapy Clinic	\$1,500,000	<p>Perfect Fit Therapy clinic and the principles outlined for the SPARK committee go hand in hand in that our clinic provides vital behavioral health services to children with Autism. The second way we align with the committee is that we are a rural town in western Kansas trying to not only serve the children of the area and it's surrounding areas, but we are trying to revitalize our town and rural economy by brining professional careers to the area that do not currently exist. The closest clinic that serves this therapy is 150 miles East and 300 miles West. The professionals that serve these therapies are difficult to find as there are few. Our organization is not only serving children currently, we are growing professionals in the field and educating them to keep them in the rural areas. We started a business in the midst of COVID and it's growing daily. Our organization is the only one of it's kind and with a 6-9 month long and growing wait list and we need to hire and educate more professionals to serve more children. To serve more children we need more space. These funds would fund a building and facility project to offer MORE behavioral health services.</p>

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Health & Education	Disability Services	Relief Funds for Direct Care Workers Who Support Kansans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	InterHab	\$60,000,000	<p>The pandemic and subsequent “great resignation” have combined to place services for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in jeopardy. Large numbers of direct care workers who worked tirelessly during the darkest days of the pandemic have burned out and moved on. Statewide, turnover for direct care positions hovers near 50%. New hires stay an average of 116 days before leaving. These positions have an average starting wage of \$11 per hour.</p> <p>We propose establishing a “SPARK Voucher” via a pre-paid debit card that direct care workers can utilize to offset their expenses in the categories of childcare, education, housing, transportation and food. InterHab and Sunflower Health Plan of Kansas have agreed to explore methods for how the aims of this proposal can be accomplished utilizing Sunflower’s capabilities as a Kansas Managed Care Organization.</p> <p>Eligible participants will have completed at least six months of employment with a Kansas IDD service provider. Participants will receive up to two annual allotments of \$2,500 for a total of a \$5,000 benefit. Participants will be required to provide an annual accounting at the end of calendar years 2022 and 2023.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	SPARK funding request - Kansas State School for the Blind	Kansas State School for the Blind	\$2,770,807	<p>206,648 FY2022 HVAC upgrade-Brighton Bldg; \$1,300,000 FY2023 HVAC upgrades in additional buildings & IT Network Infrastructure, \$1,043,352 for final HVAC efficiency upgrades and IT Network Infrastructure, \$107,130 for extended school year for blind students across Kansas and \$113,677 retention incentive to retain qualified employees. Total request of \$2,770,807 provides learning opportunities throughout the state for blind students to improve outcomes, and ensures students will have access to safe and efficient buildings as they achieve their highest educational goals. Improved efficiency in campus buildings through HVAC upgrades will have a positive impact on agency budgets for many years, allowing focus to remain on educational impact for students.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	SPARK funding request - Kansas State School for the Deaf	Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$5,862,610	<p>\$220,000 FY2022 Cap Improvement HVAC upgrade, \$1,355,700 additional HVAC upgrades, \$174,508 IT Network Infrastructure Phase 1, \$386,000 for Language Assessment Program ages Birth-up to third birthday, \$3,430,000 Final HVAC upgrades in remaining campus buildings, \$104,574 IT Network Infrastructure Phase 2, \$192,128 Retention Incentive to retain qualified employees. The Language Assessment Program will provide access for children ages Birth up to Three years old to a language assessment by a qualified professional. Results will provide information on the child's language development and possible areas for improvement. HVAC upgrades will provide safe and efficient buildings for student use on campus.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	SPARK funding request #2 - Kansas State School for the Deaf	Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$958,678	<p>In reviewing the Treasury Department Final Rules for eligibility, the agency is unclear whether the projects on this application qualify for ARPA funding and requests additional review by the Health and Education panel. Capital Improvement projects include rehabilitation and repair of campus buildings (\$650,148), safety and security systems (\$194,495), and completion of high school renovation (\$114,035). These projects will provide a safe and secure campus for deaf students across Kansas, whether they attend daily classes or participate in annual events such as extended school year or career exploration day with participating businesses.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	SPARK funding request #2 Kansas State School for the Blind	Kansas State School for the Blind	\$1,311,361	<p>This 2nd application for additional funds is submitted at the request of the Senate Education Committee. In reviewing the Treasury Department Final Rules for eligibility, the agency is unclear whether the projects on this application qualify for ARPA funding and requests additional review by the Health and Education panel. These one-time investments in capital improvements will finance rehabilitation and repair of campus buildings (\$541,816), safety and security systems upgrades, service and repairs, access control, cameras, elevator safety service and doors/gates service (\$144,545), plus phase 1 and 2 of new elevator installation for student use (\$625,000). These improvements provide a safe and accessible campus for blind students across Kansas, whether they attend daily classes or participate in annual events such as the Braille Challenge, Extended School Year or Boys/Girls Weekend.</p>
Health & Education	Disability Services	Special Olympics Kansas – Campus & Headquarters	Mammoth Sports Construction, LLC	\$60,000,000	<p>This request for funds to the SPARK Committee is for the development of a new Special Olympics Kansas Campus & Headquarters (“SOKS Campus”) in Meriden, Kansas. The SOKS Campus will provide a targeted center of operations for Special Olympics Kansas & showcase unrivaled athletic & sports facilities, all to support children & adults with diverse needs & abilities. Through innovative design & the application of best practices, the SOKS Campus will provide pillars of healthy lifestyles, including year-round health advocacy/education, skill/relationship building, and platforms for Special Olympic athletes to compete on all levels. The SOKS Campus will meet the SPARK guiding principle of fostering long-term systematic impact for Kansans through the development of operations & facilities unseen before. The impact of the SOKS Campus will reach to each corner of Kansas & create long-term equitable opportunities & outcomes for all connected with Special Olympics Kansas. The SOKS Campus will support Kansas’ response & recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing existing barriers (i.e. access to health/fitness facilities) for children and adults with diverse needs and abilities, which creates a stronger and more resilient Kansas for all.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Disability Services	Workforce retention and attraction of direct support professionals (DSPs) serving Kansans with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).	Capper Foundation	\$6,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to retain and attract DSPs to stabilize and build capacity of pediatric and adult services to pre-pandemic levels for Kansans with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). This project meets all SPARK guiding principles and enables Capper to offer sustainable programs and decrease waiting lists for services for children, teens and support for adults from 16 counties with I/DD needs. The SPARK disbursement will be leveraged with State HCBS, county mill level, contracts, fees, contributions, estates and investments to maximize the use of discretionary funds. Ongoing incremental costs will be built into the program budget to help develop quality staff, diversify revenue and build capacity. 92% of Capper operating expenses go directly to programs and services. Capper has earned a four star rating from Charity Navigator nine consecutive years representing the top 5% of charities for transparency, accountability and trustworthiness. This project will directly support Kansas' response to and recovery from the pandemic, strengthen Kansas' resilience with increased economic impact of Capper staff and services, and by reducing potential strain on the State and local healthcare systems.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	A stand alone website to raise awareness for New Born Screening and Birth Defects	KDHE	\$50,000	Funds for development of a stand-alone website for Newborn Screening and Birth Defects Surveillance programs to increase accessibility of resources to families and providers. One-time funds would support the development of a website which encompasses Newborn Screening as well as Birth Defects Surveillance.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	An Early Childhood Community Center and Care Campus for Douglas County: Strengthening Early Childhood Infrastructure and Economic Development Post-COVID	Community Children's Center, Inc	\$3,000,000	The requested funds will be used in combination with local public & private investments, for one-time building acquisition, renovation & furnishing of an early childhood community center (ECCC). ECCC programs will include a child care facility to increase the # of affordable, high-quality child care spots; an early childhood business incubator to increase # of child care businesses to meet community demand; a Family Resource Center based on National Family Support Networks Quality Standards for implementation & evaluation; a collaboration with Just Food to facilitate "ready-made" meal distribution to the community & ECCC food service; a community medical & dental clinic in collaboration with LMH Health & Heartland Community Health Center; & a Provider Academy to recruit & retain early childhood professionals. ECCC provided services will be available at low- to no-cost or on a sliding scale, will embed objectives from the Community Health Plan to Reduce Poverty & will incorporate strategies serving the most vulnerable residents to positively impact social determinants of health. The strategies to increased high-quality child care capacity and family supports will help recoup losses and disruptors experienced as a result of COVID.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	An Investment in Skills Development and Quality Advancements Through Early Childhood Education STEM Experiences	Pitsco Education, LLC, Pittsburg, KS	\$7,500,000	<p>Recent studies by the Society for Human Resource Management reported 75% of HR professionals experienced challenges recruiting qualified candidates due to a continually increasing skills gap. The most notably demanded soft skills missing from qualified candidates were problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and the ability to deal with complexity and ambiguity. Coincidentally, these same learning dispositions are a vital set of base tools young children must foster to not just enter school-age programs but also thrive.</p> <p>Knowing what we know about brain development in a child's early years, there is prime opportunity to allow young learners to practice these 21st-century skills in an engaging and naturally cross-curricular way, embedding them deep into the foundation of how they think, learn, live, and grow.</p> <p>Kansas can lay the foundation toward a solution by supporting the most developmentally valuable years of an individual's life through opportunities to develop these universally transferrable skills and competencies through the delivery of hands-on STEM experiences, setting them up to become school-ready lifelong learners, curious problem-solvers, and engaged citizens.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Back to Work: Partnering with Business to Address Child Care Capacity in Shawnee County	ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., dba Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas	\$5,130,000	<p>This project meets all guiding principles for SPARK funding. Since January 2020 Topeka has lost over 700 child care slots because of child care program closures, with additional capacity lost as many existing programs function at less than their license capacity due to challenges around staffing. Building child care capacity while simultaneously working with business partners to support the child care needs of their workforce directly supports the local community's ability to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and allows parents with young children to enter and remain in the Kansas workforce. Capacity strategies include targeted support for slot creation for infants and non-traditional hours of care (before 7 am, after 6 pm and weekends), consultation and peer mentoring, and workforce recruitment strategies. Businesses will receive financial support matching business investments related to child care supports for employees, with their workers benefitting from child care navigation services providing a solution-based approach supporting family choice.</p> <p>SPARK funding investment combined with business-sector investments and other local and agency funding creates a comprehensive, systematic approach resulting in long-term impact.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Best Interest Advocacy for Court & Foster Care Involved Children	Douglas County CASA, Inc.	\$876,000	<p>About 165 children from Douglas County enter the court & child welfare systems each year due to abuse or neglect. We can provide a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for about 50% of those children. Capacity is limited by our office space and number of staff who supervise and support volunteers. Total cost of the 2-year project (2023-2024) to purchase and renovate a building and expand our staffing to support 200 volunteers is \$3.5 million. We would work to secure funding from other sources including grants, individual donors, business sponsors, tax credits, and funds from our own endowment.</p> <p>Most children we serve and their families are disproportionately impacted by COVID: limited access to vaccines, health care, and challenges accessing mental health and educational services. This project would help us grow to serve every child eligible for services, a population that historically has limited access to necessary services, by providing an safe and caring CASA advocate. This will help underprivileged families recover from the impacts of the COVID pandemic and set our agency up to sustain long-term support for future children and their families who enter the court & child welfare system in our judicial district/county.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Building Center City Academy for Wichita (Non-Profit Childcare)	Center City Academy	\$6,000,000	<p>The intended use of these funds in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of an early childhood education center at 718 S. Topeka in downtown Wichita, Center City Academy "CCA". CCA will be a nonprofit childcare center that will be affordable to families of diverse backgrounds and provide equitable opportunities for all parents to receive childcare. CCA will foster long term systematical impact by serving children with early childhood education on sliding scale based on income and family size, along with before/after school and summer programs to help working families. Parents will be able to work and know their children are getting needed education. CCA will create 30-40 new jobs for staff and educators. This building will be designed for growth opportunity to have the potential to serve more children at this location. This building will also create a space for families to receive programming classes in areas of infant care, family culinary, health, and wellness. Results from services, programs and classes will be measurable and tracked by attendance and impact. We truly believe this will strengthen Kansas' resilience by having an impact on children, families, and businesses now and in the future.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Building Up and Out	CASA: A Voice for Children	\$75,000	<p>CASA: A Voice for Children, advocates for children that are in the foster care system due to abuse or neglect. The pandemic made fundraising, recruiting, and program growth more difficult. CASA relies on donations and grants from our local partners as well as government sources. Without a growing stream of funds, sustainability becomes hindered. The services we provide make a positive impact on the children we serve, their families, our communities, the efficiency of other government agencies. Our services provide a profound ripple effect. Children of color and those in substandard socioeconomic standing are disproportionately in foster care. Our program touches their lives. Funding will help us make up for lost time and build our network. We would like to increase the number of donors and volunteers through a more rigorous awareness campaign, increased public events, and an increase in targeted marketing. In order to meet these goals, we must maintain the current office and staffing. Due to the lack of fundraising in the past 18 months, meeting these goals is and remains riddled with challenge.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Capacity Building to Improve Outcomes for Children & Families in Child Welfare	Saint Francis Ministries	\$19,680,850	<p>SFM will allocate resources to strengthen resilience and protective factors for Kansas families and employees. Funding would support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An enhanced kinship program to increase family-like placements across the state. This will add a network of long-term kin caregivers, build capacity for greater placement stability for children in need of care, foster long-term systemic change, and reduce long-term demands upon state systems. Recruitment and retention incentives, premium pay, and tuition reimbursement for frontline workers, encouraging employees to remain committed to lifechanging services for Kansas families and mitigate the impacts of COVID. Maintaining a stable, qualified, experienced workforce will generate better outcomes for children and families in less time. One-time facility modernization and improved technology infrastructure efforts to enhance service delivery; this would include electronic health record (EHR) implementation and critical renovations to residential facilities. These improvements would increase SFM capacity to serve individuals in need. <p>The combined result is improved long-term outcomes for at-risk children and families, exceptional care, and a stronger child welfare system.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Center for Early Childhood Education Rebuild	Dean, The Teachers College, Emporia State University	\$3,000,000	Funds requested will be used to support construction of a new, dedicated and specifically designed, preschool facility and assist with staffing for the center. The rebuild of the preschool would support SPARK principles of economic stability, as well as health and education of area youth and their families. Availability of daycare directly impacts a parent's ability to attend school and/or work. Working Kansans support a stronger Kansas economy. The daycare provides learning opportunities for children, preparing them to enter kindergarten. Youth who demonstrate kindergarten readiness are likely to experience success in school and read at grade level, leading them to be successful and contributing Kansas citizens in the future. The center provides care for school-age youth during breaks and in the summer, providing needed childcare for working parents and engaging learning opportunities for the youth, resulting in less learning loss from one school year to another.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Care connected to Unified School District 459	Unified School District 459	\$2,000,000	Funding would be used to construct a new daycare facility in close proximity to USD 459 in Bucklin to meet the needs of children under age five. A childcare facility does not exist, but would provide a stable and impactful service to citizens. The public health emergency left a void in reliable, affordable and available childcare services as individuals closed the doors to their personal homes. Those in the workforce found themselves burning through sick time and vacation days just to care for their own children. Individuals that have considered opening or reopening their home to operate a group childcare service have found that there are costs and headaches involved in licensing that create an ongoing financial burden. This new infrastructure would make the long-term feasibility of operating a childcare service more favorable without the repayment of startup costs to a financial institution. Residents wouldn't have to drive elsewhere to utilize childcare services and find employment, but rather spend their dollars locally and gain employment within city limits. By providing necessary day-to-day services for working individuals, this bolsters our local economy by keeping young individuals right here in Bucklin.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Care Eco Devo Accelerator	Children's Cabinet	\$10,000,000	The Child Care Eco Devo Accelerator meets all of SPARK guidelines. 1) The request is for one-time funding to create a public-private partnership to address the unique needs of business and provide quality child care for employees. 2) Demonstration projects would be prioritized to communities that are providing financial supports or in-kind support (buildings, child care supports, etc.). 3) Addressing the child care gap and providing tailored approaches that meet economic development needs has the potential for long-term systemic impact. The \$10M investment would yield a 1.5 ROI for the first year. 4) This approach provides a career pathway and would establish child care as a viable profession. 5) The accelerator enables flexibility to blend, braid, and bundle funds, and acts as a differentiator for Kansas communities to attract new businesses and support existing employers. 6) We would track number of available child care slots during traditional and non-traditional hours, number of child care providers in the community, wages, and other socio-demographic indicators.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Care Search and Referral Enhancements	Child Care Aware of Kansas	\$1,000,000	<p>Child Care Aware of Kansas connects families to licensed child care that meets their unique needs. Currently, we accomplished this via: 1) an online search of our comprehensive database of licensed child care programs, and 2) tailored search services offered by our Resource Center.</p> <p>We propose a targeted investment to develop/procure enhanced online search functionality that meets the following criteria: 1) an app for families seeking child care, 2) options for employers to pay for child care as an employee benefit, and 3) other customizable child care search features. We envision connecting new functionality via API to the Kansas CCR&R network's resource and referral database. This ensures continued integrity of child care search support by referring families only to licensed child care programs.</p> <p>This project meets several of the SPARK committee's priorities by 1) leveraging private and public funds, 2) fostering long-term impact by enhancing how families find and pay for child care, including those receiving child care subsidy, and 3) capitalizing on our existing data infrastructure to measure utilization and satisfaction.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Welfare contractor Workforce Premium Pay	DCF	\$2,100,000	increase income for essential front line child welfare workforce doing field work with children and families within DCF as well as DCF grantees who are prevention, foster care or group care home direct family providers.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Welfare DCF Workforce Premium Pay	DCF	\$366,000	increase income for essential front line child welfare workforce doing field work with children and families within DCF as well as DCF grantees who are prevention, foster care or group care home direct family providers.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Child Welfare Workforce & Innovation Investment	Children's Alliance of Kansas	\$24,000,000	<p>Children’s Alliance represents the child welfare community; our SPARK application provides a framework for considering the separate, independent SPARK applications of our association’s nonprofit member child welfare service providers and supports the requests made by our state agency partners DCF and KDADS on behalf of our members and the children and families they serve.</p> <p>Thirteen of our members are submitting individual applications for individual projects; collectively, we are seeking to (1) to address the workforce crisis in child welfare, and (2) to improve our child welfare system capacity to meet the behavioral health needs of children in the child welfare system. Stabilizing our workforce is the number one priority of the Children’s Alliance; and in addition, we seek supports for addressing the unique challenges faced by children and families in today’s child welfare system and as impacted by the pandemic. These member applications will outline how projects individually meet SPARK Guiding principles.</p> <p>We request consideration of \$10 million for premium pay for child welfare workforce, \$10 million for innovation/expansion projects, and \$4million specifically outlined for PRTF workforce.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Childcare Expansion Completion	The Tree House Early Learning Center	\$75,000	<p>The intended use for the SPARK funds being requested is to support the completion of a new childcare center in Independence. This will also make it possible for the owner of The Tree House Early Learning Center (THELC) to move forward with opening other centers in Southeast Kansas which is a childcare desert.</p> <p>This one-time investment of funds to THELC will make it possible for the center to be completed. Once the remaining construction is completed the center will open and will be self-sustaining with income from childcare tuition and subsidies.</p> <p>Upon completion, the owner of THELC will use the knowledge that she has gained through the process of expanding from an in-home childcare setting to a center setting to open other locations in the Southeast Kansas area.</p> <p>The center would have a capacity of 52 children. This would allow more parents to find childcare and return to work growin the workforce and helping the area recover from COVID-19.</p> <p>The results of this project will be measurable by how many children receive childcare at the facility. Child assessments during their time in care will also measure child development.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Childcare Operators and Facilities Injector Fund	DKEDC	\$500,000	<p>Reliable, high-quality, sustainable childcare is a direct need for rural Kansans and a key cog in allowing more parents to return to work to boost and maintain our state's economy and bolster continued economic development across the region. The proposed childcare capital injector would partner with local county gov. funds to inject a one-time capital investment to rural childcare providers in need of facility updates, expansion, and training for their workforce. This would allow more Kansans to return to work, allowing more employers to fill positions and seeing fewer businesses face an employment crisis. Two-fold, it would also allow facilities to cover much needed expansion and update costs without passing those through to parents already feeling the strain of childcare costs. Result tracking could include number of centers impacted, number of slots opened per age group as a result of updates/expansions, and number of parents able to return to the workforce as a result of affordable childcare options available to them.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Children Welfare Technology Initiative	Foster Care Technologies, LLC (FCT)	\$978,000	<p>After years of meeting with agencies and researchers, FCT is excited to offer a suite of child welfare software tools to agencies and foster parents in our state. This will enable a comprehensive approach to improving child welfare technology for foster parent training, licensing, placement matching, referral processing, and information exchange, replacing outdated processes that would otherwise persist during a more incremental approach. The tools, which can also interface with existing systems, will allow agencies to view, track, and measure outcomes, while enabling continuous data-driven improvements that lower costs and help agencies sustain the long-term use of these continuously improving tools.</p> <p>Foster parents, agencies, and children, have faced pandemic-related school closures, reduced in-person visits, and exacerbated mental health issues, and the system overall has lost foster parents due to these issues. Better tools will help make the fostering experience easier, which will attract more parents. These funds will help subsidize the development and implementation of these tools in Kansas as our foster care system not only bounces back from the pandemic but quickly becomes a leader in child welfare technology.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Community Child Care Center	Artesian Valley Health System	\$1,500,000	<p>The intended use of these funds requested is to build a childcare center in Meade, Kansas. Childcare is immediately needed for our town and county. Increased access to childcare has numerous benefits for the community. The location is proposed to be close to the hospital, nursing home, or school. Placing the childcare center in these areas allows entities to share resources and improve accessibility by hospital staff. Partnerships with USD 226 and Meade County Economic Development have been discussed to bring this project to fruition. The development of a childcare center will meet the guiding principals by providing a long term economic impact, combining with local agencies and resources, and promoting equitable outcomes.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Construct and Establish a Quality Childcare Facility in Frontenac Regional Industrial Park	SugarCreek Packing Co	\$3,051,000	This project creates early childhood education, childcare, and school readiness services in an area lacking in those services. SugarCreek proposes to identify, purchase, and customize a property near the industrial park where our employees can enroll their children in affordable, quality childcare near their place of work. The existing childcare opportunities are limited, especially to those who work off shifts or flexible schedules. Our intention is to provide services that accommodate all work schedules across the 700 employees at our facility and to as well make it available to eh community at large.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Development and integration of Family Resource Centers	DCF	\$3,130,000	Funds will be used to launch new Family Resource Centers (FRC's) and support those in current operation to become certified in the National Family Support Network Standards training. While this investment has potential to meet some portion of all of the SPARK's guiding principles, the primary guiding principles that will be met include #2, 3, 4 and 6. Guiding Principle #2: SPARK funds will be combined with existing DCF funding to support initial foundation building of new FRC's. Community development staff are in place to assist new and existing FRC sites to leverage local funding opportunities for sustainability. Guiding Principle #3: FRC's nationwide have been effective in preventing child maltreatment, reducing the need for foster care, promoting family economic success, increasing school readiness and developing parent and community leaders. Guiding Principle #4: One of the five areas of focus within the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support is "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" which not only supports valuing families' diversity but also helps enhance the policy, procedures and practices of the agency implementing the FRC. In practice this includes helping all families navigate systems to remove barriers to ensure all children and the family are getting equal access to community supports and services. Additionally, FRC's support health equity and accessible wellbeing services for all Kansans by providing concrete and relational support services in neighborhoods such a home visiting, employment services, health care, parent skill building, nutrition programs, etc. Guiding Principle #6: Outcomes related to lower rates of community level child abuse investigations, reduced rates of substantiated child abuse cases, reduction in the number of children in foster care, improvements in children's educational success and gains in family self-sufficiency are measures that are already in place withing Kansas DCF and/or the state agencies that are in partnership on this project.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Dodge City Child Care Facility	USD 443	\$20,000,000	USD 443, in partnership with Dodge City Community College, City of Dodge City, Ford County Development, and Dodge City YMCA would like to construct two new Child Care Facilities in Dodge City. We are currently looking at sites that would be the most beneficial to our community. USD currently has a Child Care Center that is licensed for 85 children in 7 classrooms(infant to kindergarten) which is full during the day. It is a partnership with Kansas Early Head Start. There is a critical need to open our doors up to second shift families as well as expand the daytime slots. This proposal is in collaboration with Dodge City Community College. In spring of 2020, a city wide childcare committee was formed due the lack of available spots focusing on the child care needs in Dodge City/Ford County. This investment will increase child care in Dodge City to serve 400-500 children, helping to lessen the burden of the 2,064 spots needed to fulfill currently needed spots. Not to mention the forecasted future demands with increases in workforce. This project is essential to the future vitality and growth of Dodge City and Ford County especially with the addition of the Hilmar Cheese Processing facility and other business expansions.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Dodge City Community Child Development Center	Dodge City Community College	\$7,000,000	Dodge City Community College, in partnership with the City of Dodge City, USD #443, the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation, and the Dodge City YMCA, proposes to construct a new Child Development Center on DCCC's campus or a locally-preferred site. The new Center will provide space required by KDHE to serve at least 212 children at one time with care available for both first-shift and second-shift workers' children. This proposal is submitted as a joint effort among the named entities who have been working collaboratively since Spring 2020 to solve the childcare crisis in Dodge City/Ford County and surrounding areas. Strong local industry partner support is committed, including National Beef, Cargill, and Hilmar Cheese. A one-time investment in a new facility will make possible care for an additional 212 children at once and will create synergy among other agency childcare centers. A new Center would leverage local private-sector funds in support of the Center's annual operation with investments from local industry partners. A new Child Development Center would create a long-term systemic impact for the Southwest Kansas region, bringing a much-needed infusion of resources to mitigate the current childcare crisis.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Early Childhood Development/Childcare Facility Building Renovations & Start-up Expenses	Doniphan Darlings, Inc.	\$200,000	Doniphan Darlings, Inc. has leased an unused school building in dire need of fire and safety renovations. Coupled with local community financial support, these funds would be instrumental in updating the building to meet fire and safety regulations and obtain state childcare licensing. Once open, this facility will provide about 14 jobs and openings for 59 children. By having a safe and affordable option for childcare and early childhood development, local families will be able to seek and/or maintain gainful employment. Our community/county is severely underserved in regards to affordable childcare services, and this funding would have a long-term systemic impact that would greatly improve the attraction of employers and young families to our community. The lack of these basic, vital services has forced many young families to move or transfer their children to other school districts. The results of the funding for this project will be evident in the number of children and/or families served and in long-term enrollment numbers within our local school districts.

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Early Childhood Education and Resource Center	USD 258	\$6,000,000	During the pandemic, home-based daycares in the community closed, creating a near crisis for families trying to return to work. Many of our early learners have spent months or years away from quality early learning opportunities as group family engagement activities were cancelled or delayed. USD 258 proposes to increase opportunities for early childhood, while providing a regional resource for early childhood families and pathways in local high schools and community colleges. We will utilize the ASQ and other early learning measures to ensure quality program results. As the businesses in our community grow, the need for employees grows. Childcare is a barrier to filling positions. Our district hopes to attract employees by subsidizing some childcare for our employees. The broad goal of this project is to provide the initial start-up costs, specifically the facility, for an early childhood education and resource center. In looking at this project, we believe the on-going costs can be supported through preschool funding, childcare fees, district, and business support. However, the start-up costs are the barrier to creating the program, making it a project that the SPARK guiding principles appear to target.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Early Childhood Education- SENT Prep Academy	Sent, Inc.	\$458,000	SENT Prep Academy is an early childhood education program providing high-quality child care for working families to serve children six weeks to 6 years, it is located in the Hi-Crest community. Funds would help us ensure the children enrolled are equipped with a safe, developmentally appropriate learning center that will serve their social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development needs. We currently serve 29 students. Childcare is a significant expense for many families, established is a scholarship fund for families needing assistance with child care tuition, funded with private donations. Scholarships are awarded on a sliding fee scale. We seek funding of \$300k for the Early Childhood Education trust fund to cover the gap between what families can afford to pay and the cost to provide the care. The impact of the trust fund will ensure equitable access to an early childhood education for our students. For SENT Prep Academy to continue a sustainable program, we are seeking \$158K in funding to hire additional staff and furnish two classroom spaces. Funding will allow SENT to help provide continuity of local childcare, and assist parents and their children to decrease the "COVID-19 slide."
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Early Childhood Gymnasium Floor and Asphalt Paint	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$200,000	The COVID pandemic has forced teachers to think outside of the box and begin using areas of their schools for multiple different things. At the Eudora Early Childhood Education Center, the gymnasium is also the cafeteria, classroom, and indoor playground. The last two years have taken a toll on the surfacing of the gymnasium floor. This funding request is to replace the gymnasium floor with a multipurpose flooring to allow for all the different new uses of the gymnasium. The funding request would also allow for painting of various games on their outdoor asphalt play area. By replacing the flooring, it allows for safe use during indoor recess, classroom activities, and all the other unique ideas that our teachers use to keep our Eudora students safe and active throughout the day. By painting outdoor games and balance bike paths on their outdoor asphalt playground area, it will allow for students to explore with their bikes and play their favorite game such as hopscotch, four square and many others. This project meets the SPARK guiding principles by fostering long-term systemic impacts for all Eudora students now and in years to come.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Early Childhood Response to the Effectives of Collective Trauma Brought on by COVID-19	Elizabeth B Ballard Community Center	\$100,000	Ballard will use requested resources to enhance classroom services and address the collective trauma brought on by the pandemic. Workers living paycheck to paycheck have been impacted most by COVID business slowdown and closures-such families are represented in our early education program and are in need of classroom supports. The effects of social isolation due to COVID have been significant on young children and their development. Preschoolers have little life experience to make sense of the pandemic's abrupt changes and mirror the stress and emotions of parents. Children had fewer opportunities for social interaction with extended family and peers. Teachers have observed delayed development and more negative behaviors, i.e., clinging, irritability and aggression. Ballard's assessment scores of kindergarten readiness for the August 2021 student cohort was just 61% down from the pre-COVID rate of 92%. Classroom supports such as lower teacher/child ratios and specialized social /emotional teaching staff will give opportunity for improving student outcomes to pre-COVID rates. These proposed activities meet SPARK guiding principles of long-term systematic impact and consideration for equitable opportunities and outcomes.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Eligibility Determination Workforce Premium Pay	DCF	\$342,000	increase income for essential front line DCF employees who determine eligibility in economic and employment supports division
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Empowering Our Response to Child Maltreatment	Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County	\$4,500,000	The intended use of requested funds meets the SPARK principle of fostering long-term systemic impact by providing best-practice services at the Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County, which will ultimately lead to healing from the trauma of child abuse. Increased facility space will improve access to expanded investigation, advocacy, therapy and education. Better access to child abuse support services will facilitate equitable outcomes by addressing child sexual and physical abuse, internet crimes, child pornography, and human trafficking in our community, especially those that are marginalized and underserved. One-time funds will provide opportunities to fill unmet needs heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although child abuse reports decreased in early pandemic months, numbers of child abuse reports increased by more than 800 cases through the pandemic, as children returned to school and child care. The resultant mental health crisis and ongoing hardships related to the pandemic will be reflected in increased abuse and neglect for years. The ability to effectively respond to the needs of these children and families through education, prevention and intervention will mitigate long-term adverse outcomes for the community.

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Enable online food/grocery ordering for WIC recipients	KDHE	\$250,000	The WIC program transition to allowing participants an electronic benefits transfer card online will allow for system modernization and ease of use for consumers and retailers. The use of ARPA funds to make the required changes is a one-time cost with no future maintenance costs. The timeline for making the changes and expending the funds will be somewhat dependent on the changes made at the online retail stores. These changes should be made within the next 2 years.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Enhancements to DAISEY system	KDHE	\$500,000	This is a shared data management system that houses KDHE Maternal and Child Health Lead agency client level data. Enhance system to allow for more comprehensive engagement (SMS) reporting and API capabilities. The Bureau of Family Health (BFH), through a partnership with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU-CPPR), utilizes the DAISEY Solutions platform to collect and report on child and family health outcomes on the community level. DAISEY is a required data collection tool for Family Planning (Title X), Maternal and Child Health (Title V), Kansas Perinatal Community Collaboratives, Pregnancy Maintenance Initiatives (PME) and Teen Pregnancy Targeted Case Management (TPTCM) programs. The current DAISEY platform lacks features available through other health data systems, namely patient interaction capabilities via email or SMS and robust and dynamic reporting.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Enhancements to the CLARIS system.	KDHE	\$500,000	Fingerprint-based background checks are a requirement for child care professionals. The current process is mostly paper-driven and involves multiple systems across several agencies, often causing delays. This plan proposes exploring and implementing potential solutions to address these challenges, and upgrading technical systems within the fingerprinting process, including but not limited to interfaces between agency systems.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Expand Anti-Trafficking Education in Kansas	ICT SOS	\$250,000	ICT SOS intends to use funds requested to distribute a sustainable anti-trafficking awareness education program through the one time use of funds for outreach and training of facilitators, to create supporting program materials, and to launch recently developed film content. Leveraging diversified, combined funding will maximize the impact and reach of discretionary funds to broaden ICT SOS' scope. Collaborating with law enforcement, schools, and medical institutions around identification of human trafficking and resources available will foster long term systemic impact for Kansans through prevention efforts, increased knowledge, programming, and resource connection. Results will be measurable through pre- and post- tests taken on the ICT SOS mobile app to track changes in understanding and awareness. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in Wichita reported in April 2020 that students being unable to physically attend school and navigating the internet for their education caused a 300 percent increase in online exploitation reports in the first week of the pandemic. Given that, it is imperative for ICT SOS to widen their reach to educate on the risks and realities of online exploitation and trafficking.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Expanding Services For Families In Crisis	Safe Families for Children - Kansas	\$2,890,000	Transforming the child welfare system requires a focus on prevention rather than serving families after the trauma of separation has already occurred. This is the goal of Safe Families for Children. This model serves the state financially and, more importantly, serves Kansas families by keeping children out of the child welfare system and establishes a strong support system for families in and beyond a crisis. This support has been especially critical through the pandemic as families have faced stressors like never before – confronted with financial hardships created by reduced incomes and job and housing insecurity. With additional financial support, Safe Families for Children's Kansas Chapter can build upon its 3 years of success that has kept 90+ Kansas families safely together and in 2021, prevented 36 children from entering foster care. The organization is seeking a state investment of CARES Act funding in the amount of \$2.89 million to increase services from its current two region area to six – serving vulnerable families throughout the entire state.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Expansion of Student Support Coordinators	Communities in Schools	\$2,140,000	Communities In Schools of Mid-America (CIS) seeks \$2.14 million of SPARK funding to implement and sustain our data-proven services at schools that are currently unserved in a community that has other CIS sites, in order to provide a continuum of service to communities with critical need. CIS positions student support coordinators inside schools to assess group and individual needs and deliver three tiers of services. Tier One services are school-wide, with Tiers Two and Three providing targeted interventions for individual students facing the most intense barriers. Services can range from providing food, clothing or school supplies; career fairs, field trips; academic assistance, mentoring, tutoring, homework help; health screenings and referrals to free or low-cost health care, dental care, and/or counseling; finding the student a safe place to live; or ensuring the student has transportation to and from school. It can also include intensive interventions with parents, caregivers, and family members. Importantly, CIS partners with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers, and volunteers.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Family resource Center, Inc. (The Center) Child Care Expansion	Family Resource Center, Inc.	\$5,000,000	Child care as a component of economic development and recovery is well documented as having a systemic, long-term impact on Kansas. During the pandemic, this vital part of Kansas' economic infrastructure became even more important as the instability of the industry became more well known. This proposal enhances and expands an already successful community-based effort in Pittsburg that has been an example of equitable access and specific outcomes since 1995. The organization has served over 500+ children ages 0-5 per year and can double those numbers with the proposed expansion. This is a project that leverages local and agency funds includes a specific request to the Crawford County Commission for \$1.5M in ARPA dollars. As a shovel-ready that has the backing of the community, this project meets every SPARK priority. This project expands the existing footprint of the organization from 20,000 to 40,000 square feet of child care and PreK. It would increase the licensed capacity from 338 to 550.

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Family Resource Centers-supportive family services	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$8,437,500	<p>A growing body of research shows that economic and concrete supports for families are an effective strategy in preventing child abuse and preventing children from being placed in foster care, a much costlier intervention. Concrete supports include access to rent and utility assistance, food, and clothing as well as access to economic assistance. Financial supports for families are effective in improving economic mobility.</p> <p>Family Resource Centers (FRC's) have been proven to be effective in supporting families who are struggling financially. These are readily accessible in local neighborhoods, schools, and communities and serve as a hub for support, information and opportunities for support. Currently KCSL is working with the National Family Support Network and we have secured the ability to be a part of the national network. As a part of the national network, Kansas will receive technical assistance and support in helping local communities establish FRC's.</p> <p>Most frequently FRC's provide services in the areas of parenting support, access to resources, child development activities, and parent leadership development.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Foster Home Recruitment and Retention Investment	KVC Behavioral Healthcare INC	\$10,260,000	<p>ntended use of funds requested provides flexible recruitment and retention strategies supporting the Child Welfare System Taskforce Recommendations. Investments in recruitment and retention of foster homes through premium pay offer greater opportunity for equitable outcomes for children. DCF (Department for Children and Families) supports premium payments for foster homes.</p> <p>KVC suggests retention/recruitment bonus' for foster, relative/NR-Kin/Approved homes for 18-months. Placements would be eligible to receive a \$1,000 for 1 or more youth in their home for 6 months and/or \$2,000 for maintaining 50% capacity for 6 consecutive months.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Foster/ expand integrated referral system for all social supports	DCF	\$500,000	<p>Funding would be used specifically to enhance and increase the use of DCF's Provider Portal that has a robust referral function. The base product is only designed to integrate with KEES for Employment Services providers. We believe that the system could be customized to incorporate other areas within DCF. This would fall under the 1st Principle as the funding would help expand the technology with minimal ongoing associated costs. It also falls under the 3rd principle as it would make the overall DCF referral system much more efficient which would improve our overall service to all Kansans using DCF.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	FosterAdopt Connect - Foster Care and Adoption Community Center Expansion	Foster Adopt Connect, Inc.	\$13,726,227	<p>FosterAdopt Connect (FAC) is a non-profit, human services agency working to fill gaps in the child welfare system that lead to bad outcomes for kids/families. We develop innovative solutions to persistent challenges, and produce a return on investment in both program outcomes and dollars saved over traditional approaches.</p> <p>Our work is done through Foster Care and Adoption Community Centers, which bring families together, collect and distribute resources, and allow the community to partner in this work. Our KS Headquarters Center is in Kansas City. By adding satellite Centers in Wichita, Hutchinson, Hays, Garden City and Topeka, we can offer statewide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Behavioral Intervention (BI) individualized in home support to high acuity kids waiting for facility placement to keep them at home. (2) CCYP Individualized assistance for aged out youth, 17-26, in 8 domains of functioning to prevent tragic outcomes like sex trafficking. (3) Kinship Navigator support to relative and kin caregivers to keep kids from needing stranger foster care. (4) Trauma Focused Clinical Supports to bring evidence-based interventions to communities without the resources to help kids heal. (5) Core material supports, training and advocacy for families.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Fund one-time Use Cases for Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)	KDHE	\$1,000,000	<p>ECIDS is a data system in which the goal is to track data on children through various providers in the early childhood system to get longitudinal data throughout the early childhood years. As this system is developed, use cases are necessary to find the best ways to weave data together from various systems.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Greater Manhattan Childcare Business Incubator	Greater Manhattan Community Foundation	\$24,500,000	<p>Riley County is severely impacted by the childcare crisis with an increase in closed programs, unexpected closures, and inability to retain quality early childhood educators. Through an innovative and business minded approach, Manhattan would create an incubator childcare facility to immediately increase capacity. The program will assist in recruiting, mentoring, coaching, and training new individuals interested in starting a childcare business and expand services to diversity and families with English as a second language. It will offer support services missing from existing programs to retain educators, partner with existing programs to provide more intensive training and support at the program level, and serve as a training facility for a substitute pool to ensure all programs aren't unexpectedly closed.</p> <p>The incubator offers huge economic impact by creating childcare jobs and childcare availability for parents to re-enter the workforce. State and Federal governments have made significant investments in the county, to include Kansas State University, Department of Agriculture, and National Bio-Agri Defense Facility. A failure to invest in quality and affordable childcare will impact employment in our area.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Grow Early Childhood Education: Child Care Salary Supplements	Child Care Aware of Kansas	\$20,000,000	<p>Launched in 2018, Grow ECE provides tiered salary supplements to early care and education professionals that factor in current salary, level of education, and commitment of the recipient to continued employment. However, this supplement is only available to professionals in Wyandotte County.</p> <p>We propose scaling this model to professionals statewide using a similar tiered approach. On the low end, a professional enrolled in a CDA program earning more than \$15 per hour receives a \$250 supplement every six months. On the high end, a Bachelor’s level professional earning less than \$15 per hour receives a \$4000 supplement every six months. The average supplement amount is \$800.</p> <p>This project meets several of the SPARK committee’s guiding principles by continuing to leverage CIF and local match dollars, fostering long-term impact for Kansas by ensuring we are able to retain our existing child care workforce, expanding our reach to underserved communities across the state, and capitalizing on existing reporting/tracking infrastructure to ensure transparency.</p> <p>The project directly supports Kansas’ response to the pandemic and strengthens the resiliency of our remaining child care workforce.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Growing key health and education workforces while meeting the needs of families through community collaboration: The Wamego Early Learning Center	Wamego Community Foundation	\$20,000,000	<p>We seek to build a comprehensive early care, health, and education facility in Wamego, KS, and meets all six of the priority areas. The proposed facility and operations will provide novel, sustainable, and measurable outcomes at the community (early care and education, health) and state levels (workforce development). Supporting local level needs and providing much-needed workforces for state systems, this project helps the state fully recover from the Covid-19 pandemic through workforce development specific to early care and education (CDA), certified nurse assistants (CNA), and Physician Assistants (PA). Providing opportunity for workforce participation of women caring for young children, this project advances equitable treatment for women via health and early care for their young children, while earning income for their families supporting economic development. At the Wamego Community Foundation, transparency drives our efforts. We would measure progress in building the facility and provide measures of outputs of trained workers in the workforce, and outcomes for local community and state child, family, and economic development resulting from this effort. The variety of investors allows for flexibility of investment strategies.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Healthy Families America Rural Home Visiting Expansion	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$3,000,000	<p>Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL) intends to use this funding to expand current Healthy Families America services to new underserved, rural counties. These voluntary home visiting services are provided to families at risk for child abuse and neglect and offer support to new parents with children ages birth to five. KCSL currently provides the services to 30 Kansas Counties. This funding would expand services in the Southeast region to Allen, Anderson, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodsen counties, in the North Central region to Jewell, Mitchell, and Lincoln counties, in the Northwest region to Phillips, Smith, and Osborne counties, and in the South Central region to Edwards, Kiowa, Comanche, Pratt, Barber, Kingman, and Harper counties. These counties have been identified based on lack of resources, specifically lack of home visiting services. This meets the guiding principle of prioritizing sustainable programs as it would help us get the infrastructure established to qualify for future funding opportunities. The expanded counties would become part of the existing network of programs and would benefit from the already established expertise and ability to quickly implement new services.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Healthy Families Kansas Evaluation	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$300,000	<p>Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL) intends to use this funding to contract with a state university in Kansas to conduct a three year evaluation of the Healthy Families America (HFA) home visiting programs managed by KCSL. KCSL serves over 700 families annually through this home visiting program. The programs are funded through a variety of funding sources, including TANF. The evaluation would show the impact the programs have on the well being of parents enrolled, specifically focusing on self-sufficiency and parenting ability. The program serves primarily low-income families with children ages birth to three, a population that has been impacted heavily by the pandemic as parents have struggled with child care and lost employment. This project will meet the guiding principle of prioritizing sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds as it will work with an existing program to show impact and strengthen services for the future. It will also meet the guiding principle of fostering long term systemic impact for Kansans to show if this program is a good investment of state funding for the future and it will ensure results are measurable to enable tracking and transparency.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Ingenerational Care, Child and Adult Care for Working Families	Learning Cross Inc.	\$375,000	<p>Since the Covid-19 pandemic, child care and adult care have been in short supply. Currently, Our local long-term care facilities in Hays are running at limited staff and limited capacity (nearly 1/2 capacity). The direct consequences are that families are sending their parents to Colorado, Nebraska, and Eastern Kansas. This has also been detrimental to the care being provided. We would like to offer a unique and innovative solution to adult care with the added benefits of intergenerational interaction. With Child Care being at a critical shortage and Adult Day Care in Northwest Kansas shortages as well, this program will merge the two and improve the quality of care for both generations. The investment into this program will not only help the city of Hays, but will also help to provide a proof of concept for other communities to replicate.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Integrated State, Provider and Parent System for Improving Child Care Access	BlueVector AI	\$350,000	The use of funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee are intended to create a 3-tier Child Care Availability portal with separate access for parents, providers, government employees. This portal targets both the Health/ Education and Economic Revitalization Advisory Panel funding priority areas across the state of Kansas in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. This portal will initiate workforce development through the comprehensive care provider platform that makes it easy for providers to get certified quickly and find facilities with job openings. It will also support family services and early childhood development by providing parents access to a personalized profile with local child care availability/waitlists, resources and alerts of new information. A single portal would also allow families to easily apply for child care financial aid. Access to both parent and provider data allows the state to see where gaps in child care are, while tracking ongoing results. Using machine learning the system will leverage the data from this portal and develop informative reports and dashboards going above and beyond the SPARK guiding principles for fostering a long-term systematic impact for Kansans.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Kansas Foster Child and Parent Relief Project	TFI Family Services INC	\$973,000	This project would allow TFI to significantly expand the use of child welfare technologies in Kansas. The first is a research-backed decision support system with demonstrated outcomes that is used to identify the best matches between families and kids in foster care. The second is a mobile-based collaboration system that helps increase the supply of foster families in Kansas by improving the licensing and communication process between parents and agencies. This one-time investment will allow TFI to establish developed systems that can be sustained over time by the agency itself, which will be the continuous beneficiary of these cost-saving technologies. TFI's foster children and parents, whose pandemic-related hardships have included hardships resulting from more time spent at home and less contact with biological families, will have an improved experience of the foster care system, and TFI's placement outcomes will improve. All Kansans will benefit from a more efficient use of tax-funded child welfare dollars that are distributed by the Kansas Department for Children and Families. The state will see a disproportionate benefit to its racial and ethnic minority groups, which are overrepresented among Kansas' foster care population
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Kansas Legal Services Family Advocacy Project	Kansas Legal Services	\$1,000,000	Kansas Legal Services (KLS) proposes to use the funds requested to hire four full-time Family Advocates to be part of interdisciplinary teams in our legal field offices in Emporia, Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita, the service areas surrounding those cities, and other parts of the state as needed. These Family Advocates will work with our legal staff to support families who need more than a legal resolution to diffuse a potential crisis. Multidisciplinary teams in the legal settings will provide families with the assistance of attorneys, Family Advocates, and Parent Advocates (already in place with funding from the Department for Children and Families) to help resolve legal issues which affect the safety of the child in the home compromise family stability. Attorneys will advise or represent the family in civil legal issues. The Family Advocate on the team will assess the family's strengths and weaknesses, provide case management and counseling. He or she will work with existing community partners to help the parent or caregiver access a network of services, and will work cooperatively with DCF to create a mutually agreeable safety plan for the parent to meet his or her child's needs and promote family stability.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Mandatory Upgrades and Deferred Maintenance to Child Care Facility	Atchison Child Care Association	\$750,000	If granted, the Atchison Child Care Association (ACCA) would use SPARK funds to install a new HVAC system, replacing 13 window AC units and a 75-year-old forced air furnace; install new playground equipment, replacing equipment ranging from 18-50 years old; and other smaller deferred maintenance projects. Our building would be healthier, more safe, and more efficient, allowing us to repurpose funding towards our programming, staff, and children.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Meade County Childcare Centers	Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.	\$4,500,000	The intended use of the funds would be to support the development of three childcare centers (Meade, Plains, Fowler) in areas that desperately need additional childcare. The development of these childcare centers will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased access to childcare and ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities. These childcare centers will help fill a gap in quality, licensed childcare availability exacerbated by the pandemic which has led to workforce shortages as parents have dropped out to care for children at home. Further, the plan would be to create public/private partnerships with the Unified School Districts to help recruit teachers to rural schools by ensuring those entities have priority in childcare.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Military Investment Support	Bright Beginnings	\$20,000	There is a niche market of family child care providers, licensed by the Department of Defense, and operating solely on military installations. These programs are exempt from KDHE regulations and thus are not issued Kansas license numbers. When national funding was made available through the Sustainability, Impact, and Improvement Grants, the application process required a Kansas state license number for completion. Because military programs do not have these license numbers, we are completely ineligible for this extra funding.

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Minneola Community Daycare	Lift Minneola, Inc	\$385,000	<p>This project provides the infrastructure to attract quality daycare in Minneola. Is is not a project to operate a daycare, but much as sewer and water line infrastructure provide affordable housing this infrastructure has the same goal. The funds will be used to renovate an existing building into a “turn-key” ready facility for a community daycare. The building has already been acquired and funding will be used to renovate, furnish and fence the property. There is a severe lack of child care and no suitable facilities in our town and in the surrounding towns. Efforts to solve this daycare project began before January 2019. Covid-19 slowed planning, elevated costs and diverted other funds that could have been acquired to fund this project. Lack of daycare options has cost our Healthcare organizations, our School & our largest employers quality employees. Daycare will help provide for the long term medical and educational needs of the community thru workforce retention and growth, along with the health of our children. The need for this project is now projected to grow due to our proximity the coming Hilmar Cheese factory which will increase regional demands on existing daycare options.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)	Johnson County Department of Health & Environment	\$40,000	<p>The Johnson County Health Department would like to request ARP funds for our Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) home visiting program.</p> <p>NFP voluntary, proven program where nurses and first-time parents partner to strengthen and support families prenatally and in the child’s first years of life. The nurse home visitor is a trusted resource who empowers families to set a successful life course for the future. Research has proven the benefits of home visiting on maternal and child health and economic self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Both nurses and the families we work with have been impacted by the pandemic. With nursing workforce shortages and increasing competition due to pandemic-related travel nursing bonuses, premium pay for existing and newly recruited nurses can help our program stabilize our workforce in support of enrolling and continuing to serve clients.</p> <p>Please include among your priorities providing premium pay funding to NFP Nurse Home visitors. These services are critical to help families build resiliency, have healthy pregnancies, develop strong parenting skills, and build economic security. The multi-generational approach of these proven services means that the impact of bolstering these services will last for years to come.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Panther Cubs Early Learning Center	Unified School District No. 333, Concordia Public Schools	\$2,000,000	<p>It is USD 333s intent to use the funds to build a multipurpose non-profit early childcare facility. This facility would include a daycare center, house our existing afterschool program, add a preschool, and aid our Parents As Teachers Program. We are a Title I elementary school, so a majority of our children are at-risk. Despite attempts to be reactive during the pandemic, we have been challenged with children not being school ready or suffering from learning loss due to periods of remote learning. The pandemic also shut down several of our daycares so our community is struggling with accessibility to affordable daycare. Offering our community access to affordable SRS approved daycare/afterschool care in an educational setting would foster a long-term impact by providing greater availability of resources to a community in need. Our district will commit to making this a sustainable program as the need for childcare and educational services is always in high demand. All of these services in one convenient location would help us recover from the pandemic by providing opportunities and support to our families that remedy learning loss and school readiness. Adapting as the needs of education changes will strengthen Kansas' resilience.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Parent Support and Fatherhood (Supportive Family Services)	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$1,800,625	<p>KCSL supports parents/caregivers through Make Parenting a Pleasure® and 24/7 Dad® parent education curriculums, educational parent network activities, and a Fatherhood Advisory Council. Parent Education courses will be offered throughout the year. Classes can be offered in person at the KCSL Office or can be accessed virtually. Additional educational networking activities will be offered in between parent education enrollments, this includes Conscious Fathering™ a 3-hour course for expecting fathers or fathers of newborns. Parent education, networking, and leadership activities will decrease parent stress, improve parent/child interaction, and increase the five protective factors in parents/caregivers. Parent engagement and leadership activities help to empower parents to advocate for change in educational as well as community settings.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Pittsburg Community Center	City of Pittsburg, KS	\$10,000,000	<p>This proposal is to provide funding support for a multi-purpose community/recreation center providing organized activities, particularly youth sports. Youth activities represent a substantial economic impact for communities as well as a sought-after amenity for families looking to relocate. It therefore meets the priority areas of talent retention/recruitment and support for hard-hit sectors (hospitality and retail). As envisioned, the center will coordinate with existing childcare, thereby promoting early childhood health.</p> <p>A community/recreation center would focus on indoor activities and events. Basketball and volleyball tournaments and swim meets in a modern facility would be prime draws, even for people who live hours away. The timing is such that the local YMCA is considering remodeling and expansion and wants to cooperate with the City Parks & Recreation Department and local child care providers on programming. The current YMCA director worked as program director for the P&R Department for many years, providing a unique opportunity to coordinate programming to benefit the broader community.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Premium Pay/Response and Recovery	KVC Behavioral Healthcare INC	\$5,470,407	Intended use of funds requested provides flexible recruitment/retention strategies supporting the Child Welfare System Taskforce Recommendations and KVC's response/recovery from COVID-19. Investments in recruitment/retention of workforce/foster homes through premium pay offers greater opportunity for equitable outcomes for children. DCF supports premium payments for child welfare workforce and foster homes. KVC's proposal includes: Premium pay for staff recruitment/retention; sign-on bonus' of \$3,000 and \$1,500 "stay-bonus" per quarter for 6 quarters; and Air filtration system upgrades for 6 offices including our adolescent residential treatment program (QRTP); A modification to Olathe building includes a washer/dryer/shower facility for infection control; Necessary vaccination software to track vaccine status and implement weekly testing guidelines; and a 2-year investment in 4 FTE's, dually licensed, Addiction Counselors/MH Therapists with 1FTE Clinical Supervisor and 1 FTE Registered Nurse to coordinate physical and primary health needs.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Premium Pay: Early childhood retention bonuses	Children's Cabinet	\$54,000,000	Premium pay/retention bonuses address all of SPARK guidelines. 1) The request is for one-time funding to retain child care providers in the field over a multiple-year period. 2) The retention bonuses would be leveraged with CCDBG funding as a multi-year strategy to stabilize the supply of child care. 3) The lack of child care is impacting families' ability to go to work and is stressing a study supply of labor for employers. Retaining the existing workforce is crucial to long-term systems impact. If the child care workforce continues to decline, it will cost the state and businesses more to rebuild. 4) These payments/bonuses are a strategy to recognize and financially support the child care workforce, who are showing-up and helping stabilize the field. Recognition will positively impact retention and thereby families. Pandemic hardships have added a layer to what is already a financial challenge for many – to stay. A critical one-time financial support can make a big difference in the lives of many working on low wages jobs. 5) Premium pay/retention bonuses must be part of an array of supports to attract child care providers to provide quality care via a career pathway and professional development. to blend, braid, and bundle funds, and acts as a differentiator for Kansas communities to attract new businesses and support existing employers. 6) We would track number of child care providers verified to be providing services over the span of the bonuses.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Purpose-built childcare facility playgrounds and furnishings	Sprout House Learning Center Inc.	\$350,000	In 2018 the largest employers in Lindsborg identified childcare as a key strategic initiative. In order to help Sprout House move out of a ca.1914 house into a purpose-built facility, the City has partnered to provide technical assistance. This 11,000 square foot facility will raise the profile of Central Kansas and make it a more attractive place for young families to relocate to in order to take advantage of the many high-paying jobs in the region, and we believe that we will play a role in making our rural region more attractive to highly-skilled professionals, including doctors, nurses, therapists, and other difficult to recruit medical professionals. The land, 4.7 prime acres, has been provided by the City of Lindsborg on a \$1/99 year lease. The site sits adjacent to two residential subdivisions, one of which has approximately 100 lots available. Our community believes that new housing and high-quality childcare will show prospective neighbors that they are welcome, and there is a place for them. Would the Spark Committee provide the final 10% for the project, to furnish the facility and provide high-quality playgrounds?
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Revitalization of CASA Volunteer Impact	Kansas CASA Association	\$600,000	The intended use for funds is to strengthen Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Core Model in Kansas by developing recruitment techniques to rebuild volunteer infrastructures that were decreased due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our project will meet all 6 of the SPARK Guiding Principles for Kansas Foster Care Children through increased availability of specialized, trained, and compassionate community volunteers that will be court ordered to learn, engage, recommend, collaborate, and report on their best interest. This type of advocacy reduces a child's length of stay in foster care, increases their attendance and participation in school, and provides them with a stable, caring adult, therefore building resiliency within the child. These factors create a life-time impact for not only foster children and families, but in communities by assisting in creating resilient adults who will contribute to their community. CASA has a proven track record of successfully meeting outcomes surrounding child safety, wellbeing, and permanence. CASA programs are a primary resource to foster families in our communities.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	SATC Early Education Center	Salina Area Technical College	\$3,192,500	The proposal would provide funds for a new childcare learning center that will serve a multifaceted purpose of providing for a dire need in childcare in the northcentral Kansas region, train future childcare providers for the industry, and provide the manufacturing industry in the region with an available workforce who cannot currently participate due to limited availability of childcare in the region. The desire for the center would be to make available space for caring for children of the students and workers in the region. We plan to leverage federal and state educational benefits along with employer based benefits to sustain the center's mission to serve the needs of the workforce of the region. The center would encourage the workforce to enhance their skills to meet the need of the future manufacturing industry by providing much needed childcare for students in an on-campus location.

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Scott Community CCC (Child Care Center)	Scott County Development Committee, Inc.	\$450,000	<p>Project costs - \$1.5 Million, to completion.</p> <p>Scott City's citizens and leaders have wrestled for years with how to address the ongoing child care shortfalls at the community facility level. Only recently, after seeing the successful efforts of Wichita County can we take on the project with confidence that it can be located, designed, built and operated in revenue neutral or slight profit for the sake of community.</p> <p>The roles of the partners may change, but these are the scenarios that have been approached in the past that make the most sense:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) City of Scott City - They would commit to procuring/setting aside land already owned. (Value \$60,000) Water and sewer would be extended to the project in-kind. 2) Scott Community Foundation - Would operate as the non-profit arm until a separate 501(c)3 was established. A charitable contributions goal of \$500,000 to fund the project is attainable. 3) Scott County Development Committee - SCDC would contribute \$20,000 to purchase of the engineering and blue prints owned by Grow & Learn Child Care Center, Inc. as their plan has been approved and would serve Scott City's needs appropriately. 4) Scott County Hospital, USD #466 and other major employers would commit to reserve spots.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Supporting Care Providers in Kansas	Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA)	\$4,621,431	<p>Supporting Care Providers would hire a director, 9 educators and an administrative assistant for the first year to provide services to family, friend and neighbor child care providers and home licensed providers across Kansas. At full capacity the first year we would serve 153 providers and a multitude of children and families. Each provider would receive at least a monthly visit. Along with services from a supporting care provider educator we would give each provider educational, safety and play equipment totaling \$1,000. We would base the items on what was needed to help the provider conduct developmental screenings and encourage learning through play. We would hire translators as needed if the provider spoke a different language. The initial cost would include equipment such as laptops, printer/scanner/copiers and training for educators. The second year we would increase staff and providers served.</p> <p>All educators would complete PATNC & ASQ3 & ASQ SEII training. They would train the providers in those screenings so they could screen children in their care. Educators would travel up to one hour each way and be paid mileage. Provider enrollment would prioritize children of color and from low socioeconomic homes.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	TFI THRIVE Program (Therapeutic Home-like Resources Implementing Vital Engagement)	TFI Family Services INC	\$200,000	<p>TFI intends to utilize funding from SPARK to continue the substantial expansion of the Professional Foster Care program called THRIVE (Therapeutic Home-like Resource Implementing Vital Engagement). When children/youth are placed in the custody of Secretary in out of home placement they have a variety of needs, housing being a priority. Many of the children/youth are harder to secure foster placements due to high acuity. The professional foster home will be considered the least restrictive environment for those children/youth.</p> <p>The primary goal of the model is to maintain stability of a high acuity child in a community-based setting or step-down from a PRTF (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility). TFI Professional Foster Parents are well trained and supported team members of the child welfare system.</p> <p>There is a selection process for potential foster parents. Professional Foster Parents are interviewed and vetted by a multi-disciplinary panel to determine if they have the ideal temperament, history with the agency/or history of child welfare experience, and references to be a part of the program.</p>
Health & Education	Early childhood development	The Ford Center	Fellowship Hi Crest Inc	\$1,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this to the SPARK submission committee is to transform Brookwood Covenant Church into a multi-use family resource center to meet the ever-expanding needs of the Brookwood community. The development of the Ford Center would allow Topeka First Baptist to expand its childcare program and shorten its waitlist. It would provide LULAC with the additional space it needs to serve senior citizens in the city of Topeka. It would provide a commercial kitchen for local food trucks and other small businesses to use as prep space. Youth sports space in the community would increase by ½. The Ford Center would provide the needed space to mentor middle school students, which the community sees as a hole currently. It would also provide space for mental health services and community meeting space.</p>

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Health & Education	Early childhood development	Time to Build	Pregnancy and Family Resource Center	\$750,000	The state of the family before Covid in Kansas was not a good sign of what is to come. Now, with the stress that the COVID pandemic has added to the average family, things are only going to get harder. The PFRC comes along families in many different and supporting ways. The impact of support for young families through education, hands on training, material resources earned while attending classes, spiritual and emotional support, sonograms, our life skill classes and many other support systems created help encourage healthy and thriving families in our community. Over 70 volunteers and nine staff members have joined together at our two locations and our boutique as well, to create a safe and relational environment in which to offer parents and their children. The impact continues to grow as we offer all our services at no cost to our clients. We reach out to people from all backgrounds and no requirements except that they are pregnant or raising young children in their homes. We have existed for over 30 years and are in need of more space in which to continue to grow in impact and meet the needs that continue to rise.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Wichita Children's Home Workforce Development and Support in Response to COVID-19	Wichita Children's Home	\$1,000,000	Established in 1888, the Wichita Children's Home (WCH) serves over 2,000 children per year, ages 0-24 who have experienced abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment, human trafficking and/or homelessness by providing a therapeutic environment in which children are able to begin the process of healing from their traumas. With the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiting and retaining the qualified staff to provide the necessary child and family services has become increasingly challenging. WCH is requesting SPARK funds to recruit, hire and retain the workforce necessary to support our therapeutic environment and provide sign-on/stay bonuses and other incentives. WCH also intends to create "stabilization response teams" which will provide intensive one-on-one supervision and stabilization when behavioral and mental health situations occur with a child in WCH care. These specialized teams will increase capacity in the behavioral health and child welfare systems by decreasing the disruptions to foster children in care. This meets the guiding principles of sustainable investment, systemic impact and equitable outcomes by creating the teams and supporting clinical staff.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Workforce Development, Support and Premium Pay	Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$1,064,172	KCSL is proposing a bi-monthly retention payment for "premium pay" positions. As a social service organization we have 203 out of approximately 265 employees whose work requires them to be face to face with clients; placing them at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. As a part of workforce development and support, KCSL will also utilize this funding to enhance skills of staff and the program supervisors and managers who are supporting staff during this challenging time. Finally KCSL will implement a staff wellness program to help address the physical and mental health of employees.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Workforce Stability	Pathway Family Services	\$1,056,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to support the workforce at Pathway Family Services (PFS). This one-time SPARK funding would help stabilize the workforce which directly impacts the children, youth, and families served. PFS includes Qualified Residential Treatment Placement (QRTP), Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), and Teens Reaching Adult Independent Living (Trail). The agency proposes Premium Pay and sign-on bonuses to help attract qualified staff. The stay incentives for workers can help us stabilize the workforce by encouraging qualified staff to remain in their positions. The premium pay can be a temporary stop gap to encourage workers to consider this work which has increased hazards due to COVID and keep them here once they start. Incentives would be included in the fiscal year budget and given over a period of two years. Retaining quality staff will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic for Kansan children & youth through increasing access to services for kids in foster care and ensure equitable outcomes by addressing youth behavioral health needs.
Health & Education	Early childhood development	Workforce Stability	TFI Family Services INC	\$3,588,000	TFI's shortage of workers prior to the pandemic was 20.5% and our turnover rate was 13.09%. TFI's case management and preservation grants were launched less than 6 months prior to the pandemic striking, which is a normal time of high vacancy rates. Today TFI's vacancy rate is 19.7% and our turnover is 37.67%. The system is in a crisis for the most vulnerable children and youth we care for because of an unstable workforce. The agency proposes Premium Pay, sign-on and stay bonuses to help attract qualified staff. The stay incentives for workers can help stabilize the workforce by encouraging qualified staff to remain in their positions. The premium pay can be a temporary stop gap to encourage workers to consider this work which has increased hazards due to COVID and keep them here once they start. This one-time SPARK funding would have an enormous impact on the child welfare system. Many of our workers work well over 50 hours a week, this year to date, Permanency and Preservation workers have averaged 69 hours of overtime. The cost of this overtime is also significant, over \$532,000 as of January, and is projected to be \$922,374 for this fiscal year.

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Health & Education	Health	3rd year Residents Salary	Kansas Medical Society	\$9,400	The FRONT LINE primary care family medicine residents at KUMC (KC) are paid thru the state. In 2020, due to pandemic, their salary was frozen. The average primary care resident works 72 hours/week (which equilibrates to <\$14/hr).I read articles about resident suicides, and it reminds me difficulty of past 22 months. I see exhaustion in the residents who are "limited " to 80-hour work weeks (but work 100), Nurses get HUGE shift differentials (sometimes \$800 above hourly salary per shift), yet residents at KU MED, did not get the employee "Covid" \$1000 bonus in October because they are "state of Kansas employeeed". In 30+ years of medicine, I have never seen more difficult times. Family medicine residents at KUMC are spread incredibly thin; covering call, accepting admissions/transfers to the states biggest safety net(KU MED), I ask you to consider a bonus to the primary care Family Medicine/Internal Medicine residents, who I believe have worked harder than any state employee at crazy capacity. I suggested \$9400 per Resident, it equals about \$20 per day(hazard) , and reimburse missed salary. Because of 80 hour work week limits, the only extra income they can access is covering the overcrowded ICU's. They have huge med school debt.
Health & Education	Health	A Statewide, Coordinated Care Network to Address Social Determinants of Health and Disparities Exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic	Unite Us	\$10,000,000	<p>Unite Us' coordinated care networks demonstrate that a community-wide approach to identifying and addressing unmet social needs improves individual health and quality of life, improves community health, reduces healthcare costs, and promotes health equity including for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Our technology platform provides a scalable and sustainable infrastructure that supports collaboration, care coordination, and secure data-sharing, including the ability to track every person's longitudinal care journey. Our real-time metrics enable partners to proactively address the needs of vulnerable populations and prove impact. Unite Us' solution goes beyond resource searches and electronic referrals by confirming the specific outcome of every service episode using a list of structured outcomes.</p> <p>We have a 10-person team in Kansas focusing on supporting our ongoing work there. Our team of local community engagement managers focus on implementing our solution to foster long-term impact. Our networks include a "no wrong door" approach to coordinated care so that a client can be referred for services from places of trust in the community, such as a food bank, government assistance office, or a barbershop.</p>
Health & Education	Health	AED/PPE	Garden City Fire Department	\$12,000	Due to COVID 19 and it's increase in call volume our local EMS Department has become stretched thin. Our department has agreed to assist EMS with calls. This is now putting our apparatus on more medicals and potentially resuscitation calls. With this new change our budget doesn't allow the purchase of life saving AED's. We plan to use this money to help in purchasing AED units for those rigs that respond to medical calls as well as supplement the personal protective equipment use increase, such as masks and medical gloves. With this new response matrix this will allow our units for years to come to provide fast response to quality resuscitation when ems may be delayed.
Health & Education	Health	Aging Infrastructure	Geary Community Hospital Junction City, Kansas	\$20,000,000	Geary Community Hospital is located in Junction City, KS and consists of approximately 264,366 square feet of total area. An assessment was performed by an engineering firm over multiple days visually inspecting facility systems and component equipment. The assessment also addressed anticipated expenses. In addition to onsite observations, building maintenance staff interviews were conducted, as well as reviews of available drawings and maintenance data provided by the hospital. The assessment revealed multiple critical issues that need to be addressed immediately to prevent further damage and potential system down time. Outside of the critical issues it was found that a majority of the equipment is either past its useful life or nearing the end of its useful life. Facilities has indicated the mechanical equipment throughout the facility has had a minimum of 10 years of deferred maintenance which will further decrease the useful life of the equipment. The following report will detail observations found for each individual system analyzed in the assessment.
Health & Education	Health	Armory/Community Center Renovation	Wellington Recreation Commission	\$500,000	This project would provide several different avenues of facility use. Programming for youth and adults by means of an athletic facility. Would incorporate more than one type of exercise; basketball, volleyball, pickle ball, are a few examples. Schools would have access to this facility. Educational classes could be held for both youth and adult. Could act as a meeting place for large groups that would have enough space to social distance. Red Cross could use this facility for blood drives, shelter or for other emergency needs. It could also be utilized as a vaccination location. There is a local substance abuse group (AA) that currently meets at this facility on a daily basis. With major improvements, this facility would have so much more to offer the community for years to come.

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Health & Education	Health	Assessment and Stabilization Project for Homeless Families and Single Women	The Salvation Army South Central Area Command	\$600,000	In Wichita and Sedgwick County, the homeless and low income people with addiction issues have difficulty getting long term substance use treatment. With no access to ACA insurance for individuals, they must seek free treatment. Getting an appointment for an assessment is 30-45 days and people using don't wait for those appointments. For the few who receive their assessments, there is very limited residential treatment, which homeless people need. Our goal is to open 21 new single rooms in our facility at 350 N. Market Street, Wichita, on for those who have gone through Detox and need a stable environment and substance use treatment on a long term basis - 6 months to a year. It would include individual treatment, 5 groups a week, and a Recovery Plan. This program would be dovetailed with our existing Shelter and would utilize the same cafeteria, entry system, Intake Office, and they could share life skills programs, job programs, computer classes, and recreation. The shelter can refer their clients and other agencies, hospitals, detox, short term and outpatient programs can refer clients to the program. A similar program operated by The Salvation Army in Chicago has a 85% success rate of their clients maintaining sobriety.
Health & Education	Health	AVHS Staff Retention Fund	Artesian Valley Health System	\$750,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to support the 150 staff at AVHS including the hospital, nursing home, and rural health clinics. Healthcare, and the entire workforce, have seen drastic drop in employees. Our facility is no exception to this. The grant money would be used as a retention bonus (up to \$5,000 per employee) with a commitment from staff to stay with the facility from 1-2 years depending on the amount given. Without staff our facility will be unable to continue operations. Not only have out clinical departments suffered but so have the entry level positions as well as non-clinical. The retention fund will be available to all employees of AVHS. The retention fund will especially help those from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Additionally, our facility is staffed by a number of individuals from a minority background. Although this project is medium term, it will have a significant impact not only on the employees of the hospital but also to all individuals who seek care at AVHS.
Health & Education	Health	Build capability to track local health records across the state	KDHE	\$27,000,000	ability to track local health records would serve to increase efficiency of creating public health programming and service execution for target populations.
Health & Education	Health	Building a Process that Stabilizes our Unhoused Residents and Neighbors in Need to Communities of Opportunity	Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS	\$5,000,000	Our county has received national media attention regarding its ever-growing unhoused population and the challenges a community faces when it lacks a formal plan for equitable development and a strategy to ensure that all residents benefit from the economic transformation that can occur through jobs, access to affordable housing, well planned and accessible wrap-around services, and neighborhood improvements. A neighbors in need housing village, complete with necessary resources is proposed for local unhoused families. We have the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to solve our current housing problems but require resources. It will require all local providers to be dedicated to preserving and expanding affordability, a deliberate strategic and dedicated effort that leverages our existing resources then identifies gaps in which to make progress. It will require all actors to do their parts – local contractors/builders, neighborhoods welcoming new residents, developers with affordable solutions, service/health/workforce providers committing to onsite service delivery, and the County ably administering long term solutions. Through these combined efforts and addressing all root causes, we can become a community of success.
Health & Education	Health	Capacity Building from COVID-19	Episcopal Social Services, Inc.	\$169,178	Episcopal Social Services (dba Breakthrough) is requesting \$169,178 (with \$37,000 in leverage = \$206,178 total project) to build capacity that will 1) increase transportation for clients, and 2) strengthen the organization in order to be more sustainable and strengthen resilience through hiring temporary staff to re-build fundraising events, purchasing development tools and attending fundraising training. COVID-19 was financially devastating with the loss of unrestricted funding without a major fundraiser. Our event was not well established, with 2019 the first year, so there was no momentum of giving when COVID become a reality in 2020 and again no event in 2021. Breakthrough is seeking to hire temporary full-time staff to resurrect the fundraising event and a part-time volunteer coordinator to reconnect with volunteers who left because of COVID-19. In addition, Breakthrough is seeking 1) 12 passenger van to be used at Milestone Clubhouse, Hutchinson Kansas and 2) car to be used at the Breakthrough Clubhouse. Both vehicles will be used to transport clients, including to medical appointments and job interviews.
Health & Education	Health	Capital Health Investment to Increase Access to Care Provided by State-funded Clinics	Community Care Network of Kansas	\$80,000,000	This funding creates a Capital Health Investment Fund (CHIF) to expand access to care, decrease health disparities, mitigate social determinants of health, create economic development and reduce workforce shortages. It will also increase state capacity to respond to future emergencies and disasters. State-funded clinics would receive one-time grants for shovel-ready capital projects. These would add or expand sites, service types, and mobile services. Expanded space would also increase workforce training. Located in high-need areas, the clinics serve the most vulnerable and underserved Kansans, those hit hardest by COVID-19. Pre-pandemic, they provided medical, mental, dental, pharmacy and other care to one in nine Kansans. During the pandemic, they added COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and care. As the state enters the recovery phase, a pent-up demand for healthcare requires greater access to care, and COVID-19 services need to be integrated into care delivery models. Strengthening the state-funded clinic infrastructure through capital projects meets the SPARK guiding principles of sustainable investments through one-time funds, fostering long-term systemic impact, and considering equitable outcomes.

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Health & Education	Health	Care Beyond the Boulevard	Care Beyond the Boulevard, Inc	\$500,000	<p>Care Beyond the Boulevard (CBB) is a street medicine program in the Greater KC Metro area whose primary goal is to provide high quality medical and mental health care and support to the homeless and underserved populations of KC outside the bounds of traditional healthcare settings. CBB combines mobile medical clinics with stationary clinics to meet individuals where they are, ideally to break barriers in seeking health while working to earn the trust of the individuals seeking care from the medical team.</p> <p>CBB is an active 501(c)3 that has grown slowly and deliberately since 2016 to ensure sustainability for years to come. The addition of the funds from SPARK will allow the organization to add a mental health provider, a much needed program in any street medicine organization.</p> <p>Individuals who utilize CBB as their primary care providers helps individuals manage chronic illnesses, thus improving the overall health of Kansans while working to reduce homelessness through mental and physical health improvement.</p> <p>CBB has an electronic health record, allowing volunteers to follow up accurately on medical conditions, as well as allowing staff to track services provided, demographics of those served as well as multiple other data points.</p>
Health & Education	Health	CARE case managment	United Methodist Open Door	\$300,000	<p>Currently the City of Wichita Housing Authority is funding three full time case managers to outreach the hardest to serve homeless individuals, address their barriers to attaining housing and then help them maintain housing once achieved. The project is currently funded by CARES to reduce the risk and impact of COVID19 in the most vulnerable population of homeless. The individuals are assigned to the case managers through the Wichita/Sedgwick County By-Name/Master List maintained through IMPACT ICT – Continuum of Care. Individual agencies submit persons for placement on the list.</p>
Health & Education	Health	CNA's are the future of Healthcare	Artesian Valley Health System	\$100,000	<p>The intended use for the funds include the creation of certified nurse aide courses in the school districts of Meade County. CNA's are the future of healthcare. Many nurses, doctors, physical therapists, all started out as a CNA. By providing classes and education youth about healthcare, we can encourage an interest in entering the healthcare field. These classes are planned to be held at each of the schools listed above. Clinicals may be taught at AVHS' nursing home. The grant money is intended to be used to provide free tuition for the certification as well as supplement a portion of the teachers salary for a minimum of 5 years. After 5 years, if the program is fruitful, a scholarship will be available for students from the AVHS scholarship fund. Additionally, AVHS will full provide the teachers salary.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Create and develop a Hiawatha Championship Sports Complex for community including: a. Indoor Training and Fitness Facility b. New Girls Softball Field (turf) c. Renovate existing Boys Baseball Field (turf)	HBSC – Hiawatha Baseball and Softball Club	\$1,800,000	<p>SPARK funds requested would be used to create and develop facilities and programs for children of all ages. Brown County currently has the highest rate of fostered children per population and is near the highest in free and reduced lunch program recipients in the state. Brown County is also listed as one of the highest for child and adult obesity. All have been inflated due to COVID.</p> <p>SPARK funds would allow access to indoor and weather resistant facilities to be physically active in a fun environment. Entire families would benefit from the facilities, as the children and adults would have opportunity to be involved in structured programs to improve physical health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Currently the school district has baseball/softball programs that are required to train in gyms along with track, tennis, and golf teams simultaneously during winter months and inclement weather. Training while social distancing is not possible with the current district facilities. The school district and city would be encouraged full use of these facilities to allow improved social distancing for sports and educational programs. HSBC (nonprofit) would intentionally operate the complex to purposefully encourage full use for the community.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Data System integration LHDs	KDHE	\$20,000,000	<p>Enhance systems integration investment across LHDs and with KDHE E.g. LHD EpiTrax integration, grants management system. One-time investments in creating overarching public health systems will create efficiencies for years to come in data management and the speed at which data can be utilized and useful.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Develop Framework and Programs to Improve Fitness, Nutrition and Mental Health across Kansas	Optimal Performance	\$3,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of sustainable fitness, nutrition and mental health programs for targeted populations across Kansas while strengthening the workforce by working together to enable sharing of data and best practices.</p> <p>The development of these sustainable programs will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased workforce, development of continued support for the workforce, increased access to services and to ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved populations. The expansion of our facility and services will help support the hard hit sector of the health and fitness industry by allowing us to improve overall education and support to the health and wellbeing of Kansans which was exacerbated by the pandemic and lead to many deaths, ongoing health issues, workforce shortages and decreased mental health. Improving the overall health and fitness of our communities will also strengthen our resilience to future health related conditions.</p>

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Health & Education	Health	Development of Nurse Intake, Triage and Care Navigation to Benefit Kansas Fire, EMS, PSAP entities and community residents.	Global Medical Response (GMR)	\$925,000	The requested funds for the development of Nurse Intake & Navigation program directly align with Increased Treatment, Services, Capacity plus Healthcare Integration and System Navigation. In our experience, roughly 30% of 911/EMS requests can be more appropriately managed by non-urgent healthcare services than by traditional EMS. In partnership with local PSAPs and EMS, the program has transformed EMS systems in urban and rural settings by navigating non-urgent and low acuity 911 calls to medical care settings that do not require ambulance services or treatment in emergency rooms. The long term impact will reduce the burden on EMS providers by saving EMS resources for true emergent needs, create operational efficiencies and financial savings for local departments which are experiencing massive staffing shortages, reduce patient healthcare costs by keeping them in-network with health providers and plans including Medicaid, and increase access to care by navigating 911 callers to the most appropriate level of care, offering telehealth services and even integrating alternative transportation to non-emergent approved healthcare settings in the local community. Video Link: https://global-medical-response.wistia.com/medias/ywu8zu1b9q
Health & Education	health	Emergency Financial, Medical, Utility, Food and Housing Assistance for individuals living with HIV	Positive Connections Inc.	\$10,000	The use of SPARK money will help our clients with emergency financial assistance such as utility bills, rent, food, nutritional supplements, vision checks and eyeglasses, bus tickets, and medical bills. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our clients are in greater need of assistance than ever before. This program has been funded by Broadway Cares in the past but due to the COVID-19 pandemic Broadway Cares has not had the normal amount of funds to provide to our program.
Health & Education	Health	EMS Equipment Assistance Grant	Kansas Emergency Medical Services Board	\$1,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is for a one-time augmentation of an existing grant program offered by this agency and designed to provide financial assistance in the purchase of larger capital expense items related to the provision of EMS care in Kansas. This program strengthens Kansas' EMS system by providing a means for ambulance services to maintain current technologies in medicine thereby providing more complete patient care in the out-of-hospital setting and resulting in better patient outcomes. this program meets the SPARK guiding principles of a one-time enhancement to an existing sustainable and successful grant program; ensuring an equitable outcome by allowing ambulance services to provide a consistent level of care irrespective of location within the state; leveraging local and agency funds due to prioritizing those requests where a local or agency match is offered; and demonstrating measurable results from the investment by submitting reports upon patient care data that indicate usage of the equipment obtained through this grant. This one-time enhancement is anticipated to provide funding for approx. \$2.5 million dollars in equipment to Kansas ambulance services.
Health & Education	Health	Enhanced Health Care Solutions	Geary Community Hospital Junction City, Kansas	\$10,000,000	Collaboration of health care services in the community to include the County Health Department to be centralized in Geary Community Hospitals facility. Our community hospital has struggled tremendously financially and centralizing our services will also help the County with the purposed allocation of their budget dollars. The hospital has some years of deferred maintenance that would need to be addressed, as well as the renovation needs on the space that will be utilized. Centralized healthcare reduces the cost for everyone.
Health & Education	Health	Expand school-based health centers	KDHE	\$20,000,000	KDHE has developed a model for the expansion of school-based health centers in Kansas with the goal of increasing access to preventive health services, behavioral health and comprehensive well-visits. Variations of this model are being carried out in several communities including Wichita, SE KS and SW KS. Currently KDHE is funding two FQHCs (CHCSEK and Genesis Health) to provide school-based health services related to COVID-19 in six school districts. Services include vaccination, testing and behavioral health.
Health & Education	Health	Expanding Rural Access to Healthcare Training	Kansas Emergency Medical Services Board	\$3,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is for the development and implementation of two mobile high-fidelity simulation laboratory trucks/trailers. These vehicles would allow for simulation training with both hospital staff as well as EMS staff and to allow both to train together for high-risk, low volume patients in a controlled/simulated environment; bringing the classroom to the students instead of having to repurpose areas of a facility or service to facilitate training. This program is designed to strengthen the Kansas healthcare system's resiliency and preparedness, especially in the more rural areas of our state. This program would require partnership with a not-for-profit entity, or healthcare system with a statewide footprint, capable of providing simulation technicians. This program meets the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans as this would enhance the quality and timeliness of appropriate care, would allow providers to increase their confidence and ability to provide care to critical patients; and ensuring an equitable outcome by leveraging this resource to provide high quality, safe education in areas without the resources to make this possible.

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Health & Education	Health	Food Transformation Kitchen	ICT Food Rescue	\$110,955	<p>Since 2016, ICT Food Rescue has successfully diverted surplus food from restaurants and grocery stores to nonprofit organizations that serve Wichitans who are experiencing food insecurity. In 2021, ICT Food Rescue rescued more than 201,000 pounds of surplus food that would have been sent to the landfill, resulting in more than 168,000 meals donated to our nonprofit partners. In 2022, we want to expand our service model to include food transformation, which involves using produce donated from grocery stores and urban farmers to create soup and other meals in a community kitchen. Our plan for creating a food transformation program is based on a successful service mode run by a nonprofit in Ohio (www.lasoupe.org). The lives of Wichitans experiencing food insecurity will be improved through our food transformation program because they will have more food options, and the food served to them will be prepared using healthier ingredients (fresh produce, low-sodium, low-sugar) than other options typically available to this at-risk population. Additional community benefits will result from our contributions to the accomplishment of goals set in the Wichita and Sedgwick County Food System Master Plan (www.wichita.gov/FoodPlan/).</p>
Health & Education	Health	Fresh Food accessibility, health and wellness education highlighting obesity	The Gil Carter Initiative Inc.	\$45,000	<p>The intended use for the fund requested in this submission is to support our health and wellness program in high-need areas across Topeka while strengthening the relationship between organizations, health educators and citizens by sharing pertinent information.</p> <p>The funds will also enable the acquisition of a temperature-controlled greenhouse which would enable us to provide fresh fruits and vegetable all year round to utilize by the targeted group and by our organization as a farm to plate activity. The development of these FRCs will meet the SPACK guiding principles of fostering long term impact for the community through education and increase access to services, thereby ensuring equitable by serving the underserved communities. FRCs will supplement services and products exacerbated by the pandemic. Additional educational materials regarding the COVID-19 on safety and preventative measures will be explored in order to directly support Kansas' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthen Kansas' resilience.</p> <p>Finally, residents with limited computer skills will be assisted to register for food stamps as a temporary solution.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Future Nurses of SW Kansas	Artesian Valley Health System	\$100,000	<p>The intended use for the requested funds are to pay for books and tuition of a future nurse for the next 5 years. Each nurse goes through 2 years of nursing school. This would fund 5 individuals, each through 2 years of school. AVHS already sponsors 1 nurse per year. This would allow us to double to amount of nurses, increasing the future workforce, and working to address the lack of workforce in healthcare. The individuals who receive the sponsorship agree to work with the facility for 4 years once their schooling is complete. The financial support will last through at least 5 years, however the return on investment will be many more years to come. This helps increase education of our community, help alleviate financial strains, and address the workforce disparities we are currently facing. We pride ourselves in "growing our own" and constantly encourage staff to continue their education. This program meets the SPARK guiding principals by addressing socio-economic disparities and fostering long term impact.</p>
Health & Education	Health	HealthAccess	Shawnee County Medical Society Foundation	\$20,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested is to continue HealthAccess' efforts to improve access to health care for low-income, uninsured residents of Topeka and Shawnee County. HealthAccess combines donated physician care, hospital services, and medication assistance in a coordinated program designed to complement and enhance the work of the existing safety net system. Patients are assisted in establishing care with local primary care physicians. By helping these patient find a medical home, they stay out of the emergency room, and are able to continue to work, which leads to a healthy workforce and ultimately, a healthier community.</p> <p>Patients are also connected to volunteer physicians if they need specialty care (cardiology/endocrinology/etc.) and provided with a prescription card for assistance with prescription needs.</p> <p>Patients enrolled in HealthAccess must live under 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and not be eligible for services like Medicare/Medicaid or have private health insurance. HealthAccess seeks to continue providing efficient coordination of charity care on behalf of our entire medical community, which meets the SPARK funding priority of Healthcare integration and system navigation</p>
Health & Education	health	Healthcare Scholarship	Artesian Valley Health System	\$200,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested are to supplement a scholarship program started by AVHS. Like many costs, education related costs have increased drastically. Funding for college can be a barrier to individuals wishing to further their education. The scholarship will be reserved for Meade County and immediately surrounding county residents who wish to enter healthcare. Preference will be given to those from low socio-economic status and minority status. Non-traditional students will be encouraged to apply as well as high school students. The amount of the scholarship will depend on funds raised. The goal is to offer a \$1000 scholarship that is renewable while still attending college on a healthcare related track. This project meets the SPARK guiding principles with its long-term impact by increasing access to a college education while encouraging a desire to enter into a healthcare field. Additionally, the project ensures equitable outcomes by addressing and prioritizing underserved communities.</p>

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Health & Education	Health	Homelessness - Mobile Access Partnership (MAP)	Valeo Behavioral Health Care, Inc.	\$290,000	The Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) is a partnership of non-profit, faith-based, and local government agencies coming together, in part in response to the acute and negative impact of COVID-19 on the unsheltered homeless in the NE Region, to provide a mobile, street-based continuum of behavioral health, hygiene, health, and social services to the unsheltered homeless who are in Shawnee County from the NE Region and beyond. Valeo is requesting \$290,000 to fund its current MAP Team, and add to that team, for one year as bridge funding until Valeo can fund the expanded team with new dollars, projected to be available in about a year. Going forward, and if funded, the Valeo MAP Team would be comprised of a fulltime coordinator, a fulltime case manager, a fulltime peer specialist, a parttime benefits specialist, a parttime crisis case manager, a parttime employment specialist, and a parttime driver. Since its inception in May 2021, and up through January 2022, MAP has served 378 homeless and other at-risk persons on the street. COVID-19 was a contributing factor in the downsizing of the Topeka Rescue Mission, accentuated food insecurity for the homeless, increased mental health crises, and stressed social services.
Health & Education	Health	Hope Unlimited Emergency Shelter	Hope Unlimited Inc.	\$1,500,000	Funds will allow the construction and furnishing of the Emergency Shelter, a 10,000 sq. ft. facility to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence. The current facility is operating at 50% capacity due to the need to social distance and provide individual space rather than the existing dormitory rooms. Hope Unlimited will partner with agencies to provide wrap-around services including workforce, behavioral, physical, health and socio-economic mobility while maintaining the safety of shelter residents. During the pandemic, local schools were closed or virtual. The current shelter lacked the ability to provide safe distancing and resources necessary to facilitate remote learning. This project will provide space to learn, with rooms set up specifically for that purpose and the internet connectivity to do so. The proposed site has enough space to create a multi-faceted campus to address the needs of all in shelter. There is a gap in local childcare services; and shelter residents need third shift, overnight and weekend childcare. The addition of childcare will fill the gap by allowing children in the shelter to attend childcare on site. Hope Unlimited provides the only shelter in Allen, Anderson, Neosho and Woodson counties.
Health & Education	Health	Increasing Healthy Food Access through Community Gardens and Orchards	Kansas City Community Gardens	\$30,000	<p>Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) proposes to use funding from the SPARK committee to construct new community gardens and orchards that will increase healthy food access for low-income residents of Wyandotte and Johnson counties. Existing food access issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the rising cost of groceries. Today, 1 in 8 Kansas City area adults and 1 in 6 children identify as food insecure. When food budgets are tight, we know families frequently eliminate healthy food purchases first. Gardens and orchards provide a sustainable solution to healthy food access for low-income families.</p> <p>KCCG partners with a diverse group of partners, including neighborhood groups, schools, communities of faith, non-profit agencies and housing complexes to establish and sustain food-producing gardens and orchards. We target garden development in neighborhoods with high concentrations of low-income residents. Funding from the SPARK committee will enable us to construct 8-10 new gardens and orchards, subsidizing the cost of garden construction supplies, providing technical assistance during the design and construction phase, and providing workshops and hands-on training for gardeners.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Investing in Future Nurses	N/A	\$40,000,000	Since the beginning of the pandemic our nurses have been pushed beyond anything that could be considered normal, and as a result we have seen many of them leave the field. We need to invest in our future and I can think of no better way to invest ¼ of 1 percent of these available funds than to establish a Statewide fund that would give scholarship to the young women and men who decide to pursue a career in this field even in the light of this pandemic. It would be my hope that this scholarship fund would be enhanced and supported by hospitals across the State.
Health & Education	Health	IT INFRASTRUCTURE	Geary Community Hospital Junction City, Kansas	\$5,000,000	Geary Community Hospital has been heavily burdened with the Information Technology (IT) that is no longer fulfilling the ever-changing needs of healthcare for our patients in Geary County/Junction City. The dated software is not only challenged with the interaction with other departments, doesn't interface with outside software providers but also has presented cyber security challenges for the hospital.
Health & Education	Health	Kansas City Kansas Community, Education, Health and Wellness Center (KCKCEHWC)	Kansas City Kansas Community, Education, Health and Wellness Center Association	\$30,000,000	Funds will be used for construction and outfitting of the KCKCEHW Center, a 130,000 sq. ft., \$70,000,000 comprehensive community center to meet the holistic needs of the community. KCKCC, Swope Health, YMCA, Wyandot Behavioral Health Network, KCKPS, and CommunityAmerica Credit Union are partnering to provide multi-level education, workforce, behavioral, physical, health and comprehensive financial services within the KCKCEHWC that currently do not exist in downtown Kansas City, Kansas (KCK). The vision is to: Provide hope, end generational poverty, improve the quality of life, and increase the socioeconomic mobility of our residents living in and around downtown Kansas City, Kansas. SPARK guiding principles that align with the project include fostering long-term systemic impact by initiating strategies to help Wyandotte County citizens recover from years of neglect, the social and economic effects of COVID-19 in the short term and equip them with high-demand skillsets for greater economic security in the long term. The guiding principle of prioritizing sustainable program investments through one-time use of funds is met, as all Partners have adopted future financial and operational plans for sustainability.

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Health & Education	Health	Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (KansasCOM)	Kansas Health Science Center (KHSC)	\$5,000,000	<p>Funds will be used for the development of the first osteopathic medical school in Kansas. Combined with investments already dedicated to this project, support of this program will foster long-term systemic impact through the training of future physicians across Kansas.</p> <p>The impact will begin almost immediately as students begin experiential learning in Fall 2022 by working with the medically underserved at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), hospitals, and nonprofit partners to promote equitable outcomes for underserved populations impacted by COVID-19. Community-based medical experiences are proven to help students learn empathy, better understand social determinates of health, and treat diverse patient populations across Kansas- all of which is necessary to build a strong physician workforce for the state.</p> <p>KansasCOM is dedicated to developing empathetic physicians and invested in retaining graduates to serve Kansas communities. By recruiting, educating, and completing residencies in Kansas, graduates are more likely to stay in Kansas. This project directly supports Kansans as we continue to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and address Kansas’ physician shortage, specifically in underserved communities.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Kansas Health Sciences Education Center	Wichita State University and University of Kansas	\$60,000,000	<p>Funds requested to develop a new health sciences education center (HSEC) in Wichita. The HSEC will consolidate and align the health-related educational, biomedical research, healthcare delivery, and population health activities of Wichita State University, University of Kansas (Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy – Wichita), and WSU Tech. There is extensive literature demonstrating that combining educational and healthcare institutions into HSCs benefits the health of the population and serves as an economic engine to the state. Combining the three major state-supported healthcare educational institutions currently in Wichita will expand and enhance the integration of education and training of healthcare professionals and scientists, accelerate the development of new and more effective treatments, and provide broader healthcare access to underserved & rural populations. These activities are critical for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic & strengthening Kansas’ resilience. Development of the HSEC in Wichita meets the SPARKS guiding principles of 1) prioritizing sustainable programs & investments, 2) combine with/leverage local & agency funds, 3) foster long-term systemic impact, and 4) expand equitable opportunities & outcomes.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Kansas Hospital Decompression Program	Kansas Hospital Association and Mission Health Communities	\$5,500,000	<p>The goal of the Kansas Hospital Decompression Plan is simple: move patients out of acute care settings who no longer need that level of care to free up bed space for Kansans who are in need of that level of care.</p> <p>The State of Kansas, utilizing SPARK dollars, would fund skilled nursing bed capacity in existing licensed, unstaffed beds in Wichita and Overland Park. In conjunction with state health officials, local health departments, and hospital staff, these facilities would accept patients who no longer needed acute level care yet still require skilled nursing care but had been unable gain access to skilled nursing facilities.</p> <p>This program will allow recovering patients to receive necessary care while they wait to discharge to their home or find an SNF facility without making use of acute hospital beds. This program will utilize out of state traveling staff so as to not reduce the local workforce. These staffing contracts are built on a 13-week contract. Our proposal is based upon a 13-week engagement. Depending on the need at the end of the 13-week period, the program could be extended in full or in part.</p>
Health & Education	Health	KUMC Campus Transformation	University of Kansas Medical Center ("KUMC")	\$36,000,000	<p>SPARK funds will transform the KUMC campus by triggering a series of related benefits, resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A \$36M SPARK-funded renovation of Orr-Major, a permanent campus building given its central location and physical connection to KUMC’s new education building via a modern indoor pedestrian link - Elimination of \$23M in Orr-Major deferred maintenance (2020 KBOR study) - Relocation of employees currently in five outdated buildings on Olathe Blvd to Orr-Major - Demolition of the vacated buildings on Olathe Blvd, eliminating an additional \$40M of deferred maintenance - Improvement to KUMC students’ experience via closer proximity to faculty and staff in Orr-Major - Opportunity for KU Health System to build new patient care buildings on Olathe Blvd land vacated by KUMC, expanding its capacity for world-class care to Kansans on the land-locked KUMC campus <p>This investment will meet the SPARK guiding principle of systemic impact for Kansans by generating: i) elimination of \$60M deferred maintenance, ii) improvement to KUMC students’ experience, hundreds of whom remain to work in Kansas each year following graduation, and iii) opportunity for expansion of patient services to meet rapidly growing healthcare demand in the state and nation.</p>

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Health & Education	Health	Meals on Wheels Outreach Kansas	Kansas Community Nutrition Services DBA Meals on Wheels of Kansas	\$50,000	Kansas Community Nutrition Services DBA Meals on Wheels of Kansas would use the grant to increase participation through outreach by training providers on effective outreach, develop a statewide marketing plan, and create an 800 number for easy access. During COVID both congregate and home deliver participants were negatively impacted. Meals sites were closed and grab and go meals were provided for congregate who wanted it and the home delivered were afraid to have people come into their home, so some participants out of fear stopped the services all together. Providing training to meal providers on effective outreach efforts and safe environment would allow them to customize outreach to the local community needs. A statewide marketing plan would allow Meal Providers to make sure that all seniors in state of Kansas know where to get a meal. Developing an 800 number would provide easy access for consumers to get information regarding services in their community.
Health & Education	Health	Medicaid Redermination Solution	Google Gloud / SpringML	\$0	<p>Medicaid Redetermination solution by will provide the state and MCOs with a powerful web based application that has validation rules and ML/AI working on the backend to stratify enrollees based on their specific needs and develop redetermination workflows customized for each group. Using Google’s DocAI we can make the process of approving the documents easier. Google’s CCAI can help people filing for redetermination by supporting them in the filing and document uploading process. Intelligent analytics and visualizations will help the state get actionable insights from the data.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Health & Education	Health	NEW DAY Project (Homeless Service and Recovery Resource Center)	HumanKind Ministries (HK)	\$9,000,000	Using a model created in San Antonio, TX, which reduced homeless by 80%, the planned facility is a major one-time use of funds. Person-centered, trauma-informed, and recovery-oriented – it will create systemic impact required to reduce and prevent homelessness in the region by providing wrap-around services designed to help those in crisis overcome challenges and address the root causes of homelessness which prevent them from stabilization. Approval of this grant will help to secure additional funding from other sources extending its impact and ensuring a significant community need is met. The goal is to help each client resume a more normal life including gainful employment, stable housing, and access to healthcare. HumanKind will track valuable program data. This campus will reduce the need for repeat services and constant annual drain on public resources. Humankind and its partners do not discriminate. Services are open to any person who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. Clients have the same opportunities for equitable outcomes to succeed. Homelessness is an ongoing issue, exacerbated by COVID. Many people living close to poverty—even those employed—can and have become part of the homeless population.
Health & Education	Health	New Hope Crisis Center – Saving Victims of Domestic Violence	Wichita Family Crisis Center	\$1,000,000	The 7 of the priorities outlined in SFRF Health & Education are met by this project. Wichita Family Crisis Center (WFCC) will triple the lifesaving shelter available in Sedgwick, Cowley and Sumner counties. WFCC also serves overflow for Butler, Reno and Harvey counties. More victims will be served and services will be delivered in a more effective and efficient manner, including (1) workforce development and training to rebuild lives and financial independence; (2)onsite medical and psychological treatment; (3)healthcare integration and system navigation with WFCC medical advocates; (4)family services support because 95% of clients have children; (5) early childhood health with WFCC Parent/Child and Teen/Young Adult advocates; (6) early childhood education and school readiness with two education resource rooms; (7) food and nutrition including a full kitchen which provides clients’ only source of fresh food. COVID escalated an already rising number of domestic violence cases across South Central Kansas. The WFCC facility provides comprehensive services that make a permanent, lifechanging improvement for families.
Health & Education	Health	Nursing Home Without Walls	Health Management of Kansas, ic	\$1,345,000	<p>Health Management of Kansas, Inc proposes the use of a technology bundle, which includes daily Remote Patient Monitoring (chronic disease management), artificial intelligence-based activity monitoring, voice activated communications with Personal Emergency Response (PERS) capability to ensure health, physical and mental wellbeing and safety for the consumers. The bundle integration, which is addition to attendant and homemaker workers, identifies changes in consumer behavior and conditions much earlier so care and treatment interventions can take place sooner in the delivery system; thereby, providing better care outcome for the consumer and the payor and Kansas taxpayers.</p> <p>This proposal will deliver on guiding principle 1 (sustainable program through one-time use of funds), principle 3 (foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans) and principle 6 (measurable results). Additionally, principles 2, 4 and 5 are also supported with our submission.</p>

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Health & Education	Health	Nursing Program Relocation and Staffing	Emporia State University	\$9,250,000	ESU's traditional BSN program has a 5-year average upper-division headcount of 135.2 and 41.4 completions/yr., and 100% of our recent graduates that were seeking employment in nursing were hired after graduation. However, we must increase our production of nursing graduates to meet current demand. The Kansas Hospital Association's, 2021 Workforce Survey predicts >33,000 job openings for registered nursing through 2028, and vacancy and turnover rate for nurses was higher in 2020 than it has been since 2013. ESU has approval from our external accrediting agency (ACEN) to double the number of students accepted into our on-campus BSN program, and to offer two new on-line programs (RN-BSN and MSN). These goals have not yet been realized due to a combination of instructional staffing issues and space constraints. ESU plans to relocate the Department of Nursing from a leased off-campus facility into a portion of an existing on-campus building to allow campus consolidation of space and programming and create state-of-the-art learning spaces for our students. Additional investment in nursing faculty salaries will be required to maintain our ability to recruit and retain qualified faculty into these critically important positions.
Health & Education	Health	Partnering together to Provide Medical Attention and Medical Prescriptions to Kansans	Mercy and Truth Medical Missions in partnership with Pharmacy of Grace	\$2,680,000	Working day in and day out with the poorest of the poor and the sickest of the sick, Mercy and Truth Medical Missions, (MTMM) a safety net medical clinic, is uniquely poised to support Kansas's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. With clinics in both the poorest county in Kansas and the richest, the challenges faced at both, are remarkably similar. During the pandemic and with help from community partners, MTMM started a free clinic one Saturday a month. At this clinic, free visits and free laboratory work were offered; one element was missing: free/no cost medications. MTMM is proposing to partner and open a non-profit pharmacy at both its locations and expand medical and pharmacy services being offered from a mobile perspective. This pharmacy will be a place where the first question asked is, "What did your Mercy and Truth Medical Provider tell you about this medication"; not, "What insurance do you have?" This program meets SPARK's guiding principles. To highlight one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans: studies show that 20-30% of prescriptions are never filled and 50% are not taken correctly. By walking an MTMM patient over to the pharmacy, we will decrease overall healthcare costs.
Health & Education	Health	Pediatric Hospital to Home Transition and Sustainment Program	Craig HomeCare	\$573,040	The use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to develop a Pediatric Hospital to Home Transitional & Sustainment Program that will facilitate and expedite transitions of medically complex pediatric patients from acute care hospitals to home and community based settings and services and also reduce unnecessary rehospitalizations and utilization of hospital emergency departments. Currently, medically complex pediatric patients experience significant and extended discharge delays from hospitals due to the lack of a coherent and comprehensive discharge & transition program, which results in extended hospital stays that result in significantly higher costs to the Medicaid system. Additionally, the lack of comprehensive transition plans results in more frequent and unnecessary rehospitalizations and utilization of hospital emergency departments, further straining and maxed out healthcare delivery system. This would be a collaboration between home and community based home care providers and Managed Care Organizations serving patients on KanCare. It will reduce strain on the healthcare system and promote better healthcare outcomes for children and families in Kansas.
Health & Education	Health	Premium Pay for Frontline Public Safety Workers	City of Topeka	\$2,000,000	These funds would be used as premium pay for frontline Police, Fire, and Water Utility employees. This is in alignment with SPARK's Talent Retention and Recruitment, and Supporting Infrastructure priority areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has made provisioning existing services more challenging as both employee workload and staff retirement have increased. This additional stress on our public safety employees has led to 53 vacancies between the Police and Fire departments. In turn, premium pay is necessary to maintain current staffing levels and ensure the health and safety of Topeka's residents. The City's water infrastructure is also in critical need of support. On average, our water mains experience 60 breaks per 100 miles compared to the national average of 15 per 100 miles. Further, a large number of these breaks are concentrated around the older, more diverse, and lower-income neighborhoods of the City. This disparity in water main age and failure rate makes the maintenance of these pipes an equity issues as well as an infrastructure one and in line with SPARK's Supporting Infrastructure priority area.
Health & Education	Health	Premium Pay for Human Services Workers	DCCCA	\$1,558,102	DCCCA requests funds to support premium pay for workers providing essential work in foster care, family preservation and behavioral health services across Kansas. At a time when employees are leaving these professions, the needs of foster children, at-risk families, and those struggling with substance abuse is at an all-time high. Providing premium pay in a strategic, structured system for front-line workers will help to curb attrition of valuable staff and enable us to continue providing quality services until the labor market corrects itself. The funding request is 10% of frontline staff wages' and will be paid to staff as 1) a one-time payment, 2) sign-on bonuses, and 3) tiered stay bonuses through the end of 2024. This aligns with SPARK's guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impact through increased capacity in child placing agency, family preservation, and behavioral health services. Premium pay provides some compensation to staff on the front-lines who have been relied upon throughout the pandemic to maintain continuity of operations. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff for these positions due to low pay, increased risk of COVID exposure, and high caseloads due to staffing shortages.

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Health & Education	Health	Promoting Health Equity and Opportunities for Physical, Mental, Social and Economic Well-Being	Turner House Clinic Inc (d/b/a: Vibrant Health)	\$5,000,000	<p>Health equity is a complex challenge. Health disparities impact on cognitive intelligence and physical and behavioral health. Opportunity disparities affect access to health services, food, early childhood learning, housing, childcare, job training, transportation, language and legal aid and impedes progress from surviving to thriving as a community and as individuals.</p> <p>SPARK funds will help build a Center for Health Equity. Through a peer-led stakeholder approach, the Center will identify and remove barriers to health- focusing on structural racism, unconscious bias and social determinants of health- and develop and provide resources for children and adults from disadvantaged populations to become, and stay, well. The one-time investment of SPARK funds and philanthropy will foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans, primarily Wyandotte County residents. The Center’s quality, evaluation system will use the Plan-Do-Study-Act approach to address equity and outcomes; promote flexible investment strategies; and ensure data analytics that promote transparency and accountability. The Center for Health Equity supports response and recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and strengthens Kansans’ resilience.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Recreation updates and additions	City of Waverly	\$74,000	Funds would be used to expand existing programs and provide additional opportunities for outdoor exercise for all ages. One time use of funds would provide a long term expansion of our community exercise opportunities.
Health & Education	Health	Replacement Cargo Van -Food Program	Children First CEO Kansas Inc.	\$50,405	In direct response to COVID-19, Children 1st is seeking fund to 1) purchase a replacement cargo van including sales tax, tags, one year of commercial insurance, one quarter of fuel, and 2) one quarter of food for emergency food boxes to strengthen Kansas’ resilience of low-income families, many who are essential workers and often impacted by COVID-19. Currently the Children 1st van has over 200,000 miles and the Children 1st driver is adding 180 miles per week to deliver emergency food boxes and other donations (e.g., hygiene bags, \$300 meat bundles to families who scored extremely high for food insecurity, etc.). Since March 2000, Children 1st and its partners have delivered 2,226 emergency food boxes to COVID impacted families (37,829 meals). The boxes included shelf-stable food for a family of four, lasting seven days (breakfast, dinner, and a few snacks). This project is a direct response approved by the US Treasury 31 CFR Part 35 to provide direct “food assistance (pg. 33)... to households facing negative economic impacts.” Children 1st has developed new partners who will schedule the driver and van to pick up and deliver food for their programs increasing impact.
Health & Education	Health	Robinson Community Health/Wellness Center	Augusta Community Caring Center, Inc. and Augusta Progress Inc.	\$3,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funds will be used to secure a larger co-location space and expand services the Center provides. The availability of Robinson Elementary in Augusta is a historic opportunity for the community. Food and utility assistance stops at the Augusta city limit. In the future we hope to serve Leon, Douglass and Towanda. Additional programs may include distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables, incorporation of Meals on Wheels and commodities distributions. The Center plans to collaborate with the PFRC and ESSDACK. The PFRC provides pregnancy testing and resources for parenting from prenatal to teen years. ESSDACK provides help for High School credit completion, career exploration/planning and assessment, career and technical education, poverty simulation/mentoring, training and Core Augusta which assists people to step permanently out of poverty. In communication with Dan Rice, Executive Director of South Central Mental Health, a mental health professional will be provided to assist those in need. Supporting workforce development, family services, early childhood education, distribution of food all meet SPARK’s guiding principles and directly support Kansas’ response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Health & Education	Health	Robinson Multi-use Community and Wellness Center	Augusta Progress, Inc (API)	\$3,200,000	Funds in this submission to the SPARKS committee will facilitate the adaptive reuse of a building at risk of closure as a new multi-use community and wellness center with highly diversified family support services to help address the detrimental mental and physical impacts of the COVID pandemic. The facility will be a collaborative partnership between the City, USD 402, and various non-profit groups. Support services will be centralized into a single location and focus on helping families secure basic necessities like food and clothing, find a permanent path out of poverty through coaching and education (including job training), and provide engaging spaces and programs for learning and socialization. The development of this “one-stop shop” facility will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term system impact through integrated family support services addressing critical needs of underserved populations.
Health & Education	Health	Rural Healthcare Provider Recruitment	Artesian Valley Health System	\$250,000	The intended use for these funds are to recruit and retain qualified medical providers in rural southwest Kansas. The funds would be used as recruitment bonuses to help attract providers to our facility. The distribution of funds will occur with the signing of a contract to provide healthcare services for our facility for a term of 2-4 years. Without providers available to provide care to the community members it increase the healthcare disparities of rural residents. AVHS has had to close one outreach clinic in Plains, KS due to lack of provider coverage. Additionally, agency medical providers have had to be utilized to cover gaps in coverage. This gap coverage costs an exponential rate and further cripples the healthcare system financially. Although this grant would be utilized as a one time fund, its impact would be profound for the community which cares for minority and low socio-economic individuals.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	Health	Social Services Blueprint Solution	Google Cloud	\$0	<p>Social Services Blueprint Solution is focused on coordinating social services data to get the right services to the right people at the right time and in the right dosage. This includes person matching. The purpose of the Social Services Blueprint Solution is to enable clients enrolled in concurrent social service programs to reach their quality outcomes most effectively & efficiently as possible by shifting the overall mindset and procedural rules within each program from operating locally within their jurisdiction to operating at a higher-level and unified perspective.</p> <p>The desired end state is for case managers to seamlessly coordinate, or synchronize, with case managers from other programs to ensure the right information is available from the right sources at the right time. This helps ensure the right services are provided at the right time and in the right amount.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Health & Education	Health	SPARK SFRF: Student and Family Supportive Services, Supporting South Central Kansans Basic Needs	Giving the Basics Wichita	\$50,000	<p>Giving the Basics Wichita (GTBW) provides supportive family services and workforce support through the distribution of basic hygiene necessities in south central Kansas. We partner with 137 schools, 37 nonprofits, and 2 police departments to distribute items such as toilet paper, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, and hand sanitizer required for basic hygiene and health. None of these products are covered by SNAP or EBT benefits. Those going without access to these necessities are more likely to be or become unemployed, be absent from work/school, or dropout of school. GTBW grants access to consistent, free hygiene items to over 51,000 impoverished individuals. Throughout COVID, the local underlying nonprofit economic structure has been devastated as many organizations continue to struggle financially and operationally. We aim to uphold that structure by alleviating hygiene costs that many shelters, agencies, and pantries would expend on hygiene for their clients and by facilitating systemic efficiencies. We request funds for product purchases to rebuild our inventory that is critical for community health. GTBW prioritizes sustainability, trackability, equality, and long-term success for thousands of Kansans in need.</p>
Health & Education	Health	St. Francis Campus 26-Bed Critical Care Unit with Isolation Capabilities	Ascension Via Christi Hospitals Wichita Inc.	\$8,900,000	<p>The intended use for the requested funds is to renovate and modernize a dated, out-of-service unit into a 26-bed pandemic unit at Ascension Via Christi Hospitals Wichita St. Francis campus in Wichita, KS. The critical care unit will increase capacity to care for the sickest patients and includes negative pressure, isolation rooms to accommodate pandemic and infectious disease patients, decreasing the risk of exposure to airborne illnesses for caregivers, patients and families. In addition, the unit will be acuity adaptable with the ability to flex to serve medical/surgical patients, based on demand. As a regional referral center and the leader in adult critical care in the region, this project will expand ICU capacity and decrease time on diversion, enabling St. Francis to receive high acuity transfers from rural hospitals it does not have capacity to accept today.</p> <p>This expansion project meets the SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing sustainable programs that will have a long-term systemic impact on Kansans through increased access and capacity of ICU beds as part of Kansas's recovery efforts from the past few years.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Street Outreach Warmth	Shawnee County Mercy Advocates, Inc.	\$2,000	<p>Funds awarded to Shawnee County Mercy Advocates, Inc. will be given to the Topeka Rescue Mission to benefit their Street Outreach Program during winter months. These dollars will help our unsheltered homeless population that lost resources at the Mission when COVID restrictions demanded social distancing in temporary shelter opportunities.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Sunflower State Games / Kansas Senior Olympics	Sunflower State Games	\$50,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the continued efforts to help Kansans adopt a healthier more active lifestyle while having the opportunity to train and compete in an Olympic-style competition. Sunflower State Games is dedicated to providing a forum that initiates and encourages camaraderie between different ages, socioeconomic and cultural groups through competition with other participants.</p> <p>Currently, the SSG organization has one full-time employee, we rely on hundreds of volunteers and interns to help plan and execute the games. A portion of the funds will be used to support, a paid social media/marketing internship. In recovering from the losses of the past two years, it is imperative that our outreach hit more targets throughout Kansas to build awareness for both participants and prospective sponsors, as pointed out earlier, they represent 100% of our revenue. In 2020-21, our registration and sponsorship money was reduced to less than half of our original budget. 90% of funds for expenses are spent and stay in Kansas. The Games attract athletes and spectators from 30 different states, bringing additional money used on hotels, restaurants and shopping.</p>

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Health & Education	Health	Support and Safety for Kansas Families	Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence	\$4,100,000	<p>All programs' direct services are funded by federal, state, and local grants and public donations —some funds have already been directed toward responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs have been resilient, serving more people now than pre-pandemic. However, there are longer- term program and facility upgrades needed to mitigate the impact of the current pandemic as well as to prevent and prepare for any future health emergencies. Current facilities do not allow for safe services. Shelters are residential homes adapted for congregate shelter. Directing funds to these upgrades will impact Kansas services for years to come.</p> <p>Earlier CARES funds allowed programs to, in part, expand their reach through upgraded technology and virtual services. Today, ARPA funds are needed to further upgrade services with a focus on offices and facilities, allowing for safer services in the long term.</p> <p>KCSDV will work with each program to assure fiscal responsibility and transparency. Each program will provide receipts and results to KCSDV, which can be reported as needed.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Technology Upgrade	Episcopal Social Services, Inc.	\$92,250	<p>Episcopal Social Services (dba Breakthrough) is requesting \$92,250 (with \$35,000 in leverage = \$127,250 total project) to provide a technology refresh for two locations, replacing old computers and about to become obsolete software. This work includes technology for administrative use (accounting, development, etc.), but also computers used by clients (e.g., completing job searches) and program staff/volunteers in the Employment Program, Re-Housing Department, Representative Payee Department, and the Clubhouse program in Wichita (Breakthrough Clubhouse) and Hutchinson (Milestone Clubhouse). This technology package includes 1) new desktop computers and laptops with locks, set up by a professional computer company, 2) uninterrupted power supply, 3) new server including a new backup server, 4) Windows server user CAL pack, which is the ability for users to connect outside the building, 5) advance technology for Hutchinson, such as a Fortigate Firewall. Specifically, this computer request includes: 1) 22 desktops and 32 laptops for administrative and five programs at Breakthrough with 2) ten desktops and five laptops for Milestone Clubhouse.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Travel Agency Nursing	TLC Advanced Nursing LLC	\$1,300,000	<p>Due to the impact of Covid on the economy our health care facilities have been unable to meet their staffing needs and requirements needed to operate at maximum compacity. TLC Advanced Nursing contracts with hospitals and Long term care facilities throughout Kansas to provide personnel to meet their staffing requirements needed to operate at maximum capacity. This allows more Kansans to get the care the need and deserve.</p>
Health & Education	Health	TUKHS Remote Monitoring Project	The University of Kansas Health System	\$750,000	<p>The funds will support the development of a remote monitoring network in areas of greatest need to enhance access, engagement, and provision of clinical services using remote monitoring. The identification and deployment of the system will be guided by providers at the point of delivery and point of care to ensure that it meets the SPARK guiding principle of creating long-term increased access to minorities and populations adversely affected by COVID, and populations who have limited access to broadband connectivity</p>
Health & Education	Health	Venty: Self-Care for Healthcare	Axiom Healthcare Services, 10300 W. Maple St., Wichita, KS 67209	\$1,000,000	<p>Kansas' healthcare workforce is facing unprecedented challenges. COVID-19 had profound impact on the mental & physical health of our state's patient-facing healthcare workers. These workers are physically and emotionally exhausted. The healthcare industry is also in crisis with turnover at an all time high. There is a need for innovative solutions in the workplace.</p> <p>Axiom has 13 healthcare facilities in KS with 900 employees working in healthcare.</p> <p>National trends on the condition of healthcare workers only reinforced what Axiom was seeing in its own workforce. For this purpose, Axiom devoted enormous resources to developing a digital, scalable platform for improving healthcare employees' resiliency, mental health, and wellbeing. The platform can be accessed through any mobile device. This self-care solution uses the evidence-based methodology of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), which is built into all aspects of the framework. The self-care, wellbeing framework is designed around five life domains: managing emotions, sharpening my mind, increasing energy, connecting with others, & securing finances. Venty is designed for employers to implement in the workplace.</p> <p>The grant will be used to build the product.</p>
Health & Education	Health	Workforce development	Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute	\$5,000,000	<p>Kansas SPARKS grants will be given to state university students awarded through a competitive application process. These grants will be \$20,000 given to students studying healthcare, social work, public health, and mental health.</p>

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	A No-Cost Para to Teacher Pathway for Kansas School District Paraprofessionals from WGU	Western Governor's University	\$2,000,000	The funds requested in this submission will provide a no-cost opportunity for current paras across the state of Kansas to earn their bachelor's degree and teaching license all while they continue to work in the classroom. A recent national survey indicated that 55% of teachers are considering leaving the profession sooner than they planned. The shortest way increasing the number of licensed teachers in Kansas is to create pathways for paras who have existing classroom experience. WGU, a non-profit online university, operates the largest fully accredited teachers college in the country. The funds will be used to provide a last-dollar scholarship for an estimated 70+paras across the state of Kansas interested in completing their Bachelor's degree and becoming a licensed teacher. The program can operate as a one-time expenditure, as once you've provided a pathway to licensure for paraeducators, they can hold that license the remainder of their career with no ongoing financial support. In addition, the program can begin immediately upon the approval of funds as WGU enrolls students the 1st of every month. Through the grant program, funds could be held by WGU and disbursed to eligible para educators. .
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Augusta Public Schools- Premium Pay	USD 402	\$290,200	USD 402 has been in-person during a large majority of the pandemic. As a result, our staff have provided essential services to our community and have clearly been essential workers during these challenging times. USD 402 is requesting \$290,00 for the purpose of providing premium pay for all district personnel. The total amount will be paid in the following manner: Certified Staff: \$1,200 (full-time), \$600 (part-time) Classified Staff: \$1,200 (full-time), \$600 (part-time) This additional pay is reasonable and necessary given the increased job-related duties that have (and will) take place during 2021-2022 & 2022-23 school years in response to academic and social-emotional learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased development of resources, supports, and interventions for students and families by individual teachers to support learning and mitigate learning loss. Increased time and effort to provide academic support, social and emotional support, whole child health and wellness support, safe transportation, and additional unexpected or unanticipated supports to meet the needs of students and families impacted in various ways by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Basketball/Tennis Court Rehabilitation	Hamilton County	\$100,000	1. A concrete outdoor recreation surface requires little maintenance. 2. Publicly owned property ensures public use indefinitely. 3. State and Federal funding for recreational activities is limited. 4. Exercise is key to a healthy population.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Cardinal Corner Playground	N/A	\$100,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this application is to purchase new playground equipment with several ADA compliant components for the South Haven community's city park, providing the town with an outdoor space for children and families to promote positive health and recreation. Currently, the playground equipment is over 30 years old and no longer meets safety standards nor is inclusive for children of all ages and abilities. Receipt of these funds for this rural community would be a one-time investment resulting in a decades long-impact providing families a safe outdoor space for physical recreation and mental and emotional reprieve from the pandemic. With no other outdoor play space available to this community, this investment will give residents the ability to remain in the South Haven community and boost the local economy by creating an attraction for the whole county to enjoy.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Cardinal Food Assistance Program	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$15,000	Eudora Schools work to provide nutritional services to our community through our Eudora Schools Food Pantries. Eudora Schools have a food pantry within each of our four schools within the district. Students and their families are able to either arrange to pick up food to take home or we also provide our students insulated bags to take home food if their parents are not able to pick up the food at the school. At Eudora Elementary School, our school counselors and administration deliver the bags of food to the student's home when requested. The number of students and families needing nutritious food provided by the school continues to rise due to the pandemic. Eudora Schools also provide snacks to each of our students throughout the day to ensure that their attention is sustained throughout the day and to help with additional food demand from our students during the school day. The program would operate not only to sustain, but to serve the growing need for food in our community for the next two years. This program builds on the guiding principle of fostering a long-term systemic impact for our residents and students.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Child advocacy 2022 programs	Conway Springs Development Foundation, Inc	\$30,000	The Conway Springs Development Foundation, Inc. was resurrected in 2018 with the intention to provide our rural community with opportunities that are often overlooked. Since our reinstatement, CSDF has purchased a historic Church building, that serves as headquarters for all events and programs. Some programs that have been brought to Conway Springs since CSDF was resurrected: Community Gardens, Community Theater, Summer Art Program, Adult and Child fitness classes, Musical and Talent showcases, support of local school fundraisers, beautification of land, Conway Loves (all inclusive youth focused advocacy and celebration group), rental facility for large community events, and more. Unfortunately, our fundraising efforts were significantly slowed, and completely halted, with the COVID outbreak. Because of this, remaining funds have been ear marked to JUST keep the acquired historic building running, with maintenance, and operation needs. Our entire board is voluntary, and any event or program we host is on a volunteer basis. Funds are desperately needed to continue offering these programs to our rural children and community, as well as preserve the historic church building for future generations to come.

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Developing Basic Needs Support	Emporia State University	\$150,000	Funds will support the development of a one-stop basic needs center (BNC) at Emporia State University. College students face many barriers to completing their degree, including food and housing insecurity, mental health, and financial hardships. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. A BNC removes barriers to access and provides an integrated approach to support students' basic needs. It does so by (a) more efficiently connecting students to campus and community resources and relevant public assistance programs out of one centralized location; (b) expanding available resources (e.g., food, housing, emergency funds, financial resources), (c) fueling outreach, and (d) cultivating community partnerships. Recognizing students in need of food are often experiencing other barriers, the BNC will support and expand the services of ESU's existing food pantry while also integrating other basic needs offerings and adopting a case management approach. The BNC will support long-term systemic impact for Kansas by increasing college completion and workforce preparedness. It will directly impact educational inequities, as historically marginalized student groups are more likely to experience basic needs insecurity.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Digital Literacy to Strengthen Health and Education in Wyandotte County Youth Centers	Business Speaks llc (dba)Youth Entrepreneur Exchange	\$250,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK COMMITTEE is to support the development of a new Youth Resource Centers in a high need areas of NE Wyandotte County. Mixed use facility such as YRC improve access to social services programming in digital literacy to support education, workforce development and healthy lifestyles.The development of these YRC will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long term growth impact for youth citizens of Kansas via increased access to a menu of services via digital connectivity and ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved and underemployed communities. Youth Resource Centers will help fill a gap of digital equity and inclusion availability. The result of digital equity and inclusion on workforce development of our next generation of employees will decrease the workforce shortage and better position Kansas to fill workforce shortages
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Digital Literacy to Strengthen Wyandotte County Youth Centers	Business Speaks llc (dba)Youth Entrepreneur Exchange	\$250,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK COMMITTEE is to support the development of a new Youth Resource Centers in a high need areas of NE Wyandotte County. Mixed use facility such as YRC improve access to social services programming in digital literacy to support education, workforce development and healthy lifestyles.The development of these YRC will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long term growth impact for youth citizens of Kansas via increased access to a menu of services via digital connectivity and ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved and underemployed communities. Youth Resource Centers will help fill a gap of digital equity and inclusion availability. The result of digital equity and inclusion on workforce development of our next generation of employees will decrease the workforce shortage and better position Kansas to fill workforce shortages
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Eudora Middle School Outdoor Center	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$80,000	The Eudora Middle School teachers are constantly creating new learning environments for their students to try to maintain a positive learning environment, especially during the COVID pandemic. By creating an outdoor learning center at Eudora Middle School, it will allow teachers to take their students outside the four walls of a classroom throughout the day. Numerous studies have shown that students thrive when their learning environments are expanded and not just within the four walls of one classroom. The EMS outdoor learning center would be a place for students not only to do labs and classroom experiments, but also teachers to take students to read and learn in the fresh air of the outdoors. This project meets the SPARK guiding principles by fostering long-term systemic impacts on all Eudora Middle Schools students and the neighborhood surrounding the school.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Expansion of Restorative Justice Principles in Northeast Kansas	Topeka Center for Peace and Justice	\$91,925	<p>The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) promotes justice and peace through education and action for social change by working with organizations in the Topeka/Shawnee county area. TCPJ has embraced Restorative Practice and Mediation as the foundation for social justice and social change. The three R's of Restorative Practice: Respect for all Responsibility for self and for community Relationships built in community.</p> <p>TCPJ provides training in Restorative Structure Community Circles for teachers, support staff and after school programs, thus providing a safe climate while teaching students important life skills in communication and conflict resolution. To date, TCPJ has trained over 50 educators in 15 schools and provides offenders for both victim/offender or parent/adolescent mediation.</p> <p>Goals for these programs include decreasing the number of youth entering foster care and juvenile offender programs and keeping youth with their families whenever possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Significant challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic have increased the need for the services and collaboration provided by the TCPJ. Isolation has increased violence and is compromising success for families and youth success in school and society.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Farm to Your School Program	Leafy Green Farms	\$290,000	Funds will be used for equipment costs. Farms are prefabricated and are delivered ready for setup. Operating costs will be covered by school and private funding. Students and faculty will run farms as Leafy Green Farms will provide monitoring and consultation.

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Hallways to Happiness	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$40,000	Eudora Schools will partner with our Eudora High School Arts Department and local artists to create several “Hallways to Happiness” at our Eudora Early Childhood Center and our Eudora Elementary School. Distance learning has reminded kids and teachers that school is more than a building. Schools give kids a sense of community and belonging. It is a place where you belong, and where you matter. Our Eudora teachers are wanting to create story themed hallways that students can envision themselves within a story book each time they enter the hallway. Allowing our students to pretend and dream fosters a great love of learning that will grow into a successful environment of learning for all students. This “Hallways to Happiness” project will meet the guiding principles of helping to foster long-term systemic impacts for all of our students. Eudora Schools and the Eudora Schools Foundation look forward to bringing “Hallways to Happiness” to life within the Eudora School district and creating a new way to enhance our student’s learning while giving our EHS and local artists and opportunity to show off their talents.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Impact Avenues	City of Topeka - Impact Avenues	\$500,000	The funds requested in this submission would support the Impact Avenues program for another 3 years. The funding is used in two main areas; to pay for staff and to help our families with things like rent, car repairs, birth certificates, etc. This program is different from traditional social services in that we use collective impact and partner with 40 plus agencies. This approach with wrap around services from our partner agencies is what really creates lasting results. We utilize our partner agencies and their funding whenever possible and use the grant money to fill in the gaps. Kansans were hit hard by COVID 19 and many families are homeless or struggling. Impact Avenues helps families overcome barriers and get back into the workforce and become self sufficient. We use a two generational approach to end homelessness and break the cycle of poverty. A requirement of the program is that children must be in school with attendance of 93% or higher. We place a high value on education and work to make sure children have equitable opportunities and outcomes. Results are measurable and we track everything from the number of family referrals, active families, how many have been housed, agency referrals, services provided etc.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Impact KCK	Avenue of Life	\$500,000	Avenue of Life is the backbone organization for Impact KCK, a sustainable model for systemic impact with measurable, long-term outcomes serving 7,300+ Kansas children since 2015. We provide stable housing with wraparound services for homeless and at-risk children/youth who have been referred by the McKinney-Vento liaisons of all 4 Wyandotte County school districts. The Impact KCK model allows for a single day's effort to be greatly multiplied through the collaboration of 53+ cross-sector service providers providing targeted wraparound care in a single space. Services include: Housing, Healthcare, Case Management, Nutrition (hot meals and groceries), take-home nutritious meals (weekend food packs and frozen family meals), Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling, ID/Birth Certificate, Employment, Vocational Training, GED & ESL Classes, Utility Assistance, Childcare, Legal Aid, Personal Finance & Budgeting Classes, Transportation, Furniture, trauma care, parenting classes, and Emergency Relief (diapers, formula, hygiene items, clothing, etc). Funding the Impact KCK collaborative provides an increased capacity to directly support Kansas' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthen Kansas' resilience.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	K-12 Cybersecurity Initiative	KSDE	\$7,500,000	Cybersecurity in Kansas K-12 education is a critical issue as evidenced by the findings of the Kansas Legislative Post-Audit limited-scope audit of security protocols and controls currently implemented in Kansas school districts. School districts are among the most targeted organizations for malicious cyberattacks due to the large volume of sensitive data they house pertaining to students and staff. Prioritization of a one-time funding opportunity to ensure districts who have not implemented basic security controls and for districts to improve their security posture in the areas determined by a risk-assessment will foster a long-term systemic change and impact for Kansans. Each individual district should be granted the flexibility to address the specific gaps identified within its district whether it be providing annual data privacy and security training or upgrading to multi-factor authentication. A risk assessment, as well as a pre-and post-survey will be conducted to quantitatively determine the impact of funding.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Kansas School Stabilization Program	N/A	\$45,000,000	<p>The pandemic had an enormous impact on our communities and schools, which has led to a drop in enrollment in schools across Kansas. This means that many of our school districts will encounter an unexpected loss in funding, causing a rippling effect of cuts and loss to programs at the student level. While pandemic-related funding has been provided to schools for technology, services, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc., this program seeks to provide general and flexible funding to school districts during the pandemic.</p> <p>Because of the need for equal distribution of funding across school districts in Kansas, the proposal seeks to create a short-term state-wide program that equally funds per student enrollment loss per school district. According to KSDE data, approximately 10,000 students left our Kansas schools between 2020 and 2021 school years. That corresponds to a loss of approximately \$45 million in general funding for schools.</p> <p>The Kansas School Stabilization Program will positively impact schools across Kansas, as well as the students, teachers, staff, and families, by avoiding cuts to student-level services while we transition back to normalcy.</p>

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	KS Teachers/Nurses Degree Guarantee	Degree Insurance	\$26,000,000	<p>"If you'll study Teaching or Nursing in Kansas, then work in Kansas then we'll guarantee your salary when you graduate."</p> <p>Degree Insurance guarantees a specific income level to college graduates in the 5 years following graduation. Students are guaranteed the median expected salary, by college/major, given the best available data. Students can change majors as often as they like. Then, for 5 years they submit their tax returns. If they earned less than was promised, Degree Insurance cuts them a check for the difference.</p> <p>This proposal will guarantee the salaries every new education student for \$867k/yr and each new nursing/health student for \$5.6m/yr.</p> <p>This investment creates a long-term competitive advantage for colleges in Kansas, working to increase the attractiveness of our colleges bringing more students to the state and addressing the state's talent pipeline challenges. By boosting college enrollments this program pays for itself at a college level, making it a sustainable long-term solution.</p> <p>We maximize the flexibility of the investment to address all of the state's specific, post-COVID talent needs. The proposal could adapt to focus on different majors, or to run for fewer years (these are \$6.5m/yr), if needed.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Math Nation - Kansas	Math Nation	\$4,000,000	<p>Due to the extraordinary circumstances presented by COVID-19, teacher shortages, and use of long-term substitute teachers, the challenges in education are evident. Math Nation will provide Kansas Mathematics Standards-aligned, vetted, and research-proven supplemental resources to be part of the solution for middle and high school math. Students, families, and educators across the state will have access to videos created with patented technology for all math concept students need, with multiple "Study Experts" to choose from, based on their individual learning needs. Videos are accompanied with standards-aligned study guides and consumable workbooks. Personalized online remediation tools, print and digital practice assessments that emulate state assessments, and PSAT, SAT, ACT Prep resources will also be available. With Math Nation's patented technology, students will have the ability to send their questions to a secure, monitored statewide collaboration forum where they can receive help in real-time from their peers and certified Kansas teachers at night and on the weekends. Math Nation integrates with all district systems, all hardware (including mobile without internet connection) devices, and all major internet browsers.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	McAdams Academy	Center for Behavioral and Academic Research Inc., DBA McAdams Academy	\$2,500,000	<p>Since 2014, McAdams Academy has provided a safe place for vulnerable youth to practice academic, emotional, & behavioral skills that affect families & communities. The intended use of these funds is to support the increased need in our community to educate foster kids & high-risk middle & high school youth who are falling behind academically because of schools closing due to COVID. Academically the reality of students falling behind is worldwide. Within this primary group of children, data already shows lower-income & minority children will suffer more than other children their age. Over the past eight years, MA has been meeting the needs of low-income, high-risk students & foster children with behavioral needs. But, since COVID & our recent growth, MA does not have the space nor finances needed to meet this growing demand. Meeting this ever-increasing need will require a larger facility & more staffing. Our Theory of Change focuses on lifting youth out of poverty by increasing their knowledge. We teach a holistic concept of the causes of poverty including financial, relational, educational, & emotional components. Our philosophy helps youth understand a clear path to individual empowerment & moving beyond their current struggles.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Modernizing Topeka Public Schools to Address Learning Loss	Topeka Public Schools	\$1,000,000	<p>The district will upgrade computer labs with more powerful equipment. These rich technology resources will also increase our student's future workforce employability. By preparing them technologically for work or college, they will be well prepared for post secondary endeavors.</p> <p>The district will also increase access to the most current classroom technology replacing end-of-life Promethean Boards with Interactive Panel Displays in every classroom to reflect the new normal in technology-rich classroom education. These display panels will ensure students are using the most leading edge education technology for collaborative learning. This will also develop career-building experiences with engagement and presentations.</p> <p>Additionally, the district will ensure all students continue to have one-to-one devices for the duration of the grant funding years. These devices are an integral part of their access to educational services and critical in addressing learning loss.</p> <p>We intend to pay the daily rate for staff members to attend Professional Development for technology integration. This will increase attendance for evening and weekend professional development.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Nature Play Experience	Hutchinson Friends of the Zoo	\$18,750	<p>The purpose of the Nature Play expansion is to give children opportunities to safely explore and investigate nature. The Zoo is supported by the City of Hutchinson with free admission, making this experience accessible to all guests year-round. This will be a fulfilling learning experience that parents and children can return to often.</p> <p>The Zoo will ensure safety with a single point of entry. Children can explore independently, and adults can check on them visually without fear. Natural and artistic elements in the fabrication of the play space including, natural wood and rock, and artistic designs of insect life cycles and animal tracks will inspire wonder. Natural loose substrate pieces will be available, allowing children to build and create.</p> <p>Family-oriented industries like the Zoo are increasingly aware, as the world is learning to function amid the COVID-19 pandemic, that parents need beneficial, self-taught interactions for themselves and their children. Parents spend much time juggling things for their families and themselves. Nature play is scientifically proven to alleviate stress, reduce anxiety, improve mood and boost feelings of happiness and well-being. This space will connect them with nature in a safe, positive way.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Net Divider for Eudora Middle School Gym	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$150,000	<p>The COVID pandemic has forced the separation of classes to help in creating a healthy environment for all students. Unfortunately, most facilities are not made to have areas separated, which is the issue with the gymnasiums at Eudora Middle School. Our students have always shared the use of the entire gym when having physical education classes, etc. Gymnasiums have also become learning centers and classrooms in certain situations during the pandemic because it allows students to spread out. The students at Eudora Middle School will benefit from the addition of a motorized court dividing net to allow for multiple classes to have physical education and other classes at the same time. This project meets SPARK guiding principles by fostering long-term systemic impacts on Eudora students for the future.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	One-to-one Mentoring	Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$20,000	<p>KSBBBS serves vulnerable youth (ages 5-17) by matching them to carefully screened, caring adult volunteers in our evidence-based one-to-one mentoring programs. KSBBBS offers two types of programs: Community-based and Site-based. Both programs are professionally case-managed and structured around best practices in mentoring to ensure long-lasting and high-impact relationships. We also serve young adult matches (ages 18-25). Youth in our program can choose to remain in their match beyond high school. This option allows Bigs to help this demographic of youth focus on goals related to job development and post-secondary education – factors that lead to meaningful employment and a successful transition to adulthood.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Pilot Program for Transitional Living Supports for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care	O'Connell Children's Shelter, Inc.	\$200,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of a pilot program to support youth aging out of the foster care system to ensure they have stabilized housing and the social supports necessary to successfully transition to living independently. The development of this pilot program will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased access to services, ensuring equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities, and ensuring support for the hard-hit sector of child welfare.</p> <p>This pilot program will help fill a gap for the youth aging out of the foster care system ensuring they have the social supports necessary to transition to independent living. We will surround each youth with caring adults and bridging specialist to help guide them as they navigate their way to independence. We will assure they have needed documents in order to get a job and provide life skills training. We will strive to get them successfully launched into a job, trade school, or college. We will work with our friends from Tenants to Homeowners and The Willow to get these youth into supportive housing when they are ready.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	PreK-12 Coding & Robotics Education	Pitsco Education, LLC, Pittsburg, KS	\$25,500,000	<p>Few programs benefit every student in every school, but flexible PreK-12 coding and robotics solutions do exactly that, ensuring accessibility to all Kansas students recovering from pandemic-induced learning loss and searching for education relevance.</p> <p>Coding and robotics engage students as young as preschool age and provide relevance that helps them lay a path toward STEM career fields, thereby ensuring future revitalization of the Kansas economy. Multisensory coding and robotics solutions are designed for students of all backgrounds and ages, PreK-12, and are flexible enough for use in regular classrooms, after-school programs, and summer camps. Accompanying curriculum and instructions are developed to meet the requirements of education standards such as ISTE and NGSS as well as Kansas Competencies for Grades 3-12 in ELA, math, science, SECD, STEAM, engineering, technology, and information technology.</p> <p>Kansas must strengthen real-world education to ensure long-term sustainable growth in the workforce and the economy. Allocating a portion of the State Fiscal Recovery Funds to coding and robotics education would ensure that all of the state's half-million+ students benefit by developing skills relevant to the jobs of the future.</p>

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Providing Low-Income Kansas Children with Orthodontic Care	Virginia Brown Community Orthodontic Partnership d/b/a Smiles Change Lives	\$1,500,000	Smiles Change Lives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been helping Kansas families and foster children obtain life changing orthodontic treatment that they otherwise could not afford for more than 25 years. Our mission is to provide medically necessary orthodontic care to children in need, while also improving their self-confidence in the process. This program focuses on the SPARK's guiding principles of early childhood health and supportive family services. Due to the economic effect of the pandemic, record numbers of families have suffered a disruption in their income at levels. The pandemic has made it more difficult for families to afford orthodontic care, especially for families with multiple kids. On average, braces cost \$6,000, making them out of reach for many Kansas families. Further, orthodontic treatment is often not covered by dental insurance, even for those insured. The pandemic was also devastating for the orthodontists of Kansas that partner to provide care. Many of their offices were shut down for an extended period of time, and increased, expensive safety protocols were required to be enacted in their offices, creating a backlog in the ability to get kids from our program into treatment.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Scholarship Program K-12	ACE Scholarships	\$100,000	ACE's mission to help underserved children gain access to quality schools is directly in line with the SPARK's priorities for at-risk youth and education. Unfortunately, the schools that serve low-income communities are generally under-performing. As a result, the children who attend these schools do not receive the same education as their high and middle income peers. Our scholarships alleviate this inequality in education by allowing students who were once stuck in poor-performing schools to attend schools that will properly meet their needs. ACE's primary and ongoing goal is to continue to expand the scholarship program in order to support more at-risk children. With your support, ACE will be able to ensure that more Kansas children have access to a proper education. \$100,000 for the 2022-23 school year would allow forty K-12 students to attend the independent school of their choice. This will foster lasting positive impact on Kansas families as we recover from the Pandemic. It will strengthen Kansas families and thereby strengthen Kansas' resilience. By partnering with schools and families, students move out poverty changing their lives forever.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	School Age Child Care	Cimarron City Library	\$150,000	The Library's existing After School program is a band-aid on the greater need for school age child care in our community. The program has 25 spots available with a wait-list each and every year. We currently only operate during school hours, leaving a hole for in-service, no-school days and vacations. Many of the people in our community work in surround areas and need to have more stable child care options. Without this program, I fear our community members will begin to look elsewhere to live to help accomodate their family needs. We currently offering STREAM programming, tutoring and free play. Our program allows families to have time together once picked up because we have homework, reading and spelling word practice. Many families have dual incomes and many have not returned to work after COVID because there is not viable school age child care. We hope that expanding our program will allow more to return to the workforce, helping to support economic growth in our communtiy.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Science Laboratory	Prairie View USD 362	\$150,000	Our science programs will provide students with the skills necessary to be successful in both the workforce and further continuing education in the health, biological and chemical sciences.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Educational Training for Douglas County Educators	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$165,000	The Eudora Schools Foundation and the Eudora Schools successfully hosted a two-day "Dream Big" conference in January 2022 that touched on the subjects of social, emotional, and mental health education and training for our Eudora Schools staff. Our staff left the training knowing that there was so much more to learn to truly be able to help our students, staff, and our community rise out of the pandemic. The Eudora Schools Foundation and Eudora Schools want to build on the success of the conference by continuing to provide not only our district staff with more education and training in social, emotional, and mental health, but we want to include other Douglas County school district staff's in our quest to help not only our students and community, but all of our teacher and staff members. This project would meet the SPARK guiding principles by fostering a long-term systematic impact for our educators. This training will be broken into several two day conferences during non-school days as well as multiple half and full day trainings during professional development days throughout the year. Local, regional, and national speakers and trained staff will present at these professional development opportunities over the next two years.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Star Academy: Academic Intervention & Workforce Readiness	NOLA Education	\$10,000,000	The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the nation's most "at-risk" population, with gaps in learning now ranging in excess of 12-18 months. Funds through this submission will be used to implement a Star Academy Program in ten of the state's most "at-risk" middle schools. Partner school districts will provide in-kind contributions to cover the costs of staffing, facilities, and operations. NOLA Education provides Star Academy, a nationally recognized, hands-on, project-based curriculum program designed to accelerate students two grade levels in one academic year. Set-up of each academy is a one-time capital investment that can be used for a minimum of 5 years. The programs will target recovery of academic learning loss, support SEL for teachers and students, and increase workforce preparedness, while promoting the development of employability skills by exposing students to 50+ careers. These elements create the perfect opportunity for students to transition into robust workforce pathways following their graduation, fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans. Students will participate in all state core academic curriculum testing, producing measurable and transparent results.

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Strategies Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.)	Shawnee County District Attorney's Office	\$150,000	The intended use for funds in this submission is to support the on-going development and implementation of the S.A.V.E. Program with the most at-risk youth population of Topeka/Shawnee County focusing on the coordination of law enforcement, social service agencies, and credible community members with the singular goal of reducing violence that destabilizes the health and well-being of our community. The S.A.V.E. partnership communicates directly with the at-risk youth about disapproval for violence; concrete opportunities for both immediate and longer term assistance and support; and clear prior notice of the legal risks associated with continued violence. S.A.V.E. is designed to work within the existing resources of law enforcement, the community, and social services. The on-going support needed for this program will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansas through increased access to preventative and intervention services, existing social services, and extensive case management. S.A.V.E. will help the members of the community at highest risk for violent victimization and offending, with the intention to keep willing participants alive, safe, and out of prison.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Strengthening Minds, Bodies, and Communities: The Bethel College Wellness Center	Bethel College	\$5,000,000	The intended use of the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support construction of the Bethel College Wellness Center (\$4,000,000) in 2023 and 2024 and community-based wellness programming (\$1,000,000) from 2025-2034. These two uses will benefit students and employees of Bethel College and residents of the southcentral region of Kansas. Wellness Centers on college campuses invite social interaction among a multigenerational group of constituents. To be sited on Bethel's attractive, accessible campus, the Wellness Center will leverage its multi-use spaces, social interaction areas, indoor walking track, cardiovascular space and equipment, climbing wall, and weight-training facilities to increase the wellness and social connectivity of the surrounding community. The Bethel Wellness Center will meet the SPARK guiding principles by providing construction jobs in 2023 and 2024, thereby contributing to post-pandemic economic revitalization. Wellness and social connectivity have declined during the pandemic; the Bethel Wellness Center will provide 10 years of programming and access to increase physical well-being and social connectivity for thousands of people in the south central region of Kansas.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Strengthening the Education Workforce	Emporia State University	\$1,000,000,000	<p>COVID-19 has had a detrimental effect on the PK-12 educator workforce. The pandemic revealed gaps in the areas of using technology, personalized learning, and addressing mental health of both educators and students. These challenges and the continuing pandemic, have resulted in many educators leaving the field, accelerating an already significant teacher shortage. This project, addressing both the economic stability and health and education funding priority areas, will strengthen the current education workforce through professional development, as well as strengthen and build the future education workforce through recruitment and retention of teacher education students.</p> <p>Teacher education programs and professional development programs already exist within The Teachers College at Emporia State University. Using these existing programs, funds would be used to provide free high quality professional development to educators and expand recruitment strategies. Recruitment strategies will include efforts to build a diverse teacher workforce reflecting Kansas communities, and will create long-term equitable opportunities and outcomes for PK-12 students in the future.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Student Improvement	Topeka Salvation Army	\$90,000	The Salvation Army afterschool program, called Student Improvement, utilizes tutoring, computers and mentoring to enhance the youth's academic performance. Due to Covid 19 so many of our youth are falling between the cracks and need the additional "pen to paper" style of learning. We provide that by utilizing tutoring one-on-one with the students in very small groups of three (3). In addition, we also provide Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for character building development. We are so fortunate to have a retired principal from USD501 that oversees our program and helps with the curriculum. The Salvation Army provides students 1st through 5th grade with a safe, learning environment that enhances school scores in reading and math while developing character assets for long-term sustainability in life and in the workplace.
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Substance Misuse Prevention and Intervention Services for Adolescents, Youth, and Adults in the Shawnee County, Kansas Area	Prevention and Resiliency Services, Inc.	\$280,000	SPARK funds will expand and enhance our existing Drug and Alcohol Evaluation and Prevention programs provided at no cost in Shawnee County. Current grant funding does not allow us to meet the demand for services that we are experiencing. With school and business closures during the pandemic, referrals, and the opportunity to provide service were disrupted or delayed. With SPARK funding, more youth and adults can receive timely drug and alcohol evaluations to help them immediately move forward in their treatment. Person Centered Case Management (PCCM) can be made available to clients experiencing long wait times for treatment or in cases where only short-term case management is needed. Counseling for youth vaping and access to evidence-based prevention and education tools like ASPIRE and "My Life, My Quit" will be added to our program to fill that void in our community. Additional resources and links for self-help education will be added to our website for those researching options for their potential addiction. Additional marketing to parents and schools will increase awareness of the resources we offer. Expanding our program meets the SPARK guiding principles for Treatment Services and Capacity and Supportive Family Services.

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Teacher License Exam Fee Waivers and Reimbursement	Concerned Citizen	\$200,000	<p>There is a teacher shortage. We should be doing everything we can to make the path to becoming a licensed teacher in Kansas easier. Right now college graduates must pay to take PRAXIS exams to obtain licensure in their content areas and grade levels. These tests cost approximately \$100, but there are other fees associated with them in order to register through ETS. Asking 23 year-old graduates to come up with a couple hundred dollars is a barrier to getting qualified teachers in the classroom quickly. Either paying for the exams or providing waivers would reduce this financial burden on recent graduates of teacher prep programs.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Topeka Strings for Success	Topeka Symphony Society	\$250,000	<p>In 2019 The Topeka Symphony Society, in collaboration with USD 501, started Topeka Strings for Success (TSS) to provide opportunities for under-resourced students to participate in school orchestras as well as the Topeka Symphony Orchestra Youth Ensembles. The initial funding (\$25,000) to start this program was provided by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation in recognition of a retiring board member who served nine years on the foundation board. The grant was directed to the Topeka Symphony with the goal of establishing and sustaining this program for at least the next five years.</p> <p>Budget for funds requested: Cost for one student to participate in TSS per year is about \$1,000. We hope to expand to serving a total of 35-40 students. This program would require a full-time TSS coordinator at a salary of \$40,000. *After successful completion of TSS Program, students are given a student model instrument, cost ranges from \$450-\$2,000+.</p> <p>With these additional students, the TSS program would cost roughly \$100,000 per year once a full-time coordinator is hired and we offer the program to 35-40 students. This initial investment would allow us to scale up the impact we are making for underserved and under-resourced students in Topeka.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Transforming Education Capital Project	Phillips Fundamental Learning Center, Inc. (aka "PFLC")	\$9,317,818	<p>This project meets SPARK guiding principles by investing in a "Transforming Education" campaign that helps our state recover from negative impacts of the pandemic by positively impacting youth literacy rates. Funds already secured from individuals, foundations and businesses statewide will be combined with SPARK dollars to maximize impact through construction of a state-of-the-art facility, new technology, and scholarship funds for students and educators.</p> <p>The ongoing literacy crisis, especially among low-income and students of color, has been exacerbated by the pandemic. This project will allow PFLC to foster a long-term systematic impact on Kansas literacy rates by transforming the way educators teach young students how to read, following guidance recently provided by the Kansas Task Force on Dyslexia. By empowering educators with new knowledge and skills, we will create a ripple effect across Kansas that provides equitable opportunities for all students, despite their race, socio-economic status, or learning disability. Providing this foundation for the improvement of literacy skills will produce many long-term benefits, some of which include increased high school graduation rates, stronger workforce, and lower poverty levels.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Workforce Development Through Economic and Financial Literacy	Kansas Council on Economic Education (KCEE)	\$200,000	<p>The funding will be used to increase the economic and financial literacy of K-12 students and their teachers throughout the state of Kansas. We already reach more than 100,000 students through more than 1,000 teachers each year. Such literacy helps to develop the state's workforce and, therefore, is helping to achieve the goals of both the Economic Revitalization and Health and Education initiatives.</p> <p>Although \$200,000 was requested, please note that the KCEE would be very grateful for a grant of a lesser amount if the full amount of the request cannot be funded.</p> <p>Regarding SPARK's guiding principles, this investment would provide one-time funds for an educational program that already has proven its sustainability for almost 63 years. The funding would combine with and leverage the KCEE's other funding to maximize the use of the funds. It would foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans. The KCEE's programs are available to members of all demographic groups and thereby provide equitable opportunities and outcomes. The KCEE will use the funding in accordance with your wishes to enable flexibility. Finally, we measure results by testing knowledge, which enables tracking and transparency.</p>

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Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Working For Youth 2022	KC Common Good	\$50,000	<p>Launched in 2021 to address rising levels of violence and coinciding with the detrimental effects of the pandemic on summer opportunities for youth, Working For Youth is focused on matching youth from historically marginalized communities in the Kansas City metro (Kansas and Missouri) with paid employment. Through Working For Youth, 427 youth successfully secured employment across 89 area employers.</p> <p>In 2022 KC Common Good will increase focus on youth nearest to violence, specifically young people who are disconnected. Disconnected youth, aged 14-18, who fall outside of traditional education and employment, are disproportionately represented in the justice system. Serving justice-involved youth outside of the traditional juvenile justice system by expanding employment opportunities, remains a significant need as repeatedly identified by community members. Working For Youth's goal in 2021 is to support 100 disconnected youth with paid employment, as well as wrap around assistance that include career coaching, weekly professional development courses, and trauma informed care.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Youth Crisis and Recovery Center Building	Family Service and Guidance Center of Topeka	\$1,200,000	<p>Funding would be utilized to help build a new 24-bed crisis facility for youth in Shawnee County and Northeast Kansas. Our current facility is unable to meet the needs of children and families due to increased demand we are seeing for short/medium term crisis episodes. The expansion of our facilities would allow us to serve children who are in need of residential substance use disorder treatment. We have been working with architects and have finalized plans for a facility, but we do not have funding secured. This funding would allow us to move forward and help reduce the significant debt burden of financing such a large endeavour. This proposed facility is in direct response to the increased severity of behavioral health needs we are seeing with children. More parents are seeking resources as children continue to struggle with changes at school, disruptions in routine and family functioning, isolation-not being able to see friends, increased thoughts of suicide, heightened levels of uncertainty and anxiety, and in some cases losing a loved one to COVID-19. This facility would allow us to provide substance use disorder treatment for youth with Medicaid at the residential level, which is a level of care that is very rare in Kansas.</p>
Health & Education	K-12 and Higher Education	Youth Education Center - League 42 Foundation	League 42 Foundation	\$1,300,000	<p>1. The systemic impact is significant. More than 700 inner-city youth of Wichita will annually have direct engagement by adults in after school and summer-time instruction, which is customized, thanks to a collaboration with the Wichita School District.</p> <p>2. These children will also learn the value and values of character development as they also engage in baseball. Fair play, teamwork, commitment, overcoming adversity—all of these skills are taught on the field and in the Youth Education Center. This youth development approach is key to their future success.</p> <p>3. Because so many of these children go home to an empty home after school (until 7:00pm or later), the Youth Education Center becomes a place of safety and security. Called the “dangerous hours” for children, the Youth Center becomes a positive, instructive, happy and safe place for children after school.</p> <p>4. Tracking and transparency is already in place because of the School District partnership.</p> <p>5. This project fosters equity, inclusion, and diversity. The north and central Wichita population with greatest access to L42F facilities is 53 percent female and 47 percent male. 44 percent is Black, 32 percent is Latino, 26 percent Caucasian, and 4 percent Asian.</p>
Health & Education	Senior Services	Adult Care Home and PACE Employee Retention Pay Program	LeadingAge Kansas	\$75,000,000	<p>Adult Care Home & PACE employees have done amazing work under the most difficult situations during the Pandemic and deserve recognition and support. The workforce is declining precipitously. Access to services is threatened. The program provides qualified facilities with financial tools to reward/retain workers and to maintain critical resources and staffed beds to meet needs. The funding request is based on a total of 51,103,000 staff hours in the last year. Funds will be dispersed beginning 6 months retroactive to the start of distribution, to 6 months after the distribution begins. Allocation is based on the number of licensed adult care homes beds/PACE clients divided by total numbers of beds/clients applied for, multiplied by total amount of funds available. Funding uses - Premium Pay (defined in ARPA) or customized retention pay. Funding will be additive to existing pay and benefit programs. Reporting, accountability, and recoupment requirements will be similar to the hospital program.</p>
Health & Education	Senior Services	Community Care Options Preservation Fund	KHCA/KCAL (Kansas)	\$55,520,150	<p>Assisted Living, Residential Health Care and Home Plus Communities must remain a viable option for Kansans who need assistance beyond what they can receive in community. Many of those same Kansans are not ready for skilled nursing home care. In keeping the State's priority to rebalance care options, Assisted Living, Residential Health Care and Home Plus Communities must remain viable and sustainable. These care options are primarily funded by the private resources of the individuals they serve. These healthcare settings, too have been hit hard and adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased food cost, utilities and staffing costs have crippled these communities. Many are not able to take new admissions with their current levels staff. This in turn limits healthcare options for Kansans. Many have looked to reduce the number of residents they are licensed to care for. Some have closed or are contemplating closure.</p>

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Health & Education	Senior Services	Elder Care/ Adult Protection Services Premium Pay	DCF	\$73,000	increase income for essential front line DCF employees who respond in the field to reports of adult protective services
Health & Education	Senior Services	Emergency Relief for Runaway Temporary Staffing Agency Costs in Kansas Nursing Homes	LeadingAge Kansas and Kansas Health Care Association	\$78,000,000	The plan targets a grave threat to Kansans needing nursing home care, and to the continued existence of nursing homes. It helps offset the skyrocketing cost of supplemental agency staffing. Funding is based on 14,200 nursing home resident days, multiplied by 365 days, multiplied by \$15 per occupied bed regardless of payor source. Applicable time frame: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. In 2020 agency hours increased 63% and costs rose 59%*. In 2021 hours increased 167% and dollars 87%** . We expect hours and costs to rise exponentially in 2022. Medicaid, the primary payor of nursing home care, artificially caps reimbursement for staff costs (including agency.*) Mounting agency costs are not addressed in Medicaid rates. Unfortunately, providers are being forced to increase private pay rates, cut costs for supplies and programs that support residents' quality of care and quality of life, drastically reduce beds, or close. Eight (8) Kansas nursing homes have closed since the Pandemic started*. This trend is expected to escalate in 2022. According to a study by the American Health Care Association, only 25% of nursing homes and assisted living facilities felt confident they would be able to remain open through 2022.
Health & Education	Senior Services	JUNETEENTH 2022 - HEALTH & EDUCATION Launch for 2nd Anniversary of Federal HOLIDAY	Vernon Multi-Purpose Center, Inc.	\$400,000	Health and Education tied to the upcoming 2nd anniversary of the Juneteenth Federal Holiday: last Summer in June the Vernon Multi-Purpose Center sponsored The Juneteenth Parade during the decrease waves of the Pandemic COVID 19. Approximately 3,000 or better attendees participated, in part of the brand new designated federal holiday designation: and equally like all others, people were excited about the COVID 19 numbers decreasing. Using this year's 2nd Anniversary of the federally designated JUNETEENTH Holiday, would be an excellent way- to begin CRISP fresh approaches: to educate the Senior Citizens with Exercising, Nutrition, Dietary choices to help rebuild better health- Of course with regional professional medical experts and organic natural educational options, that would be Inter-Generational and allow the partnership to re-emerge with exercises with places like the YMCA outreach program, that use to come to the Vernon Multi- Purpose Center weekly: this would be different in that an expansion of networks and resources: to broader more focused attention on staying well and being healthy through more NUTRITIONAL Educational outreach with both regional Medical Hospitals and wholistic vegetable juices, exercises, etc.
Health & Education	Senior Services	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program expansion	Midland Care Connection	\$2,500,000	The intended use of the funds requested is to support the expansion of the PACE program into Johnson, Miami and Franklin Counties as recently approved by KDADS and KDHE. This proposal for \$2.5 million in one-time funding would help fund a total project start-up cost of \$12-\$15 million to establish a PACE Center and program to support the three counties. The funding will leverage local dollars through a fundraising effort (\$5 million) with Midland Care financing the remaining amount (\$4.5 to \$8.5 million). Ongoing operational costs will be sourced from Medicaid and Medicare funds. There are currently 1,370 seniors eligible for PACE in these three counties. The persons eligible for PACE are 55 years of age and older, have difficulty living by themselves without support, are eligible for nursing home level type of care and are eligible for state Medicaid assistance. The expansion of PACE to these three counties would meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact to older adults at risk for premature nursing home placement. PACE expansion will fill a gap to provide needed support and wrap around services to underserved, vulnerable and frail older adults in order to keep them at home and in their community.
Health & Education	Senior Services	Strengthening the Kansas Aging Network-Northeast Kansas Aging and Disability Resource Center and Congregate Meal Site	Northeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (NEKAAA)	\$1,100,000	This funding request submitted to the SPARK committee will support the construction of a new Aging and Disability Resource Center and congregate meal site to improve accessibility to services for vulnerable Kansans and to strengthen the Aging Network through Kansas State Plan on Aging strategies to reach older adults, caregivers, advocates and Kansans in need of resources to maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life. This center will provide "single point of entry" access to a comprehensive system of services delivered through the Older Americans Act, Senior Care Act and KDADS programs that address the social determinants of health and will impact the well-being of older Kansans. Combined with the construction of a KDOT supported rural transit hub, this innovative center leverages funding to maximize the impact of SPARK investments and supports sustainable programming through the one-time use of funds. This project fosters long-term systemic impact through increased access to services and ensures equitable opportunities and outcomes for underserved individuals with unmet needs. These support services and nutrition resources address the needs of older adults who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

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Health & Education	Behavioral health	Strengthen and Develop IT infrastructure and network modernization	Substance Abuse Center of Kansas	\$599,137	Funding will be an investment into IT infrastructure and network modernization. Project supports implantation of a new Credible EMR that enhances SACK's ability to coordinate services with SUD, Mental Health service providers, medical providers, local and state government agencies expediting access to care, care coordination, data collation toward identifying gaps in services and development of new services. Several SUD and CMHC's are actively using or implementing Credible EMR allowing us to care coordinate across disciplines, share data toward enhancing services, reducing cost while increasing appropriate care. SACK is implementing Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) services in rural areas where this service is not available. To provide this service in rural areas we must have the ability to e-prescribe as required by law for controlled substances. The Credible EMR will support this service. During the last 2 years, SACK has had to develop and provide services virtually due to COVID-19. This includes facilitating assessments, care coordination, and treatment. EMR enhancement would include integration of electronic signatures, and support the continuation and/or expansion of virtual services needed in the rural areas.
Health & Education	Behavioral health	Expand Supported Housing and Recovery Housing	KDADS	\$25,000,000	ARPA funding will be used to provide evidence-based Housing First Pathways model of supported housing and Oxford House recovery housing as well as additional promising practices related to recovery housing. Housing First is a team-based approach to supported housing that provides assistance to individuals with disabilities in finding permanent affordable housing and Oxford House is a peer-based recovery-oriented model that utilizes shared occupancy for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. The program aligns with the agency's adoption of Housing First policy goals. Additionally this program will meet all six of the SPARK guiding principles because the program will leverage existing HUD and KanCare funding to cover ongoing costs after the ARPA funding ends. This will allow for one-time investment that creates systemic change and provides equitable as well as measurable housing outcomes for persons with disabilities in the community. In terms of flexibility it offers a scalable solution in the form of an evidenced-based practice. It will directly support Kansas' recovery and resilience by reducing the chronic homelessness of people with disability.
Health & Education	Disability Services	Employment First and Supported Employment Enhancements for People with Disabilities	KDADS	\$75,000,000	ARPA funding will be used to provide evidence-based Individual Placement & Support (IPS) model supported employment. This team-based approach to supported employment provides assistance to individuals with disabilities in finding competitive employment and maintaining it. The program aligns with the state's adoption of Employment First policy goals. Additionally this program will meet all six of the SPARK guiding principles because the program will leverage existing Voc Rehab and KanCare funding to cover ongoing costs after the ARPA funding ends. This will allow for one-time investment that creates systemic change and provides equitable and measurable employment outcomes for persons with disabilities in the workforce. In terms of flexibility it offers a scalable solution in the form of an evidenced-based practice. It will directly support Kansas' recovery and resilience by reducing the unemployment of people with disability.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	175th Street Business Park	City of Olathe, KS	\$7,500,000	These funds from the SPARK Grant in collaboration with additional funding from area property owners and developers will be used to construct Hedge Lane from 167th Street to 175th Street. The impact of the construction of this road will be felt for decades to come as it will allow for this area to achieve its full potential. Currently this area is south Olathe is under-utilized due to the current condition of the unimproved road (currently gravel) which cannot support the planned development. These funds will be used specifically to off-set costs that will be incurred by Project Acura, a project the Kansas Department of Commerce is in the midst of recruiting. This project has a planned capital investment of \$275 million for a new 1.2 million square foot manufacturing facility and will retain 400-500 jobs in the State of Kansas. These funds will cover Project Acura's portion of the cost for the roadway improvements. Beyond the retained jobs, the investment will impact not only the direct area, but the State as a whole
Economic Revitalization	Business	Agricultural entity IT modernization grants	KDA	\$2	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services, Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans
Economic Revitalization	Business	BASE Program Expansion	Commerce	\$200,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Business	Besse Hotel Conference Center	City of Pittsburg, KS	\$5,000,000	The Besse Hotel was developed in 1925 by a group of civic leaders to address a need for space for business people and conventioners to meet in a growing community. It was the showcase of Pittsburg and the center of downtown life until 1979. After a brief period as low-income housing and years of neglect, it was acquired by a developer at auction in 2018. Pittsburg is once again in growth mode and a recent study indicates a strong need for a conference center tied to a hotel. It is time to revitalize this landmark by re-imagining its original purpose in a contemporary context. The Besse Hotel connected to a conference center can once again play a defining role in the community's future progress, and as such represents a force for economic revitalization and support for the restaurant and hospitality sectors as well as providing a market and environment for business development. This request is to support the findings of the recent study and the plans of the current owner by providing complementary funding of \$5M (about 1/3 of the total cost) for the development of an appropriately-sized conference center, with parking, connected to the Besse Hotel. This funding would leverage an estimated \$32M in funding for the entire project.

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Economic Revitalization	Business	Bio and Ag Innovation: an economic development focused proposal aligned with Kansas State University's Economic Prosperity Plan	Kansas State University	\$50,000,000	As outlined in its bold Economic Prosperity Plan, Kansas State University is deploying its strengths in biosecurity, including vaccine development and molecular diagnostics, and food and agriculture, to address current and emerging problems and drive statewide recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first part of project will provide pilot scale capabilities in the university's Biosecurity Research Institute for company/university collaborative advancement of promising drug and therapeutic candidates and vaccine development under biocontainment protocol to support development of countermeasures for animal, human, and zoonotic diseases. To further increase options for corporate partners and drive economic revitalization in Kansas, we also propose the development of a Bio/Ag Innovation Building with flexible industry colocation space that can accommodate laboratories, office space, collaborative product development space, training and demonstration space. Developments will also include a biomanufacturing training suite and an Agronomy Innovation & Production Optimization Center to provide industry instruction and partnership research spaces needed to develop in-demand technical staff for existing and future companies in the state.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Building Renovations	Kansas State Fair	\$950,000	Creature comfort - air conditioning, is needed in the 4H Centennial Hall and the Oz Gallery. We were unable to use the Oz Gallery at the 2021 State Fair because the temperatures in the building the previous Fair got so high that our volunteers left the building and people stopped coming in. Over the past several years, we have also heard from 4H that the temperature in that building is also extreme. We have purchased fan systems to circulate the air better but doesn't help much. Estimated cost is approximately \$250,000 for each of the buildings. We are finalizing quotes right now. b. We are finalizing the renovations on the EXPO Center, our main equine facility on the campus, but didn't have enough funds to finish all of the projects needed. These include new arena railings, fan systems, sound system, restroom renovations, replacing the footing in the arena (dirt), and concrete infill – area around the arena that holds the arena fencing. Estimated total to finish the project - \$450,000.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Pioneer Country Development, Inc.	\$2,000,000	Pioneer Country Development, Inc. (PCDI) is a 501(c)3, non-profit, Certified Development Company by the Small Business Administration. Although originally limited to the 18 northwest Kansas counties, SBA now allows CDCs to package and service SBA 504 business loans anywhere in the State of Kansas, but our current revolving loan funds are limited to the 18 counties in northwest Kansas. We are requesting \$2,000,000 in funding to increase our revolving loan funds and be allowed to utilize them to leverage other business loans completed throughout the State of Kansas. Both PCDI and the NWKP&DC are involved in economic development activities in the region and both organizations are managed by the same executive director and many of the same board members. Typically, all business loan activity is run through PCDI, while the community infrastructure activities are run through the NWKP&DC. Both organizations work for the betterment of the region. When completing a business loan package, most of the time, it includes several funding sources. For example, we may use the SBA 504 loan for building and equipment and then need revolving loan funds for inventory or working capital (which the SBA 504 loan will not fund).
Economic Revitalization	Business	CDFI for Rural Kansas	PB USA	\$1,000,000	As part of the Recovery efforts there is money for financially distressed business owners under the SSBCI initiative. In Kansas this is roughly 50 million. The opportunity of a start up 1- 10 million dollar investment to create a CDFI specific for rural communities state-wide with a reach-out to any bank in the state that would like to participate would be a game changer for revitalization in our rural communities. The Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City would be able to provide guidance as well as FDIC and the OCC.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Commerce: AI Lead Generation	Commerce	\$500,000	
Economic Revitalization	Business	Destination Playscape	Exploration Place	\$20,000,000	<p>SPARK funds will allow the development of a major new tourist destination on the 20-acre riverfront property surrounding Exploration Place, the leading science and technology museum in Kansas.</p> <p>Inspired by successful projects in competitor states, the project will create a highly-accessible, family-friendly educational park filled with world-class adventure play, splash pads, gardens and trails, performance spaces, outdoor classrooms and other amenities.</p> <p>In addition to providing Kansas residents with an exciting new community amenity and improved quality of life, the project will significantly enhance Wichita as a regional tourism destination. Projections show 185% attendance growth to more than 1 million visitors annually; and a quadrupling of annual visitor spending to more than \$27 million, supporting 1,127 FTE.</p> <p>This project meets all the SPARK guiding principles including long-term systemic impact through increased travel and tourism spending. It builds on an existing public-private partnership, and maximizes Exploration Place's existing focus on equitable outcomes. Adding outdoor facilities to an indoor attraction will provide significant resilience against the effects of future Covid-19 variants and pandemics.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Business	Diversification into aerospace defense related services and growth of flight test capabilities at Bombardier Wichita site	Learjet, Inc	\$27,000,000	Bombardier is proposing to create a Defense Security & Counterintelligence Agency (DCSA) approved facility, headquartered in Wichita, which is anticipated to add 200 permanent jobs. The one-time investment of SPARK funds supports the expansive efforts associated with physical and cyber security in the creation of the segregated defense facility. It also enhances the flight test data acquisition, telemetry, and processing capabilities through building systems integration labs and a paint and processing line for manufactured parts. These capabilities will enable defense prime contractors to conduct the bench and integration tests and service of mission systems in Wichita. The entity will address US defense needs as well as international programs, contributing to both Kansas and US GDP growth. The investment will build resiliency into the aviation segment, promote upskilling/reskilling and innovation, and prevent work leakage to other states in areas of defense related advanced technology and flight test capability. Annual economic benefits in excess of \$100M are contemplated as a result of this investment.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Eastside Business & Economic Development Center (EBDC)	Topeka Latino Professionals Association	\$1,250,000	The Hispanic population has increased by 13% since the last Census count and is rapidly growing. The Eastside Business & Economic Development Center (EBDC) will serve as an entity to support the growth and development of Hispanic businesses by creating strong, sustainable Hispanic owned businesses in the high-risk area of the community where services can be reached by the general population. The EBDC will house business support services such as counseling, skills development, training, workshops, and long-term programming that supports Hispanic businesses. This model will also address the current language barriers, access to resources, counseling, access to capital and general business services. The pandemic has been the source of thousands of business failures across the country. The Center will serve as a tool to prepare entrepreneurs, equip businesses, create jobs, and bridge the gap between the broader and underserved business community. The goal of this proposal is to address systemic cultural long-term barriers of trust, language, and accessibility.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Edwards County Business Revitalization	Edwards County Economic Development	\$2,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to create a business revitalization program in Edwards County to aid in economic recovery of the county, support new and existing businesses, and aid in the elimination of blight. The use of the SFRF funds to revitalize businesses will encourage a one-time use of funds that will also leverage local funding and investments while producing long-term systemic impact for Kansans. The project will address equitable opportunities and outcomes by revitalizing underserved communities and will be easily trackable to ensure transparency. The project will provide matching grants for new and existing businesses to make physical improvements to their business infrastructure. Revitalization of business areas will directly support recovery from the pandemic by supporting existing businesses who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and encouraging new business and infrastructure improvements to further revitalize this underserved rural area. Grants for business maintenance and improvements will help to offset the increased cost of building created by the pandemic and strengthen the resilience of businesses, the cities, county, and Kansas as a whole.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Establishing Kansas as a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence	Enterprise KC	\$78,000,000	This application is based on Establishing Kansas as a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence which EKC developed for the Department of Commerce. It establishes programs and infrastructure to rebuild the state's economy and benefit all Kansans. The projects will: 1. Create the most experientially trained cyber workforce in the country by partnering with industry and academia to build multiple cyber educational pathways, including K-12, higher ed., and continuing education. 2. Re-tool the talent supply chain to produce more diverse, skilled, and workforce-ready cyber graduates. 3. Increase federal funds for cyber research at state universities and enterprises and ensure that research is commercialized here. 4. Establish shared secure research hubs to conduct cyber research and a shared state-of-the-art cyber range to simulate real-world learning and cyber R&D testing. 5. Accelerate job growth through industry-led initiatives that foster cyber enterprise growth and new cyber startups in the state. 6. Align state resources to support an economic and academic infrastructure that ensures graduates and retiring military remain here, enterprises grow here, and the state becomes a magnet for enterprises and talent to relocate here.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Excelerate Opportunity	Greater Topeka Partnership	\$2,000,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of business development grants and professional services for microbusinesses operating in the City of Topeka Kansas/Shawnee; with emphasis on strengthening economically-disadvantaged minority business enterprises. The development of these targeted businesses will meet several SPARK guiding principles including the consideration of equitable outcomes; combined with leveraging local funds to maximize the use of discretionary funds. SPARK funds will be used to address the negative economic impacts which have led to high worker shortages in areas hit hard by the pandemic; especially workers of color and diminished revenues for their businesses.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Food safety licensing reimbursements	KDA	\$6,000,000	Food safety licensees were hard hit early in the pandemic when consumers were not eating out at restaurants. By offsetting license fees for one year would help overcome some of the initial Covid impacts

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Economic Revitalization	Business	Freedmen's Impact Investment Seed and Venture Capital Initiative	Freedmen's International Bancshares Inc.	\$150,000,000	Freedmen's International Bancshares Inc., was established in the State of Kansas March 3, 2021, as a De Novo Minority Depository Institution Bank Holding Company by the founder and Chairman Murray D. Anderson Sr., to leverage \$150 mil of the STATE OF KANSAS ARP resources to produce up to \$5 Bn IN AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL AND CONSUMER CREDIT IN SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. TOTAL AVAILABLE CREDIT \$7.5 BILLION by raising not less than \$2.5 billion in private capital through an innovative global high economic impact diversity, inclusion and equity initiative lens that shall drive our effort to ensure the State of Kansas and the UGWYCOCKCK ARP resources help close the RACIAL WEALTH GAP by embedding a {US Treasury Issued MDI-BHC Net Asset Value Tier 1 Capital Support Agreement} into the FIBI offering. gaining equal access to the fundamental transformational instruments of credit at the office of US TREASURY required to SCALE MDI banks to adequately fund the EQUITY CAPITAL requirements of MBE in the African American LMI communities, SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR Furthermore, the African community in the State Kan does not have a sustainable well-capitalized black owned seed and venture capital entity and or Equity fund.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Groover Labs CyberLink	Groover Labs, Inc.	\$2,300,000	The Groover Labs CyberLink project will promote cybersecurity technology innovation and job creation in Kansas. Knowmadics, a cutting-edge Virginia-based cybersecurity company, has committed to establishing a significant operation at Groover Labs and will serve as the anchor company that will draw other cybersecurity startups and events. The CyberLink project consists of the following: -Development of 5,000sf of unused space on the 2nd floor of Groover Labs. Includes 1,000 sf of secure lab space in addition to general office and meeting spaces, capable of hosting up to 30 cybersecurity specialists. -Completion of 5,000sf of office and meeting space on the 1st floor of Groover Labs. This will provide flexible collaborative office space for up to 75 additional tech workers and allow us to fully leverage Knowmadics' drawing power. -Purchase additional equipment for Prototyping Labs. Enhances Knowmadics' ability to provide training in vehicle concealment and deep installs, and provides opportunities for rapid prototyping. -Complete current facility opened 1/25/20. Work is planned to reduce noise in our main lobby, finish our business services area, purchase necessary office furniture, and finish our outdoor work and event space.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Grow Wyandotte: An Initiative to Spur Economic Growth through Entrepreneurship	Unified Government of Wyandotte County Kansas City, KS	\$2,500,000	The pandemic has heightened our attention on gender and racial inequities caused by shifts in companies' workforce employment plans and job opportunities for Wyandotte County residents. Our community was hit particularly hard given we are the most racially diverse county in the state. As a result, we have highlighted the inadequacies of the systems and policies that support our local economy. To address these gaps by building a collaborative approach to grow our minority, women and disadvantaged entrepreneurial landscape, we believe the hardest hit sectors of our community could recover from the pandemic at a much faster rate. A collaborative program will be developed featuring three points of entry for small businesses, 1) Readiness - business training, financial literacy training, and collaboration and developing strategic partnerships, 2) Technical Assistance for potential or existing resident entrepreneurs with less than 25 employees using available existing curricula and partners, 3) Business Incubator Space - stabilizing our entrepreneurial landscape and creating jobs for residents by providing space and access to scalability resources for small business owners. 4) Mentoring and coaching assistance ongoing.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Growth of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul activities at the Bombardier Wichita Site	Learjet, Inc	\$8,500,000	Bombardier is proposing to expand its business jet maintenance, repair, and overhaul services (MRO) capabilities which is expected to add 100 permanent jobs. The investment allows for expansion of service center capacity by supporting the facility modifications and equipment required to repurpose our hangars, allowing us to perform additional aircraft inspections and repatriate market share from Canada and other states. Additionally, it supports the expansion of our tire change and overhaul capabilities. Approximately 3,000 tire change and overhauls are being denied due to lack of operational space yearly, expansion of tire change overhaul capabilities would increase volume 70%. This expansion will contribute to both Kansas and US GDP growth. The investment will build resiliency into the aviation segment, promote upskilling/reskilling, and aligns with South Central Kansas Regional Growth Plan and Kansas Framework for Growth through its focus on MRO. It leverages complementary investments in workforce development that will strengthen the Kansas workforce and promotes inward migration of skilled workers. Annual economic benefits in excess of \$15M are contemplated as a result of this investment.

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Economic Revitalization	Business	HIRE FUND 2.0	Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association	\$80,000,000	<p>KRHA, a 501 c6 non-profit organization that has been in business since 1929, could help create a clearinghouse program to distribute the funds to restaurant and hotel businesses across KS who have been and continue to be impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. In 2019 the Restaurant & Hospitality Industry was a vibrant and growing industry in KS accounting for \$5 billion in sales, 180,000 employees and more than a half billion in tax collections for our State. In the two years since, we have seen over 1,000 businesses close either temporarily, long term or permanently and more than 40,000 jobs lost in many, at need, communities. While there have been Federal programs to assist, many KS restaurants and hotels have been left out. Most recently, nearly 88% of KS restaurants accounting for \$218 Million in aid requests were left out of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). Without the funding, more than 50% of those who have not been helped will be closed. On the contrary, 94% said if they can get aid they would stay in business, retain their current employees and hire back those who have been let go. It is our hope that the Spark Committee could fund HIRE 2.0 to keep industry businesses open to serve their communities.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	IDEA-Kansas: Innovation Development, Education, and Advancement	CPM Group LLC (DBA "Creative Pathways & Means")	\$5,600,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to provide statewide support to state citizens and employers in the areas of applied creativity and innovation, widely recognized as one of the most vital skillsets businesses are seeking in the coming decade (second only to cloud computing skills). Funds requested will specifically go towards supporting the development of Innovation Development, Education, and Advancement (IDEA) centers.</p> <p>The development of these centers will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased public access to various workforce development services and products related to practical creativity and innovation training, the principle of sustainable programs due to the supporting business (CPM Group LLC), and the principle of ensuring equitable outcomes by prioritizing/triangling provision of services to people and businesses most disaffected by challenging economic conditions such as automation-driven layoffs, pandemics, resource deserts, etc.</p> <p>IDEA centers will operate in similar function and capacity as Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) do, offering workshops, training, certification, networking, & more.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Kansas Manufacturing Scale-Up Network	Great Plains Innovation Network	\$35,000,000	<p>The proposed program will be a collaboration between state, region, and local partners to establish and operate a network of multi-tenant manufacturing scale-up operations and provide business, manufacturing, and workforce development assistance services to their tenants. The program directly addresses frequently-cited missing critical innovation ecosystem elements for early-stage manufacturers: 1) ready access to affordable, well-equipped facilities that do not require upfront renovations and extensive utility upgrades, 2) direct operational support from a technical expertise network, and 3) ready access to workforce development partners and future employees.</p> <p>The locations will be a mix of urban and rural locations to ensure equitable opportunities and to meet the needs of entrepreneurs across the state seeking to start-up and grow manufacturing businesses. The goal of the program is to become self-sustaining within 5 years and to invest in assets now that will pay dividends in the future for the Kansas economy. This will be measured directly by the number of new businesses utilizing the facilities as well as the number of employees able to undertake hands-on-workforce training as a result of working for these companies.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	KS National Security Innovation and Bioinnovation and Sustainability Centers	KU Innovation Park	\$52,800,000	<p>The Park will utilize the funding for the construction of two new Park facilities: The Phase IV "KS National Security Innovation Center, a 80K sqft high-security office and dry-lab building; and Phase V "Bioinnovation and Sustainability Center," an 80K sqft wetlab facility. Phases IV/V will support the Park's efforts to build a regional information security & cyber defense industry cluster, and strengthen its existing biosciences cluster by building out highly specialized labs. This initiative will create the necessary critical-mass to enable the Park to achieve self-sustainability and develop responsively to demand over the next 15 years without the need for additional public funds. The total \$88M project will include the \$64M for the Phases IV/V, \$10M for sustainable infrastructure (parking, solar, native prairie restoration), and \$14M for innovation/entrepreneurship support programs. Both the Park and this project are built on a coalition of local, regional, state, federal, private, and non-profit stakeholders who will combine resources with this proposed investment to recruit, create, and retain innovative companies, retain skilled Kansas graduates to the region, and build a more modern, diverse, and resilient Kansas economy.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Meade County Incubators	Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.	\$1,560,000	<p>This project would provide a sustainable investment by building multiple incubator spaces to encourage private entrepreneurship. It would combine local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds available. It would foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans as the project would be continuing in nature. The project would consider equitable opportunities and outcomes as both Plains and Fowler have a significant minority population who would be eligible to use the incubator. Finally, the results would be measurable to enable tracking & transparency. In particular, Meade County Economic Development would expect to see a significant increase in both ad valorem, as well as, sales tax revenue growth from this project.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Mill and Overlay for asphalt areas on the Kansas State Fair Campus	Kansas State Fair	\$2,500,000	<p>Roads on the Kansas State Fairgrounds Campus are in need milling and overlay. There are areas where the asphalt is failing and could pose an issue for people using the facilities. We have started a mill and overlay schedule but with limited dollars we are only able to do small portions each year. Our Capital Improvement Budget allows for about \$125,000 to \$150,000 per year.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Business	National Institute for Materials Advancement (NIMA) Manufacturing Prove-Out Facility	Pittsburg State University	\$7,500,000	Pittsburg State University requests a \$7,500,000 allocation to expand the Tyler Research & Development Park by building and equipping the National Institute for Materials Advancement's (NIMA) Manufacturing Prove-Out Facility, a 15,000 to 20,000 sqft facility to assist and support regional entrepreneurs and innovators in moving conceptual products from proof-of-concept to pilot-scale and market assessment production. Currently, nearly all pilot scale and market assessment production is outsourced overseas due to the cost challenges associated with short-run production. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic exposed cracks in communities nationally, as some vulnerable groups have borne the brunt of the pandemic's impact. Low socioeconomic communities, such as those in Southeast Kansas, have struggled to keep businesses afloat with the resources available. Manufacturing industries, that could provide economic diversity to the region, need help in developing and producing new ideas that will allow them to grow and become self-sustaining. NIMA's Prove-Out Facility will provide catalytic, sustained, and transformational regional growth and economic diversity by much needed access to research, prototyping, and pilot production.
Economic Revitalization	Business	NetWorked for Growth: Harnessing the Power of Kansas Entrepreneurs	NetWork Kansas Partner and Community Networks	\$19,145,000	NetWork Kansas, its 550 nonprofit partners, and 66 community partners represent the most collaborative statewide network in the country. This proposal will build long-term, sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems across Kansas that meets all of Spark's guiding principles. Local Entrepreneurship support systems will infuse entrepreneurship programs in 80 communities, expand 7+ minority and women owned businesses initiatives in rural and urban communities, expand youth entrepreneurship competitions that already support 50+ communities, expand impact investing initiatives with community foundations, support programs to alleviate food deserts, expand makerspace initiatives in 8 counties and 2 cities, provide technical assistance to frontier communities, and extend leadership programming to develop entrepreneurial ecosystems. Regional and statewide initiatives include supporting regional capital assistance providers, technology/commercialization, manufacturing, mentoring and technical assistance for entrepreneurs across all segments. The result of this effort will be to harness the power of entrepreneurship in Kansas residents to start and grow businesses that solve community issues and grow local, regional, and state economies.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Next-Generation Digital Factory for Classified Aerospace Production	Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. (Spirit)	\$8,000,000	Funding will be utilized to stand-up infrastructure and processes necessary to move South Central KS commercial aerospace manufacturing base into the digital age and diversify into new-to-Kansas classified aerospace defense programs. By creating this infrastructure, SPARK funding would directly help the region recover from the significant downturn in the aerospace industry that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic through creation of new jobs and regional supply chain opportunities, as well as strengthen the manufacturing workforce by training and up-skilling employees to operate within next-generation digital environments. Project will also help keep the South Central KS aerospace workforce on the leading edge of manufacturing technology and globally competitive as new efficiencies are gained from this novel approach. Project will create 350 new sustained jobs, capture strategic diversified statements of work for the Kansas supply base, and grow up-skilled employees who will be uniquely competitive in the digital age. Base infrastructure will be built upon to pursue additional opportunities with similar requirements, positioning funds to have a compounding regional effect.
Economic Revitalization	Business	Nomar Business Incubator and Commercial Kitchen	Empower Evergreen (Empower)	\$5,100,000	Empower provides the Hispanic community with educational opportunities, work-readiness preparation, and small business development resources in a culturally inviting, bilingual, and comfortable space for the purpose of empowering individuals and families to improve their financial stability and economic self-sufficiency. We emphasize equitable opportunities and outcomes while fostering long-term systemic impact for these residents. Our partners include local government, universities, non-profits, foundations, and private individuals/businesses who realize the benefit that will derive from our efforts. This application seeks support for renovating three empty buildings in Wichita's North End Nomar District into space to house and incubate start-up micro-restaurants and retailers. Designed as a vibrant community gathering place for public dining, shopping, art, music, and cultural celebration, the facility will draw visitors from across the region. Through Empower's investment in this new facility and programs, combined with intentional community-building and place-making efforts, this new public visitor destination will become a catalyst for wider revitalization of the Nomar District, bringing outside investment into the area.

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Economic Revitalization	Business	Project DREAM - Digital Revitalization Ecosystem for Advanced Manufacturing	Viaanix Inc.	\$30,000,000	<p>Internet of Things (IoT)--Once made of mechanical and electrical parts, products are now complex systems of connected hardware, sensors, data, processors, and software. Kansas companies can't keep up with new, "smart" competitors and will eventually SHUTDOWN within the next decade leading to more negative economic impact due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No IoT innovation Large capital outlays Low specialized workforce availability Reduced bargaining power Threat of new, outside entrants Unsustainable hiring of IoT team solely for their use case No room for trial and error <p>Viaanix is a 10-year-old Kansas company specializing in IoT ENABLEMENT nationwide. We want to create a SELF-SUSTAINING IoT transformation ecosystem in Kansas where revenue remains in Kansas. We want to fill the following gaps outlined by the KANSAS FRAMEWORK FOR GROWTH (KFG) in Advanced Manufacturing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HELP Kansas' small & medium size companies & enable IoT and cover their initial capital costs OFFER a turnkey IoT ecosystem & infrastructure GENERATE awareness & assistance programs BUILD an IoT manufacturing plant to meet a projected 30.9 billion IoT devices installed by 2025 & gain federal contracts CREATE curriculum for state colleges for workforce development by installing IoT hardware
Economic Revitalization	Business	Project OMIF	Nueterra Capital / October Minority Impact Fund	\$5,000,000	<p>The intended use of the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to improve the flow of capital to minority business enterprises across Kansas, with a dual mandate of investing in early-stage companies founded by people of color and generating attractive, risk-adjusted equity returns to our investors. In addition to capital, emphasis will be placed on providing founders with operational and strategic support in the form of mentorship, networking, and free working space to maximize growth and long-term value creation. OMIF's mission of addressing the racial and ethnic wealth gap through entrepreneurship meets the following SPARK guidelines: 1) Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans, 2) Consider equitable opportunities and outcomes, 3) Enable flexibility within investment strategies, 4) Ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency, 5) Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services, 6) Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Repositioning South Central Kansas Small Businesses for the New Normal	Sevenfold by Hutton	\$468,000	<p>Our aim is to use these funds to help small businesses in South Central Kansas rethink their business models in light of the recent tectonic shift in the business landscape. A constellation of factors—including staff shortages, hybrid work, supply chain disruption, inflation, childcare concerns, etc.—has created a new normal for businesses. This new normal demands a rethinking of how they will succeed in the future.</p> <p>Sevenfold has spent the past 15 months developing an approach to business model innovation specifically for turbulent contexts. Our goal is to broaden the deployment of this approach to support impacted businesses who need fresh ways of thinking at a critical time. We intend to fund this mission by hiring 3 full-time employees for 18 months.</p> <p>But our goal goes beyond serving individual businesses. By equipping a large number of small businesses in their capacity to innovate and adapt, we can achieve a network effect. The 2018 Chung Report suggests that Wichita's ability to "adjust to changing conditions" can make or break its economy. By helping a large number of small businesses adapt to new realities, the cumulative effect can put a dent in this long-term and more systemic economic challenge in S. Central Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Revive lodging in Hesston	AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN	\$1,500,000	<p>We would intend to use to funds to revive an existing lodging establishment in Hesston, KS. The lodging establishment were severing negatively hit by COVID-19 and still are on the recover mends. We unfortunately were not able to retain staff as we were barely being able to pay the basic bills. I would like to innovate the hotel into a more modern COVID-19 establishment. Covid has changed the mind set of travelers and in order to accommodate the new mind set we need to make a lot of improvements that would prevent disease spread.</p> <p>By doing so we would naturally be able to improve our occupancy rate as we are striving to make guest feel secure of using our establishment and safe about their health and well being. We would be able to recreate a workforce and recruitment members within our society that need a career. We would have 15 to 20 employees on staff between shifts. For a population of 4000 that would be a huge support.</p> <p>We have unfortunately lost a lot of small businesses through this pandemic. I want to survive but need help.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Business	Save Our Screens	Theatre Owners of Mid-America	\$10,000,000	<p>TOMA is applying for a grant to support Sunflower State cinemas. The state can use SFRF funds to assist businesses that were disproportionately hit by the pandemic. Almost no other industry continues to experience the same level of continued economic disruption as that suffered by movie theaters.</p> <p>Given our industry’s continued challenges, a one-time grant program of \$20,000 per screen would throw a critical lifeline to help cinemas bridge the pandemic and contribute to the state’s broader economic recovery. There are around 60 cinema companies operating more than 450 screens at over 90 locations across the state. These movie theaters, more than nearly any other businesses, continue to grapple with supply chain bottlenecks exacerbated by the pandemic—including the continuous delays of tentpole movie releases due to the pandemic.</p> <p>A grant program would provide cinema exhibitors with needed financial support to cover fixed costs (ex: rent, property taxes, utilities) and continue to pay employees—including young first-time job holders, as well as individuals with disabilities and elderly persons. The program would have a measurable, long-term economic impact for the state’s movie theater industry and the communities they serve.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Southeast Kansas Economic Revitalization Initiative	Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission	\$8,000,000	<p>The intended use for funds requested to the SPARK committee is to utilize the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) as a conduit to conduct specific activities related to Economic Revitalization providing immediate and long-term regional impact. The SEKRPC is currently seeking seed money to launch major impact initiatives in-line with our current Economic Development Strategy. The Small Business Initiative will provide grants/loans to: new/expanding incubators, co-working spaces, child care facilities, and reuse projects. The Workforce Housing Initiative will create a Regional Housing Authority designed to build workforce housing consisting of, but not limited to: construction of new units, rehab of old stock, in-fill, single family, multi-family, downtown living. SEKRPC will develop and operate the programs to be sustainable fostering long-term systemic impact for southeast Kansas. The southeast region has long been the most economically depressed region of the State. These initiatives are designed to change the trajectory from decline to long-term growth by providing facilities to encourage entrepreneurship & innovation as well as addressing the housing crisis to retain and bring workforce back to our region.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	SPARKING Kansas Start-ups	Enterprise Center in Johnson County	\$10,000,000	<p>Business growth has been negatively impacted during the COVID -19 pandemic and is still slow to recover. Kansas ranks 39th in states favorable to business start-ups. There are significant gaps in funding for Kansas start-ups and micro-businesses. The largest gap in the funding continuum for entrepreneurs is in the seed stage requiring \$50-\$150k for commercial launch. There are several successful evergreen fund models in multiple regions across the country. These successful regions have significant investments from state governments. Women, founders of color, and rural entrepreneurs have been disproportionately negatively impacted by the pandemic and historically overlooked in access to capital. Creating a more inclusive funding mechanism to seed promising early-stage firms will create a lasting economic impact on Kansas for decades. Success from seed-stage to angel investment requires a more robust and diverse early-stage funding network. This funding proposal addresses the guiding principles for the Spark committee. The infusion of this funding mechanism provides an evergreen result as well as a focus on inclusive principles for all Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Business	Strengthen, Grow, and Diversify Ecosystem of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Kansas	NXTUS	\$1,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem locally and around Kansas, helping connect entrepreneurs and start-ups to capital and resources to help grow their businesses. NXTUS pursues this mission through the following efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and implementing relevant programs most applicable for our local entrepreneurial ecosystem. • Helping entrepreneurs secure capital through facilitation and growth of a NXTUS managed angel investment syndicate, Accelerate Venture Partners (AVP). • Helping entrepreneurs identify and connect with prospective customers ready to implement their innovative products and services via NXTSTAGE Pilot Competitions. • Facilitating mentorship of entrepreneurs with real-world business experience. • Building awareness and engagement between regional and national entrepreneurship support organizations, entrepreneurial founders, and local funders. • Promoting the inclusion of entrepreneurs as leaders in key business and community organizations

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Economic Revitalization	Business	The Bison Arena	Kansas State Fair	\$20,000,000	<p>Statement of Need:</p> <p>i. The Bison Arena, located on the campus of the Kansas State Fairgrounds, was constructed in 1937. The Works Progress Administration-built structure, originally known as the 4-H Club Livestock Pavilion, was used over the years for livestock events, animal shows, antique tractor pulling contests, and other events. During World War II, the arena was used by the Navy as a training center. The attractive masonry building, which has an abundance of natural light and a wooden, barrel-vaulted roof structure, totals approximately 41,000 square feet. The facility was last used for shows during the 2019 Kansas State Fair, after which the Fire Marshall (following several years of expressing concern), deemed the building unsafe for public use.</p> <p>ii. Recently, conversations were resumed to re-imagine the use of this iconic structure and to transform it into a showcase facility for an Agriculture Learning and Innovation Center. This Ag Innovation Center would be used year-round to educate all ages and highlight Kansas Agriculture and the bright future that agriculture has for the State of Kansas. Working with the State of Kansas Agriculture Education Coordinator, curriculum will be created to teach students statewide about agriculture, the commodity groups, where food comes from, the farm-to-table process, and job opportunities. In addition, this building can serve as a space for conventions, trainings, and social events when available. The Kansas State Fair Facility Rental staff will work closely with Visit Hutch to secure large events now that space will be available. The location of this building also provides convenient access to other potential meeting spaces on the Kansas State Fair Campus, including the Encampment Building, The Education Center, Cottonwood Court as well as other event spaces within walking distance of this building.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	1800 Units of High Quality Workforce Housing Within 3 Years	City of Salina, Ks	\$65,000,000	<p>This project is requesting 65 million dollars in gap funding for a project that would provide 1800 units of much need high-quality market-rate rental housing and a childcare facility for 60 children. These 1800 units are divided into two project sites. Penleigh Gardens is located off of I-135 and Magnolia Rd with 1300 units; 950 units of garden style apartments, 150 cottage homes and 200 active adult 55+ apartments. Property amenities will include walking trails, pet parks, pools, and a YMCA with childcare for 60 kids. Penleigh Commons is the second site, creating 500 new housing units on West Crawford. This property would improve three blighted properties in an LMI tract and include the same amenities as Penleigh Gardens.</p> <p>This project will be meet the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services -one time investment *Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds -Public/Private partnership * Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans Yes *Consider equitable opportunities and outcomes Yes *Ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency Track time, units, and rent
Economic Revitalization	Housing	3D Printed Housing Project	Finney County Economic Development Corp	\$2,000,000	<p>Finney Co. Economic Dev. Corp partnered with High Plains Housing Development to secure Community Service Tax Credits for the funding of Kansas' first ever 3D printed housing development. A rental development has been designed in Holcomb to introduce rapid concrete housing to the market and prove the concept. This new technology can position us to meet some of the immediate needs for workforce housing in the surrounding region. We are requesting \$2,000,000 in funding to be contributed to the non-profit housing developer to fill the gap on this project and to prove the 3D printed housing model for all of Kansas.</p> <p>In Finney County alone, we currently have over 3,000 open positions in our growing industries. Simultaneously, we have fewer than 300 people who self-identify as being in the job market and only 26 receiving unemployment benefits. Rapid construction of housing is necessary in the immediate future to meet our workforce demands and is critical to attracting workers from outside of Kansas. Previously, communities met housing demand during peak growth periods by utilizing mobile homes. However, mobile homes are not real property and do not serve to grow the real property tax base the way rapid concrete housing units will.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Affordable Net Zero Housing	SENT Inc	\$600,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to provide gap funding (\$60k/home) for SENT's Net Zero housing project. SENT worked with K-State to develop a Net Zero home that could be developed in the Hi-Crest community. The concept considered energy usage and mental health concepts, and the use of native vegetation, all in efforts to decrease the cost of ownership and impact to the environment. These will not only be Hi-Crest's first Net Zero homes but Topeka's first Net Zero homes.</p> <p>These homes will be tied to the grid like ordinary homes but will be so air-tight, well insulated, and energy-efficient that they produce as much renewable energy as they consume over the course of a year, leaving the occupants with a net-zero energy bill and a carbon-free home. A zero energy home is not just a "green home" or a home with solar panels. A zero energy home combines advanced design and superior building systems with energy efficiency and on-site solar panels to produce a better home. Zero energy homes are ultra-comfortable, healthy, quiet, sustainable homes that are affordable to live in.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Aging Well Senior Living	Aging Well, Inc	\$150,000	<p>Aging Well, Inc is a non-profit organization that is passionate about building an innovative senior living campus where elder's lives are purposeful not passive, staff are motivated by person not process, and the environment is intentional not institutional. The local, volunteer Board of Directors is and will continue to provide direction. The campus will be built on undeveloped land located on the west side of Junction City. The large piece of land allows for building a true continuum of services as well as sense of neighborhood and community. Phase 1 of the planning involves building three small homes that will provide long term care services to 36 seniors plus an additional home providing 14 assisted living apartments. The total project cost for Phase 1 is estimated at \$13.5 million. Phase 2 of planning would include building independent living duplexes and apartments, a clubhouse, and office space for health care partners. As our mission states, our focus will be on a family style approach to care and living rather than traditional nursing home methods. Our market study completed in 2019 shows there is an unmet need for services in the Geary County for additional long term care beds and assisted living apartments.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Attacking the Housing Crisis in Rural Kansas by Expanding NCK Tech's Construction Trades Programs	North Central Kansas Technical College (NCK Tech)	\$19,000,000	<p>The funds requested are to support the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. building, finished with new equipment, furnishings and adjoining parking lot. This will increase our ability to train Kansans in Construction Trades Programs (Carpentry, Plumbing/Heating/AC & Electrical Technology) and CDL Program on our Hays Campus. This will allow us to increase capacity and enrollment, as we have wait lists due to space constraints. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles by investing in one-time use of funds and programs that will be sustained long-term through revenue obtained from increased enrollment and tuition; fostering long-term systemic impact of Kansas by expanding a strong, trained workforce; providing equitable opportunities to students served by our technical college; and providing results that are measurable and tracked through established college practices and protocols. The funding request includes new facilities and lab spaces, advanced equipment, and outreach on educational opportunities to future students. The ability to fill jobs in northwest and north central Kansas will directly support Kansas' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the resilience of our rural communities.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Beloit Moderate Income Housing	City of Beloit	\$800,000	<p>Funding will be utilized as an incentive for developers to build 8 new duplexes (16 units) on City-owned lots. As a result of COVID inflated prices, new construction cost has increased by about \$85/sq ft in our area raising the cost of a proposed 2,400 SF duplex by \$102,000. This increase makes new construction impossible without builder incentives at a time when we need it most! Providing \$100,000 in incentives per duplex (8 total) will allow the units to be sold at affordable prices. The City of Beloit has seen a great increase of young families wanting to move into the city while also continuing to have an aging population that prefers to "age in place". Population growth, which truly started in response to urban residents moving from the cities during COVID, has resulted in housing availability dropping to less than a dozen homes. Also resulting from the pandemic, workforce shortages at our schools, hospital, manufacturers, and local businesses have exasperated the need for quality affordable housing to recruit new workforce. Rural communities will never be able to retain and recruit the talent needed to fill these critical positions without quality housing stock and infrastructure!</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Blight Remediation through Vacant House Demolition	City of Topeka	\$1,500,000	<p>Since the COVID-19 pandemic, vacant homes and properties have become a central issue in the Topeka and bolstering the existing federally-funded and locally-supported programs can help the City revitalize its blighted areas. Targeting these areas provides a significant benefit to socioeconomic and racial/ethnic equity because of the higher concentrations of blight in lower-income and majority non-white areas.</p> <p>This application meets the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans by stopping the blight cycle of decreasing home value, crime, and inequity, addressing this issue will provide long-term impacts for the lower-income Kansans that reside in these neighborhoods as well as a positive spillover effect to adjacent neighborhoods.</p> <p>These funds would be expended by providing additional funds for the city to acquire and demolish vacant property in order to promote local land/home values and generate equity for the residents in a sustainable way. This program specifically targets the economic revitalization priority area by promoting code compliance as well as encouraging economic investment and small business growth by improving the neighborhoods.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	BLVD Lofts	CHWC	\$650,000	The intended use of the funds requested is to support the utility and infrastructure development for a \$14 million workforce housing project called Boulevard Lofts, located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The project consists of fifty units of workforce/affordable housing, located adjacent to downtown and several community schools. The project is redeveloping a blighted parcel of land into living units focused around urban agriculture and health and wellness. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of economic revitalization for Kansans through increased access to workforce housing, talent recruitment and retention, workforce development, supporting infrastructure, and support for hard-hit sectors.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Building Affordable Neighborhoods Grant (BANG)	City of Augusta, Kansas	\$20,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission is to fund the cost of sewer and water infrastructure upgrades to support moderate income housing projects throughout the state. The soaring prices for new homes and construction materials as a result of pandemic related inflation and supply chain disruption is pushing the cost of home ownership beyond what is financially feasible for most Kansans.</p> <p>The purpose of the program is to reduce the cost to homeowners in moderate-income housing projects by utilizing SPARKS money to pay for water/sewer infrastructure improvements related to the housing development. The end user occupant benefits from not having to pay 10-15 years of special assessment taxes for water and sewer infrastructure, which lowers a major financial barrier to entry for new home owners.</p> <p>This program meets SPARKS principles by focusing investments on one-time infrastructure expenditures while providing long-term financial benefits to moderate income families. Tying the funding to projects awarded under KHRC MIH grant program ensures tracking and transparency. Housing costs become more affordable, creating more equitable opportunities for home ownership.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Capitalized Interest Fund for RHID Programs	Labette County Economic Development	\$5,000,000	The current tool of RHID allows for new housing developments to take place. This was already recognized by the legislature in reference to SB 90. The one short fall of the program is that it depends on FUTURE property taxes to be collected to make payments, this dictates a bond capitalization fund must be part of the bond issuance removing the project from reality in some instances, as this could represent as much as 10% of the total bonding amount. The funding of a capitalization from through ARPA funds could be utilized to close the gap. To meet ARPA fund conditions specifically, these funds would be being spent on infrastructure (fully allowable in ARPA funding) since by definition the RHID program can only be used for infrastructure, it cannot be used for housing or anything beyond the placement of infrastructure. The qualifications for RHID, being approved through the office of the Secretary of Commerce would then become the qualifications for the funding of no more than 10% of the RHID project through SPARK/ARPA funding program. This allows for the non-duplication of efforts and a built-in application approval process.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Cardinal Home Assistance Program	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$15,000	Eudora Schools and the Eudora Schools Foundation partner to ensure our Eudora students and their families are safe and secure within their homes. Many of our Cardinal families need assistance randomly throughout the year. The Cardinal Home Assistance Program helps our Cardinal families succeed at home, school, and work. Many of our families are classified as “working poor”. Parents are working more than one job just to be able to provide the basic necessities and even then are falling short sometimes. Eudora Schools staff have seen a large increase in assistance requests within our schools and our families over the past two years. This program will allow Eudora Schools and the Eudora Schools Foundation to work together to ensure the overall well-being of our students and their families by working with them to cover necessary housing expenses during hard times. Eudora School counselors will work with the Eudora Schools Foundation to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our students and their families. The Cardinal Home Assistance Program will help meet the growing needs over the next two years. This program is helping meet the SPARK guideline principle of combining with local funds to maximize use of discretionary funds.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Chanute Revitalization	Chanute Regional Development Authority (CRDA)	\$1,000,000	We are in a housing crisis. Shortages of housing stock, in particular quality housing stock, make business recruitment extremely difficult. If you don't have sufficient housing for the workers, the business goes elsewhere. This has been a major obstacle for our organization. You can't have a workforce without housing. This initiative would call for use of our land bank to establish a mechanism for funding housing initiatives. Our primary goal would be to find a cost-efficient method for new construction, for both in-fill and new sites, single family, multi-family, etc. Without it, we will remain in crisis mode rather than growth mode. This initiative would also be providing jobs. We would utilize local contractors and possible partner with building trades programs. Great towns have great downtowns. The CRDA continues to rehabilitate and provide assistance to save our structures and is the process of redeveloping a large structure that would provide 18 dwellings in downtown Chanute and save the existing buildings around said project. With assistance a project of this magnitude could change downtown Chanute for forever.

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	City of Kingman Down Payment Assistance Program	Kingman County Economic Development	\$200,000	The program will assist ten moderate income households (MIHHs) by providing \$20,000 in down payment assistance for the construction of new homes within a target location. The program will leverage local funds through providing lots, hookup fees, and permits at no cost. The program provides a long-term systemic impact through community growth, an increase in available housing, and an increase in the tax base. Equitable opportunities and outcomes are a priority among MIHHs which often need assistance but do not qualify for other income based programs. Flexibility can be attained through expansion of the program into a vacated lot program throughout the county and with additional funding. The results can be measured in the number of homes built and the economic impact of construction. Long term economic impact can also be measured and tracked. The increase in building costs associated with the pandemic has made new home construction particularly difficult for MIHHs. A down payment assistance program would help negate some of those costs while increasing the number of housing units within the community. The program would be coupled with the County's Neighborhood Revitalization Program to further benefit moderate income households.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	CRC CARES - Housing	Community Resource Council	\$100,000	CRC is working to reduce the ever growing problem of houselessness in Topeka, KS. Our CARES program helps individuals who otherwise do not qualify for home ownership programs transition from renters to home owners. We are founding members of the Shawnee County/Topeka Homeless Task Force and we have seen an increased need for truly affordable housing in a community where the average family income is only \$47,999/year. CRC fronts the down payments for vacant homes, rehabilitates the homes to fight neighborhood blight and creating safe residences for low-moderate households. Families are able to pay affordable rent that covers mortgage, taxes, and insurance. After completing education and providing regular on-time payments tenants are transitioned to homeowners.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Development of Haskell County Housing Stock & Child Daycare	SW Squared, LLC	\$1,500,000	Haskell County's largest impediments to economic growth are the lack of new housing stock and a lack of childcare for all families, but most especially lower income families. Due to the high cost of construction, we intend to develop at least 1 RHID consisting of 3 single family houses per year. We propose to accelerate the development of new housing stock in Haskell County by accelerating this development from 3 houses to 6 homes, doubling the number of new homes available to the community. Additionally, we propose to build a childcare center to address the fact that Haskell County has only one childcare center that is operated by the Sublette school district for its employees, but is closed to the public. The intent is to lease the facilities to a licensed child care provider or donate the facilities for a childcare center to a non-profit, such as the Satanta hospital. Our goal is to create more equitable opportunities for lower income and minority members of the community that are effectively shut out of the housing market by developing step up housing, and providing childcare services that are going unmet for large segments of Haskell County, especially those in the lower socioeconomic status.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Economic Development, building new single dwellings for citizens wanting to live here	Minneola Housing Authority	\$600,000	<p>The Minneola Housing Authority is a non-profit arm of the city. We build homes when funding is available. The homes are built in the \$190,000-\$200,000 range, with \$50,000 given to the purchaser for down-payment. We have multiple calls for purchase every time we build. The need is great, but funding is needed!</p> <p>The Hillshire Farms Cheese Factory is going to be built less than 20 miles away. Five dairies are slated to be built within 20 miles of the dairy. We anticipate that our small town with excellent schools, regional clinic and hospital, attached long term care unit, three churches, community owned grocery store, friendly business district, fitness center, and programs for youth of all ages, will be an attraction to those that want a peaceful "Mayberry" life!</p> <p>We have gained great experience working with the Kansas Housing Authority. We have built two duplex complexes and 4 single dwelling homes in the last 5 years, with grants from KHA. The demand continues to increase, and we are seeking funds to build more dwelling.</p> <p>We are in the process of purchasing 160 acres of ground attached to the community to start a new housing addition. This would be a great help toward providing the homes families are seeking!</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Emergency Repairs for low income households	NWKP&DC	\$300,000	Ideally the program would be run through the State of Kansas (KHRC) with much higher funding available as previous, however, NWKHI is a non-profit housing organization based in Hill City, Kansas. A program can be created and managed out of this office to create program guidelines, accept applications/verify eligibility and bid/coordinate work with area contractors. The budget should include 10% administration costs to run the program. Covid has made it difficult for families to pay for necessary emergency home repairs.

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Facilitating Expansion of Rural Housing	Kansas Means Agribusiness (Coalition) Members: Kansas Corn Growers, Kansas Farm Bureau, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation	\$50,000,000	This Coalition asked Is KS attracting and expanding agri-business? We learned growing ag means rural housing. Coalition asks for \$50 million SPARK funds for KS Housing Resource Corp Trust Fund for rural areas. Funds can be used in a revolving loan fund for workforce housing, especially the Moderate Income Housing program. Priorities: Combine/leverage local agency funds. KHRC programs use \$1 with \$6 match. Foster Long term systemic impact for Kansas. The Kansas Housing Study shows rural communities don't have proper housing. Provide equitable opportunities and outcomes. Towns with a heavy ag presence have a higher % of minority workers. Enable flexibility with investment strategies. This program allows communities to identify local needs. Ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency. KHRC measures outcomes. COVID brought people to Kansas. A quote from Zach Mannheimer, Atlas Community Studios, in a report to KDOC found that 67% of people living in all 5 surrounding states would consider moving to rural Kansas if housing were available. COVID absorbed rural housing inventory. This will make a lasting impact on rural Kansas. Rural communities have jobs for workers who can't fill the jobs unless they have housing.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Fremont Hill Phase 2	SENT Inc	\$2,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to aid in funding the needed site work(water/sewer, fiber, sidewalks) in the new Fremont Hill Phase 2 development. Kansas Gas and Evergy are committed to partnering if governmental assistance can also be provided. This \$100 million project is a part of a \$110 million investment in the Hi-Crest community. The total 29-acre development (phases 1 & 2) are expected to have an economic impact of \$164.4 million on the local economy over the first ten years after construction. Phase 2 will include 32 condos (20 % LMI properties). It will consist of a grocery store to help move Hi-Crest from being designated a food desert. It will have bus stops, retail space, a medical clinic, outdoor sports fields, a dog park, a skate park. It will also include a new community center that houses several non-profits, an early childhood education center, an indoor pool, Topeka's first branch library, and indoor youth sports facilities. The average condo cost in the development will be \$180k. The market rate and LMI homes will be interspersed. The project will require a total of \$4.5 million in site work. A portion of that has already been secured. The land is owned.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Gap Financing for Habitat Affiliates	Kansas Habitat Homes Advisory Council	\$9,000,000	This one-time use of funds allows Habitat affiliates to bridge a gap between construction costs & the house's appraised value which Habitat for Humanity International requires as sales price. The gap continues to grow due to the escalating material costs, labor, and land prices. The gap varies with build location and house size, but is a universal problem for all affiliates. This gap will cause affiliates to curtail building houses this year. Some affiliates have found the appraised value of the home is much higher than building costs which makes the prospective buyer unable to afford the home & vulnerable to housing bubbles. These affiliates provide a "silent mortgage". This subsidy decreases the affiliate's building capacity and can cause a long-term issue for homeowners and the affiliate if the value of the home lowers. Conversely, some affiliates find the appraised value of the home is up to \$45,000 less than building costs. Whatever side the gap is on, affiliates will have to limit the number of homes they build unless gap funding is provided. Keeping Habitat affiliates operating at optimal levels will aid in providing workforce housing in both rural and urban areas and support the fight against poverty and homelessness.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Gap-Financing Assistance - Effects of COVID-19 on Construction Materials on MID Program results.	Scott County Development Committee, Inc./City of Scott City	\$360,000	Intended use for the funds requested is to offer gap financing of \$30,000 for each of the twelve (12) homes to be purchased in the Moderate-Income Housing District. Funds would be distributed ONLY to the closing agent/mortgagor at the time of mortgage closing of the MIH home. Funds would not be paid directly to builder or homebuyer. Any funds remaining after the closing of the 12th and final home in the MIH District would be returned to the State as directed by the State. GUIDING PRINCIPLES ADDRESSED UNDER THIS PROPOSAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability preserved through one-time use of funds AND substantial expansion of existing services. Gap Financing Assistance provides a one-time use of funds (x 12) that provides lasting effect to the families of the MIH neighborhood, but also to the other residents in the Eastridge Subdivision. Expediting home construction to serve needs of entire community (population 4,113) is also achieved. Local leverage of funds maximizes effectiveness of grant funds. Leveraging of the City's prior investment of City water and sewer services in the MIH district shows the commitment by the community to do its part to foster growth. Scott City's investment in self makes the State's investment more secure! THANK YOU!
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hedge Lane Apartments	Hedge Land, LP	\$2,000,000	Covid has had a deleterious effect on almost all aspects of society. Supporting Economic Revitalization is critical to the recovery in Kansas, especially Impacted Communities like those making ≤ 60% AM. A lack of workforce housing affects a State/city's ability to attract new businesses and grow their tax base. Supply chain issues have significantly affected Hard Hit Sectors like multi-family development due to a 20% increase in construction materials. The additional cost and rental limitations make affordable housing construction impossible without governmental support. The \$2 million in funding will support a One-Time Capital Expenditure grant to realize a shovel ready \$30 million, 144-unit workforce housing project in the City of Shawnee, KS. The project, called Hedge Lane Apartments, will address a dire need for workforce housing in a quickly expanding industrial corridor along K-7. The project will serve an existing Amazon Distribution Center located 6 miles north, the newly planned 1 million sqft 43rd Street Logistic Park and the 2 million sqft Heartland Logistics Park planned by Burns & McDonnell among dozens of other commercial properties. This project will account for 37% of the City's demand for affordable housing.

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar - Meade County Housing	Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.	\$5,000,000	<p>This project would maximize investments through one-time use of funds to build approximately 76 houses in Meade County. Our goal would be to combine local/private money with agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds. By building housing to help meet the demand for employees associated with Hilmar dairy, it would foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans. Meade County Economic Development would consider equitable opportunities and outcomes when determining the guidelines for eligible applicants for purchasing of the homes.</p> <p>The goal of the project would be to take the funds given to help subsidize the construction of new homes. We would have a target construction cost of \$225,000/home. With a \$65,000 subsidy/home, we could offer the homes for sale at \$160,000.00. This cheaper rate would allow us to sell to low-to-moderate income individuals. By offering the homes to low-to-moderate income individuals, new employees would be able to establish roots and not be transitory. This would benefit local businesses, schools, and local governments.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Opportunity - Edwards County Housing	Edwards County , Kansas	\$8,325,000	<p>The funds requested ifrom the SPARK committee will support the development of workforce housing in Edwards County to fill an existing housing shortage and provide housing for a dairy development that will create 150 new direct jobs in the county. The use of SFRF funds to develop housing will encourage a one-time use of funds that will leverage other local investments while producing long-term systemic impact for Kansans. The project will address equitable opportunities and outcomes by filling a need for underserved communities and will be easily trackable. Providing cash incentives for housing rehabilitation and new construction, and funding infrastructure costs will directly support recovery from the pandemic by providing housing to attract workers to address workforce shortages exacerbated by the pandemic and provide economic recovery for the region. The cost of building has increased significantly due to the pandemic and cash incentives will help to offset this burden. Finally, the addition of workforce housing in this underserved area will strengthen the resilience of Edwards County, the region, and the State of Kansas by attracting new workers to the State, and adding significantly to the tax base.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Opportunity - Hodgeman County	Hodgeman County Economic Development	\$2,300,000	<p>As of today, there is exactly one (uninhabitable) house for sale in Hodgeman County and no open rentals. We are already desperate for housing, and have people calling on a daily basis, looking for housing so they can flee from the larger cities and relocate to Kansas after experiencing the pandemic. Therefore, the opportunity to welcome new residents for the construction and operation of the Hilmar project isn't going to be remotely possible without some type of outside assistance.</p> <p>We intend to use an estimated \$2.3 million to incentivize the construction of four new duplexes; 2 new single family dwellings; the restoration of the former hospital into 4 apartments; and assist in the restoration/rehabilitation of 10 additional units within the communities of Hanston and Jetmore. (This has been strategically planned to reduce the need for a new housing development with new, costly infrastructure.)</p> <p>Housing was needed in Hodgeman County and throughout southwest Kansas before Governor Kelly announced the new Hilmar project. It is an exciting project that will have a positive impact on the 10-county region for decades. The timeline for the construction of the manufacturing plant and dairies brings urgency to the need for new housing.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Opportunity - Lewis Housing Infrastructure	City of Lewis	\$2,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of infrastructure to support workforce housing in Lewis Kansas to fill an existing housing shortage, as well as, provide housing for a dairy development that will create 150 new jobs. The use of SFRF funds to develop the water & sewer system, and streets will encourage a one-time use of funds that will also leverage other local funding and investments while producing long-term systemic impact for Kansans in the region. The project will address equitable opportunities and outcomes by filling a need for underserved communities and will be easily trackable to ensure transparency. Improving water, sewer and streets to support new construction will directly support recovery from the pandemic by providing workforce housing to attract workers to the region to address workforce shortages exacerbated by the pandemic and provide economic recovery for the region. The addition of workforce housing in this underserved area, will strengthen the resilience of the city, count, the region, and the State of Kansas by attracting new workers to the State, and adding significantly to the tax base.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Opportunity -- Seward County Housing	Seward County Development Corporation	\$5,000,000	<p>The construction of the Hilmar Cheese Plant will impact the entire economy of southwest Kansas. Seward County and Liberal are committed to leveraging their ARPA funds to support new housing in the region. This investment—combined with SPARK funding from the state—will support growth in this region for generations to come. Each county is unique, and locally, the best use of these funds is the construction of infrastructure related to housing: streets, drainage, water, and sewer.</p> <p>Throughout 2021, Liberal—a town of 20,000—averaged only 10 homes on the market at any given time. Without a home, the employees that we need will not be able to live here. Construction of new homes and apartments in Seward County has nearly stopped in recent years because the infrastructure costs associated with the builds, combined with the cost of construction, pushes the majority of our residents out of the market. Developers simply can't afford to build, and our local employees can't afford to pay for high-end housing.</p> <p>Combining SPARK funds with local funds for housing infrastructure removes a significant cost for the developers, encourages new housing growth in our region, and ensures that our hard-working immigrant communities have quality housing.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Project - Housing Infrastructure	City of Dodge City	\$5,000,000	<p>The City of Dodge City owns 50 acres of vacant land that needs an estimated \$5 million dollars of infrastructure developed in order for housing units to be built. We continue to experience a shortage of housing units as our existing businesses expand and new businesses are announced. Hilmar Cheese Company has announced they will be building a new cheese plant in Dodge City, creating an additional 247 jobs. Developing the infrastructure on the 50 acres will allow local developers the opportunity to purchase the vacant lots at a reasonable price and build the much needed housing units. Quality, affordable housing units will help us attract our growing workforce.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Hilmar Regional Housing Initiative	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation/Victory Electric Cooperative/Pioneer Electric Cooperative/Southern Pioneer Electric Company	\$25,000,000	<p>Governor Kelly and Hilmar Cheese recently announced the construction of a state-of-the-art cheese and whey protein processing plant in Dodge City. Hilmar will invest \$460 million in the plant, which will require 247 workers. In addition, \$550 million will be invested in new dairies to provide the milk for the processing plant to be constructed within a 50-mile radius of Dodge City. Collectively, the dairies will require 750 workers.</p> <p>With low unemployment in southwest Kansas, many of these workers will move into the region to fill these new jobs. All the workers and their families will need affordable housing, which is extremely limited. Workforce recruitment for Hilmar and the dairies is essential to its success and will be severely hindered if there is no place for families to live.</p> <p>Housing stock in rural communities was stressed prior to COVID-19, but the need for additional housing was exacerbated as families returned home and/or relocated to the region. Investment in housing includes infrastructure, construction and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Housing development in support of Hilmar meets all of the guiding principles outlined by the SPARK Committee. Investment in housing will have a long-term impact on the region for decades.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Holland Apartments	Russell Development, Inc.	\$1,500,000	<p>This funding will give us the ability to help mitigate a quality housing shortage facing our local community of Russell. This project is the redevelopment of the former Holland Hotel into affordable apartments for moderate-income individuals. The building is vacant and is not operational in its current state.</p> <p>This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing a sustainable investment through a one-time use of funds, which will be leveraged with local grant funding. These apartments will provide for equitable opportunities and outcomes by providing quality affordable housing, which is currently lacking in our community. The results can easily be measured by the number of occupied units, which were previously not available in our community.</p> <p>The Russell community is no different from metropolitan areas in the housing shortage resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it difficult for local businesses to fill open positions. Most available homes for sale require significant additional investment to bring them up to date. This project will provide eleven new affordably priced units which are move-in ready, which will help our local businesses to resume full operations in the wake of the pandemic.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Homebuilder Incentives Cheap Access to Capital	City of South Hutchinson	\$600,000	<p>South Hutchinson currently has more than 20+ shovel ready vacant lots in a 45+ lot subdivision where development has stagnated over the last several years. One of my goals as the new city administrator is to encourage home development because many of these lots are delinquent on their special assessments and we are eating the cost of these infrastructure improvements. In speaking with some local developers, I believe that providing them with cheap access to capital to minimize their carrying costs and offering up some tax incentives or down payment assistance for new home buyers would stimulate home building. I would like to use the requested funds to provide 0% interest loans to builders and rinse and repeat the process as new homes are built and sold to maximize leverage. The \$600,000 could be used to build two homes at a time. The City could front rebate incentives or down payment assistance on the front-end and then use the \$600,000 to recover these expenses once all 20+ lots are built out or roll these funds over into a new subdivision development.</p> <p>This program would be a one-time use of funds, generating maximum leverage, and create systemic, long-term gains in our local economy.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing by 3d Concrete Printer	Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.	\$1,250,000	<p>This one-time investment would be used to purchase a 3D concrete printer (\$1,000,000+ & built in the US) for the mass production of housing to meet current demands in Southwest Kansas as a result of the Hilmar project. Also, funds would be used to help train employees on the use of the machine (\$50,000). Further, the remaining funds would be utilized to build a model home to show new homeowners.</p> <p>Once purchased, the 3D printer would be operated by a local contractor who purchases the concrete locally. This project would foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans by providing an unlimited amount of housing at a significantly reduced price. With this reduction in housing costs, new construction becomes affordable to a larger portion of the population. This project would offer equitable opportunities and outcomes to those disenfranchised by COVID-19 as it would, one: create skilled jobs to operate the printer, and two: offer affordable housing solutions. This project would enable flexibility within investment strategies as one time costs would create a potentially unlimited supply of housing. Meade County Economic Development would ensure housing construction, money spent, and any other criteria would be tracked & transparent.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing Development	City of Bucklin Kansas	\$3,000,000	<p>The city will use this funding to tear down an old Hospital that once was used by the Bucklin Hospital District. The estimated cost for this demolition along with asbestos removal will be around \$125,000. Furthermore after demolition and reclamation of this property the city of Bucklin would like to use the other \$2,875,000 to build a housing facility. Consisting of duplexes and apartments. When covid hit in the United States one thing rural America struggled with was housing. There was a great need for housing due to people from larger cities wanting to move to rural America. The Hilmar Cheese Factory will be located 25 miles from this location and will be bringing in over 1000 new jobs to the area between factory workers and the dairies being placed in the area. Rural America is struggling to keep its infrastructure alive and without housing allowing room for growth it will not.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing Infrastructure Grants	Commerce	\$20,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing Investment RFP	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	\$4,500,000	<p>The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program encourages investment of private capital in the development of rental housing by providing credits to offset an investor's federal income tax liability. Multifamily units are built across the state. Participants agree to keep rents affordable and the units up to specific standards in exchange for receiving the LIHTC.</p> <p>This proposal is to provide gap funding due to price increases in projects that have already been vetted through KHRC thorough process and received approval to begin construction. The price increases creating the gap financing need are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Several of SPARK's guiding principles will be addressed by prioritizing substantial expansion of an existing popular program, leveraging resources with both Federal, local and private funds and fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing Investment RFP	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	\$75,000,000	<p>KHRC administers the State Housing Trust Fund (SHTF). Historically, the SHTF has been used to finance an emergency repair and homeowner accessibility program, support Habitat for Humanity affiliates, provide landlord-tenant counseling, and supplement weatherization funding. KHRC receives no appropriation or designated funding for the SHTF; the primary revenue for the SHTF comes from any excess KHRC operating dollars.</p> <p>KHRC would put out an RFP that prioritizes long-term systemic impact for Kansans to our housing partners (which includes developers, affordable housing owners/agents, housing development organizations, non-profits, communities, and service providers).</p> <p>KHRC would utilize our network of housing partners around the State and leverage our existing housing programs to ensure we're using available Federal dollars for housing development, weatherization, or supportive housing in correlation with the SHTF grants/loans. As the Housing Study identified, each region and urban/rural area have unique housing needs. An RFP process would allow KHRC to be responsive to each community's local needs. KHRC's traditional business model is as a funder of housing development, which nicely aligns with this proposal.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Housing Trust Fund	City of Topeka	\$5,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the Topeka Affordable Housing Trust Fund (TAHTF) which develops or modifies housing in order to make it affordable for citizens of Topeka. Affordable housing trust funds such as the Topeka Affordable Housing Trust Fund work to provide safe, quality, affordable housing for people who cannot afford it. Support of this housing fund will meet the SPARK guiding principles of considering equitable opportunities and outcomes by providing homes that are warm and safe to low-to-moderate-income (LMI) families. TAHTF helps to fill in the wide gap between qualities, safe, affordable housing exacerbated by the pandemic which has caused unemployment, high inflation, and expensive housing.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Increased Funding Moderate Income Housing Program	City of Greensburg	\$20,000,000	<p>Housing challenges could be very easily addressed through further investment in the already successful Kansas Housing Resources Moderate Income Housing program. The MIH program provides funding to cities and counties under 60,000 population and gives great flexibility in types of projects that can be completed from new construction to rehabilitation, rental or for purchase, single or multi-family. MIH has put many housing units of all types into service across the state since the program began. KHRC only has a \$2 million dollar budget to allocate to projects. For the 2021 program there were 28 applications with \$8.7 million in requests submitted but only 8 projects funded due to the limited budget of the program.</p> <p>An immediate impact could be made by opening an additional spring grant cycle at \$10 million and then add \$10 million to the already established fall grant cycle.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Infrastructure Improvements to Employee Housing Development	SugarCreek Packing Co.	\$2,850,000	<p>The lack of acceptable affordable housing for our employees has prompted SugarCreek to establish its own employee housing development. There are currently 15 homes within the growing community. This project provides paved roads and streetlights to the development while connecting another 15-2 units for further growth. The existing gravel roads will be paved incorporating curbing and the necessary grading to ensure proper run off, pollution control, and erosion control. Streetlights will be added to increase safety and security of the neighborhood.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Kansas Modular and Affordable Housing Initiative	AMA Inc.	\$9,500,000	<p>The rising costs of materials—wood, concrete, etc.—compound the issues of affordable housing in rural Kansas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High material costs—Inflation, supply chain, COVID Lack of developers—low ROI & low incentives Low utility infrastructure development/distribution High costs incurred through rental &/or ownership <p>Kansas-based American Modular Assemblies Inc. proposes to build a high-tech assembly plant for foundation-based modular—NOT mobile—homes mainly constructed of renewables, shipping containers, & available domestic materials—all at half-cost of conventional homes. Sizes range from studio to multiroom living spaces & can be equipped with a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen & living space for 1-4 people. A solar-powered unit runs lighting & HVAC systems & can be equipped with water, optional sewer connections, & other options. AMA will assemble, deliver, & finalize all project aspects within the stated timeframe while also providing modular communities to rural Kansas. The modular home will be/include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFFORDABLE--\$50K-\$100K based on space reqs SELF-SUSTAINABLE—low to zero maintenance SOLAR POWERED electric system with surplus revenue generating potential PROVISIONS for low-cost utilities/necessities/amenities ACCELERATED “move-in” timeline
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Lawrence West of K-10 Public Infrastructure for Housing	City of Lawrence	\$22,000,000	<p>Installing public infrastructure west of K-10 in Lawrence will spur private investment for commercial and residential development, leveraging the State’s investments to expand K-10. Development has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. There is significant demand for housing and particularly affordable housing, as evidenced by the City and State’s housing studies. These one-time initial large infrastructure investments for sewer, water and arterial road extensions will enable significant private sector investment and will help to meet housing demand for the existing and future workforce and add tax base for local jurisdictions and the State. The total cost of these improvements is \$44.5 million with the City requesting \$22 million in SPARK leverage funding to accelerate this development. This idea is consistent with the principles of one-time investment funds, as well as creating significant leverage with City matching funds and extensive private investment. Additionally, the Lawrence area is a large economic driver for the State and housing is needed to support workforce expansion.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Menninger Senior Apartments	Sunflower Development Group	\$2,000,000	<p>The intended use of the \$2 million request is to support the historic renovation and preservation of the Menninger Psychiatric Clinic fulfilling a huge need for attainable senior housing. Located in the Menninger Business Park, the project will consist of a \$56 million, 64 affordable senior housing units located within the business park. This building has been an important part of Topeka history since 1925 as a world-renowned psychiatric clinic catering to all classes of society including the rich and famous.</p> <p>Even with \$5.2 million in State and Federal Historic Tax Credits (HTCs) and \$5.2 million in 4% LIHTCs the project still cannot cashflow. The project maintains a \$2 million gap due to a dramatic 20% increase in construction costs due to covid. The development of this project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of economic revitalization for Kansans through increased access to affordable housing and revitalization of a historic building and development of a business park. It will ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities. It will help fill a gap for quality, affordable senior housing which has been worsened by the pandemic due to workforce shortages, supply and material delays and cost increases.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Mission Bowl Apartments	Mission Bowl Apartments, LLC	\$500,000	<p>Covid has had a deleterious effect on Mission, Kansas, especially with its long-awaited Mission Gateway project that continually failed to fulfill its promise of new multi-family housing and an entertainment center. Problem: no multi-family housing was built in Mission, KS between 2010-2020. Supporting a shovel ready project through a One-Time Capital Expenditures is critical to the Economic Revitalization of Mission, especially for Impacted Communities. Supply chain issues have significantly affected Hard Hit Construction Sectors including this project which is seeking \$500k (1.2% of TPC) to help offset a 22% increase in construction costs.</p> <p>The funding will support a \$40.5 million 176 unit mixed-income/mixed-use development in downtown Mission that includes live/work units, 20% affordable units and market rate housing. The project will support a dire need for mixed income housing which includes work/live as remote working has exploded due to the pandemic. The project is unlike any other built in Mission, KS and will serve as a demonstration project to fully integrate attainable workforce housing into conventional market rate projects that can begin construction within 90 days of a grant award.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Moderate Income Housing Expansion	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	\$50,000,000	<p>The Moderate Income Housing (MIH) program serves the needs of moderate-income households that don't qualify for federal housing assistance but need assistance to meet market needs. MIH grants and/or loans are awarded to cities and counties to develop multi-family rental units and single-family for-purchase homes in communities with populations fewer than 60,000 people.</p> <p>Several of SPARK's guiding principles will be addressed by prioritizing substantial expansion of an existing popular program, leveraging on average \$6 for every MIH dollar with local funds and fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Montezuma Elderly Accessible Duplex Housing	MJE, LLC and MJE Livestock Equipment, Inc	\$1,150,000	<p>At this time in Montezuma, there are few to no properties for sale to consider updating or transitioning to living places within our community. There is only 1 house currently on the market for purchase and 3 properties available for rent. According to the Kansas Statewide Housing Assessment, in 2020, Gray county has a housing stock of only 3.59% which is the lowest housing stock west of Wichita. A graphic that details housing stock can be provided upon request.</p> <p>We are proposing using one-time funds coupled with private investment, to build 2 duplexes (4 units) that are elderly accessible. MJE and MJE Livestock Equipment, a long-standing company with 190+ employees, commit to maintaining these duplexes properly in order to provide housing and thus economic growth for years to come in our area. According to the Kansas Housing Needs Assessment, population is converging towards metropolitan counties with Gray county showing a 5.89 loss in population from 2010 to 2020. However, our neighboring counties of Ford and Finney are growing. This investment in Montezuma will support the economic growth of our small town and ultimately of our surrounding metropolitan counties as Montezuma residents often travel to Dodge City and Garden City.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Multi-Generational Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Campus	Manhattan Housing Authority	\$10,000,000	<p>The Manhattan Housing Authority requests \$10M in matching funds from ARPA or SFRF funding to develop a multi-generational housing campus that would provide approximately 107 new energy efficient units of low-income affordable housing to replace uninhabitable public housing (47 public housing units) and flood vulnerable housing currently owned by National Church Residences' Garden Grove I and II (60 units senior/disable housing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The campus in downtown Manhattan, would consist of two or three buildings at or near the site of the existing Carlson Plaza and Colorado Plaza (50 units), an existing National Church Residences' Section 8 senior housing property. The campus would consist of the replacement building(s) and Colorado Plaza, for a total of 157 units. The new development would be single plan of finance with three kinds of subsidy contracts -- Section 8 HAP, RAD for PRAC converted to PBRA, and Carlson Plaza PH subsidy converted to project-based subsidy under RAD Sec18/Demo. <p>The \$20M (approx.) project will ensure that Kansas' most vulnerable are provided safe, sanitary, affordable housing that is in a walkable district and will be available for generations. There is no need more pressing than housing in Manhattan.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Parkway Apartments	Sunflower Development Group	\$2,000,000	<p>Covid has had a deleterious effect on almost all aspects of society. Supporting Economic Revitalization through Capital Expenditures is critical to the recovery of the State and its residents, especially Impacted Communities like those making $\leq 60\%$ AMI. Supply chain issues have significantly affected Hard Hit Sectors like multi-family housing development due to a 20% increase in construction materials. The additional cost and rental limitations make affordable housing construction impossible without governmental support.</p> <p>The \$2 million in funding (\$7,690/unit) will support a One-Time Capital Expenditure grant to support the development of a \$56 million, 260-unit workforce housing project in western Wyandotte County. The project, Parkway Apartments, is located on I-70 adjacent to a new industrial/warehouse business park and within two miles of over \$1 billion of new industrial development (job creation). It is estimated that employers within a two-mile radius of this site will need to recruit and retain over 6,000 employees over the next five years due to existing labor shortages and proposed developments. The project will help to solve WYCO's housing shortage near large employment centers per KHRCs housing study.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	PCED Housing	Phillips County Economic Development	\$9,385,565	The intended use of funds requested from the SPARK committee is to support the development of a new housing development including infrastructure construction and down payment assistance to new home builds. The requested funds would also be used to fund the creation of a new housing program designed to target lower income families through a purchase/rehab/resell program. We will be looking to create partnerships with local governments for sweat equity, as well as asking local foundations and banks to partner with us in assistance. We will also look to work with the private sector to better understand the needs of their potential employees. We will work to create favorable loan terms with local lenders through this program, therefore further reducing costs to lower income families. This will meet the long-term SPARK guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impact by addressing an alarmingly low housing stock, as well as the necessary repairs to existing housing stock to allow underserved families attain suitable housing. By utilizing an existing economic development corporation, we'll be able to ensure our results are measurable and easily tracked and transparent.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Piper Village	Consolidated Housing Solutions, LLC	\$2,000,000	To ensure that all Kansas workers benefit from an eventual economic recovery and economic growth, it is important to understand and address the jobs-housing challenges that workers face and advance policies that promote better access to housing in conjunction with greater proximity and connectivity to job opportunities. The intended use of the funds requested is to support the utility and infrastructure development for a \$69 million workforce housing project called Piper Village in Western Wyandotte County. The project consists of 320 units of workforce housing, located adjacent to existing and new industrial/warehouse development, entertainment and retail centers. Within ½ mile of the site, over \$1 billion of development (job creation) is currently planned or under development. It is estimated that nearby employers will need to recruit and retain over 6,000 employees over the next five years due to existing labor shortages and proposed developments. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of economic revitalization for Kansans through increased access to workforce housing, talent recruitment and retention, workforce development, supporting infrastructure, and support for hard-hit sectors.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Prairie Pointe Expansion Dodge City	DW Investment, LLC	\$2,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of attainable housing units in the Southwest Region. The development will add 108 apartment units to Dodge City, KS. The City of Dodge City suffers from a shortage of quality housing. The addition of quality attainable housing will greatly improve the recruiting and retention efforts for businesses in and around the area. The addition of 108 new construction units will be a great starting point to refresh and reenergize the quality housing within Dodge City, KS and the Southwest Region.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Project Home Grown	City of Concordia	\$3,750,000	The COVID-19 pandemic impacted rural Kansas with a reduced workforce, especially the construction trades, & an influx of people from urban areas. The recently completed statewide housing study revealed a housing shortage in many rural areas. To develop a workforce and address the housing shortage, this program would provide 5 rural school districts with \$150,000 each year for 5 years to pay for materials for a single-family home constructed by the school's building trades program. The school then auctions the home & reinvests the proceeds in the next home. 25 school districts would be impacted. Oversight would be provided by local skilled tradesmen & codes officials, which would expose students to a wide variety of careers related to the construction trades, and potentially create a succession planning pipeline for local businesses. Homes could be built on or moved to Land Bank sites and sold to new owners via auction. Local codes officials and private construction tradesmen would donate their time and potentially some materials. These partners may provide relevant classroom presentations as well as jobsite assistance. The reduced cost of these homes will result in more quality yet affordable homes in rural Kansas communities.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Project Norton County Housing Development	Norton County Economic Development	\$1,500,000	Intended use of SPARK \$ is to create infrastructure for build-ready home construction lots on 2 sites within Norton city limits w/potential to develop 45 units, a mix of single & multi-family, moderate- and low-income housing. High anticipated infrastructure costs, onsite & offsite, w/storm water & sewer obstacles will place feasibility of an RHID at risk. 181 County workforce vacancies identified Dec 2021, including 5 active HPIP/PEAK projects and 60+ vacancies at Norton's Ks Correctional Facility. But how w/o homes? Over 125 homes for sale in 2019 reduced to under 10. We request \$1,5Million to quickly invest in infrastructure to assist with both sites to serve all levels of housing needs. These SPARK \$ would meet all guiding principles: One-time investments for housing provide a path to growing revenues and labor force for these employers, creating long term impact, bolstering community sustainability. We'll seek every level of State+Federal \$ from LIHTC, MIH, CDBG, RD & RHID to create flexible plans to develop full range of opportunities and equitable solutions for all income levels. Private & civic funding being offered up to assist. We routinely track labor headcounts at our Top 20 employers to provide transparency.

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	PUSH - Prioritizing Upper Story Housing pilot program	Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$975,000	<p>This pilot project meets all six of SPARK’s guiding principles with an emphasis on prioritizing sustainable programs and investments through a one-time use of funds and fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans.</p> <p>Small/downtown businesses are one of the hardest-hit segments by the COVID-19 pandemic. While some faced forced government closures, others dealt with decreased traffic and sales. Many closed their doors or are struggling to keep them open. But, if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.</p> <p>PUSH – Prioritizing Upper Story Housing is an pilot program in Abilene that can be used for non-Kansas Main Street communities who lack access to Incentives Without Walls (IWW) state funding. PUSH not only provides a solution to a lack of housing, but it also creates new revenue streams to help downtown businesses and building owners. Once piloted, PUSH equalizes the playing field for all Kansas downtowns to utilize this program to diversify their central business districts and create new, sustainable and affordable housing because the cheapest building to build is the one that’s already built.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Regional Housing/Childcare Development	Finney County Economic Development Corp	\$18,000,000	<p>Housing and childcare are the two largest barriers facing rural communities in Kansas. We propose developing a housing incentive fund to be allocated to communities to shore up financial gaps for housing developments. Two key provisions of qualifying for the funding would be 1) developers could select one “primary” (population 10,000-50,000) community to build in but would need to also develop housing in at least two surrounding “secondary” (population < 9,999) communities, and 2) IF communities (primary and secondary) are designated as having demonstrated childcare needs by Childcare Aware of Kansas, the developer must build at least one childcare facility along with their housing development to either be leased to a qualified childcare provider or donated to the community or a non-profit for the provision of childcare. The State could see significant added income as an added benefit. In Finney County alone, building the housing required to meet estimated demand by 2030 would equate to more than \$220M in income to builders.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Rental Housing Development Program	Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation	\$120,000	<p>Our proposed project (which has received Moderate Income Housing grant funds) is to create 'new' housing units by returning 'chronically vacant units back into viable/occupiable units. Funds will be for down payment assistance for the purchase and rehabilitation of ‘chronically vacant’ houses whose end use will be either owner-occupied or renter-occupied residences for moderate-income individuals. Houses targeted will be those that meet the following criteria: A) have been vacant for at least five (5) years OR become vacant more recently but has a significant issue(s) that will likely result in the house remaining vacant if the issue(s) isn’t rectified, and B) are 3 bedroom/2 bathroom to meet current housing demands OR will be after rehabilitation.</p> <p>This meets SPARK’s guiding principles in the category of Economic Revitalization by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting infrastructure improvements - increasing the number of housing units, - Talent recruitment and retention - providing more desirable and quality housing options, - Support hard-hit sectors - increasing construction activity due to the dramatic increase in the cost of materials and labor necessary to create more housing units.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Reopen 50'x300' Waffle Crete Factory to Manufacture Precast Concrete Panels Used to Build Homes, Apartments, and Other Structures.	Rock Solid LLC.	\$450,000	<p>The one-time start-up funding will be used expressly for reopening the WaffleCrete factory in Hays to produce precast building panels for assembly of homes/apartments and other needed buildings in western Kansas, providing critical needed housing for expanding businesses. This is a highly sustainable and long-term project because rural community economic leaders have met with us to express the acute need for housing and pledged their support for reopening the factory to accelerate the process. With the partnerships of the Hansen Foundation and NWKS Planning and Development Commission, we have been working diligently to secure properties with existing infrastructure to erect WaffleCrete housing. The building system offers measurable benefits to Kansans: buildings that are safe, durable, sustainable, affordable, efficient. The start-up team has unique experience and skillset of precast pouring, building/erecting, with extensive hands-on training in California assisting installation of a 8000 sqft Navy Seal building in 6 days with California WaffleCrete Developer and the inventor of WaffleCrete. We can manufacture, build, assist technically and train others to build around the state. See http://www.globaltechnologybuildingsystems.com</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Residential Home Development	TK3, LLC	\$450,000	<p>Funding will be used to purchase existing homes and provide repairs and updates to reduce blight and increase the draw to our community. Funds will be reinvested from one project to another for long term affect.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Rural Forward - Merging Quality and Affordable Housing	Rural Forward - NonProfit KS Housing	\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services • Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds • Foster long-term systemic impact for KansansNorth Central and Northwest Kansas face a severe workforce housing shortage. Our pilot project is proposed in Courtland, a town in Republic County, Kansas. The model will then be duplicated throughout this twenty-four-county region of Kansas. The region sits in the Midwest, in the counties that align with the Nebraska border and in the USDA's Economic Research Service Prairie Gateway Farm Resource Region. The region is also within Kansas' First Congressional District. These plans can be replicated in rural areas across the state. So in this case, there could also be substantial involvement influencing quality of life and economic growth. This area, like many areas, is facing a severe work force shortage after COVID-19 and this is further compounded by the lack of affordable workforce housing. This plan seeks to remedy this issue.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Senior Living Project	Wolney Farms	\$3,000,000	This would be a one time use of funds to build a sustainable program aimed at providing affordable, livable housing to elders. Within this housing network located on 5 acres, local businesses will be recruited to build and provide services on site, such as restaurants, hair dressers, and in-home health care. This model could be replicated state wide to foster long term systematic changes in how elders age in place in Kansas.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Strengthen Affordable Housing Opportunities	N/A I work for a housing non profit but I am applying as an individual	\$200,000	Kansas has seen its share of weather-related devastation. In a matter of minutes, the town of Greensburg was destroyed. It's more important than ever to seek alternative building methods that allow homes to be built quickly, without sacrificing beauty and quality. Builders struggle to keep up with the demand of housing. Labor shortages, supply chains and the rising costs of materials are causing critical delays in producing homes. 3D printing allows homes to be built in as little as 30 days, which would allow those affected by a natural disaster to stay in their communities thus stabilizing the neighborhood. The Spark funds will be used to research and implement alternative building solutions, specifically 3D printing of homes. An estimate to print a 1 bedroom home is \$15,000 and up to \$50,000.00 for a 4 bedroom home. Essential workers could see their dreams of homeownership come true. For those that do not want to own property, 3D printing would allow landlords to see 100% profit in as little as 24 months. Truly affordable homes could help stabilize the Kansas population and bring more families from unaffordable states, into Kansas. Industries choosing to settle in Kansas would do so based upon a strong and housed workforce.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Strengthening People & Revitalizing Kansas Housing Investment Proposal	State Senator District 23/ Heartland Housing Partners	\$60,000,000	<p>Senator Rob Olson & Heartland Housing Partners submit the following Housing Investment proposal. We recognize there will be multiple housing proposals. We strongly encourage the Committee to employ existing housing expertise, specifically KHRC and Dept of Commerce in vetting proposals.</p> <p>In addition to these recommendations, we support guidelines for receiving funding that require the requesting entities/local governments to participate financially with strong preference to projects which leverage the requests with private funds and other programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate Income Housing (MIH) Program Expansion - \$36 Million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Estimated number of units developed: 1,200 o Economic Impact: \$270 Million in investment/value • Infrastructure guarantee lender program - \$12 Million • Trades and builder program - \$4 Million • Contractor Start-up lending program - \$3 Million • Construction Liaisons between Builder Community and government institutions, and creation of positions at KHRC and/or Commerce to facilitate communication with the builder community - \$1.5 Million • Economic Development and Job Creation Housing Fund - \$2 Million • Project Pre-development Fund - \$1.5 Million • Total Proposal: \$60 Million

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Sunflower Village	Consolidated Housing Solutions, LLC	\$2,000,000	The intended use of the funds requested is to support the utility and infrastructure development for an \$80 million workforce housing project called Sunflower Village, located in De Soto, Kansas. The project will consist of 312 units of workforce/affordable housing, located adjacent to a new industrial/warehouse business park (the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant) on over 6,000 acres recently annexed by the city. Most of the ammo plant has been remediated and being prepared for new development. Additionally, Flint Development plans on developing nearly 2 million square feet of industrial and warehouse project adjacent to our site. The project a priority for the city of De Soto who has unanimously approved a TIF district for the business park, and is working with us on TIF plan for Sunflower Village. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of economic revitalization for Kansans through increased access to workforce housing, talent recruitment and retention, workforce development, supporting infrastructure, and support for hard-hit sectors.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Three Mile Road and Utility Upgrade Creates 1,200 Acres of New Residential Land	City of Salina	\$10,800,000	<p>The City of Salina is seeking 10.8 million dollars of funding to create over 1,200 acres of buildable land for housing. In order to create build-ready properties, three miles of Holmes Road running North/South from Country Club Road to Magnolia Road will need to be upgraded. The funding would provide water, sewer, and street access to all properties.</p> <p>Salina is home to two of the largest industrial expansions in the state's history and an anticipated 1,500 new employees are required to meet these corporate expansions. As of 2/16/2022 there are only 42 houses available on the MLS. A review of various websites indicate that less than 20 rental units are available. The recent business expansions will not be able to meet their full potential without affordable and quality housing. This sizable infrastructure investment allows for current and future business expansion and helps to offset cost increases directly related to COVID-19.</p> <p>This project will create +1,200 acres of land ready for residential development. This amount of buildable land will easily sustain the community for +15 years. It will meet both our current and long range goals while allowing us to make other growth oriented decisions to further address our growth.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Topeka Utility Rebate Program	City of Topeka	\$500,000	The intended use of funds requested is to expand the City Utility Department's existing rebate program. The current program utilizes the State's Homestead Refund eligibility. Currently, the program budgets \$100,000 per year, which benefits approximately 667 households (about 1,563 people) annually. The program allows eligible recipients to receive a rebate of \$150 split between water and sewer services. Many citizens have experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing increased concern about utility rates. The Utilities Department wants to expand this program in response to concerns regarding water utility affordability and equity. By expanding the program, the Department will be able to double the rebate provided to customers. This program is a direct way in which the City can save money for residents who are cost-burdened by utility rates. The expansion of this program meets the SPARK guiding principles of considering equitable outcomes and prioritizing sustainable programs and investments by focusing on affordability and improving an existing program. SPARK funding would assist the City in increasing program funding, households assisted, and overall benefits to low-income utility users.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	University Housing for Economic Development	Saline County	\$12,000,000	Salina rental markets are strained, risking the ability to retain recently recruited global companies. Enrollment growth at KSUS and KWU, coupled with new job opportunities, makes the housing pressure intense for current and prospective students and employers. These institutions contribute \$100 million in annual economic impact. This is garnered from direct payroll of employees, spending by students, 18,000 guests contributing to transient guest taxes, and construction and other operational spending each year. Further, the students donate tens of thousands of hours of community service each year to enhance the quality of life in Salina. KSUS and KWU can serve as critical partners in addressing the housing shortage. They are ready to move forward with construction of student housing but lack initial investment dollars. Investment from SPARK funds could provide substantial cash to allow them to break ground and free up to 450 housing units currently occupied by university students living in the community. With financial support, the projects can begin to alleviate stress on the local market within the next 12 – 18 months, ensuring local employers can continue their urgent expansion of their workforce and economic impact in KS.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Upper Story Residential Development	Leavenworth Main Street Program	\$250,000	<p>To meet SPARK'S guiding principles, our proposal prioritizes 2 basic, yet expensive, services that local government codes department mandate (water tap, fire suppression and piping to complete). The requested funding would allow a minimum of 10 projects to move forward which will be a valuable investment for upper story development, for the local community and state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds ● Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans ● Consider equitable opportunities and outcomes ● Enable flexibility within investment strategies ● Ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency

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Economic Revitalization	Housing	Wildcat Landing Housing Development	Haven Economic Development	\$400,000	Wildcat Landing satisfies SPARK's guidelines. We are asking for a one-time use of funds for a housing development that is long overdue for our community. City reports show the use of city monies used to validate Wildcat Landing and minutes from EDC and City Council meetings document the overwhelming public support through surveys and voice for Wildcat Landing. Haven schools had a recent increase in enrollment and is Haven's largest employer. Haven recently was selected to house a new manufacturing company, National Modular Manufacturing. Well established and certainly not new companies: Haven Steel, Color By Design, and Kincaid Equipment participate in worldwide manufacturing and trade. Documentation has proven and people have spoken, "Haven needs more housing". With the number of people employed in Haven we do not have enough housing to support those who want to both work and live in Haven. For Haven to grow, we need Wildcat Landing, and SPARK could ignite our project with financial assistance. Wildcat Landing will have a long-term positive impact making housing available for more families. Flexibility is a must and within a small rural area like Haven, results must be measurable to enable tracking & transparency.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Wiswell Farms	Ad Astra Land Holdings LLC and Spring Hill Venture LLC (collectively the "Applicant")	\$10,000,000	The funds will be used to construct public/private infrastructure improvements, including Webster Road from 191st to 199th Street, to facilitate the development of approximately 580,000 square feet of industrial development, 78,000 square feet of commercial development, and approximately 367 moderately-priced and attainable single-family homes, in addition to 42+ acres of dedicated parkland for a public trail and park system (collectively, the "Project"). The Webster Road connection is vital to the traffic infrastructure in the southern Johnson County Highway 169 corridor and spurring development in this area, as the entire section of land along the K-7 Corridor between Spring Hill and Olathe is currently landlocked. The Project will remove this roadblock to development, and—in addition to transforming property that is currently vacant and underutilized into a productive asset—enable future surrounding and supportive development to occur. In addition to a substantial number of temporary construction jobs during development, at full build-out, the Project alone is estimated to create approximately 450 full-time permanent employment positions, and generate increased property and sales tax revenues as noted above.
Economic Revitalization	Housing	Y Lofts	Prairie Fire Development Group, LLC	\$650,000	The intended use of the funds requested is to support the utility and infrastructure development Y Lofts, a forty-four-unit affordable senior housing project located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The project is renovating a blighted structure and will historically preserve the downtown YMCA built in 1914. This building has been an important part of Kansas City, as well as its downtown area. The common areas of the building – gymnasium, community room – will be used to host health and wellness for seniors, as well as serve as emergency shelter and/or outreach center for pandemic related crisis in the future. The development of this project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of economic revitalization for Kansans through increased access to affordable housing and revitalization of downtown. It will ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities and encouraging downtown redevelopment. Y Lofts will help fill a gap quality, affordable senior housing which has been worsened by the pandemic which has led to workforce shortages, supply and material delays and cost increases.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	119th and I-35 Business District	City of Olathe, KS	\$5,000,000	Unequivocally, the legacy of Senator Elizabeth Dole is timeless. Her support of one of the most critical transportation projects in the State of Kansas – the I-35 and 119th Street interchange – helped transform this once undeveloped tract into a major focal point with roughly \$1 billion in private investment, over two million square feet of commercial real estate development, and more than 5,000 jobs. Today, a portion of the State of Kansas SPARK funds could further the impact of Senator Dole's legacy by helping redevelop the northwest corner of I-35 and 119th Street, the last corner to be developed to its highest and best use. The proposed project includes the construction of a multi-faceted recreational district that would serve the region with a mix of retail, hospitality, office jobs, industries that were so severely impacted by the pandemic
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	A Beacon on the Hill - Phase I of IV	The Salvation Army of Dodge City and Ford County, Kansas	\$900,000	While the goal is \$4.6 million, an investment of \$900,000, as recommended by the SPARK Task Committee, would give vital support to the renovation of the space used for the Family Thrift Store, which, in turn, will better the delivery of services to the community. The Family Thrift Store provides clothing and household goods to the community at reasonable prices. The store generates over 40% of the income required to sustain The Salvation Army's social service programs such as Pathway of Hope, the Food Pantry, and Emergency Assistance. By prioritizing the store, employees will adequately sort, store, and display more merchandise. The store will also provide additional jobs with increased skills. Revitalizing the store will help rebuild the local economy by offering affordable furniture, clothing, and household goods and strengthen Ford County's underserved and diverse community. Revitalizing the Family Thrift Store will meet the SPARK guiding principles of investing once in a sustainable program, combining with other funding (donations) thus maximizing the use of discretionary funding, and fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through increased access to the both the store and the social services provided.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	A RURAL IDEAL: Feeding Our Communities First	STEP BACK IN TIME FOOD MARKET LLC	\$700,000	The funding will establish an infrastructure for processing and storing locally sourced food needed by families for year-round access using a scaled methodology based on an area's demographics. This infrastructure would include a KDA licensed processing space with equipment for canning, etc, adequate freezer/refrigeration, adequate storage for roots and dry goods, a licensed mobile meat processing system for poultry and swine as well as beef in areas without an existing meat processor, a retail outlet utilizing an existing building such as a closed school or other community space combined with an indoor farmers market, bakery, systems for tracking inventory, and systems for SNAP, commodity distribution, food bank collection, staples, dry goods, etc. with potential for further investments as food dollars are retained in the community such as micro dairy with full processing capabilities. This project would meet Economic Revitalization and Health and Education goals. The ability for rural areas to feed themselves was a given not too many generations back. With modern equipment and growing practices this can be done once again efficiently. This is a paradigm shift from corporate food dependency.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	A statewide social "game" that drives public engagement and activation with opportunities and resources	Knowledge as a Service Inc. (KaaS) - headquartered in Wichita, Kansas	\$5,652,000	The project will deliver a customized version of the Ringorang® software-as-a-service platform (https://ringorang.com), branded for each city/county. Using a proven social “game” format, the technology will rapidly deliver education and activation of citizens on mobile devices -- for just two minutes a day -- to deepen their engagement with governmental and non-governmental resources, and to measurably boost i) opportunities for citizens of low socioeconomic status, diverse groups, entrepreneurs, and those struggling with substance dependency; ii) retention of talent in Kansas, and iii) remote workforce development. For 12 months, there will be a state-wide, app-based experience that is talked about, written about, and shared daily, without the conflicts, clutter and tribalism of social media channels. Per SPARK guidelines, this one-time investment will model how local businesses and agencies can provide ongoing funding, resulting in long-term systemic impacts and resilience. Local post-secondary education institutions will share opportunities related to jobs, training and scholarships. Key to sustainment is the data collection – i.e., ongoing, real-time tracking of change that is flexible and actionable.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Air Cargo Apron Expansion at Wichita Eisenhower National Airport	Wichita Airport Authority	\$10,000,000	SPARK funds will allow for the construction of additional air cargo apron pavement at the Eisenhower National Airport (“Airport”). This one-time expenditure is an excellent use for SPARK Economic Revitalization funding as it will provide a long-term investment in the State's largest airport and the crucial infrastructure necessary for expanding air cargo services to the region, including the South Central Kansas aviation and advanced manufacturing clusters. This public capital investment is critical to stimulate and support an expanding air cargo market in the region. Air cargo has been the only commercial aviation transportation market that has experienced growth during the COVID pandemic. This public investment using SPARK funds, along with the Authority’s commitment of 25% of the project’s cost, is paramount to supporting the increasing air cargo demand. This expansion project is essential to the region and State’s future economic growth and vitality.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Allen County Airport Industrial & Utility Expansion	Thrive Allen County	\$15,425,000	Funding would be used to build out utilities and improve infrastructure at Allen County Regional Airport. The airport is one of the county's most valuable (and underutilized) assets, It could accommodate small, medium, and large industrial businesses. SPARK funding would be used to increase water line size to assist large industry plus enhancing sewer, gas, and electric services. Fiber optic service also would be added to meet communications needs. This is a long-term project with the potential to generate millions of dollars into the SEK regional economy annually. And the supporting businesses that likely would be created as a result of development is important to consider. I anticipate local government agencies would provide matching funds for the project, particularly the county. Results would be measurable and trackable. We've been talking about developing Allen County's airport for more than a year now, and it has been reported on consistently in the paper (making it transparent to the public). This project has the potential to make Allen County a place where diverse industries want to establish themselves to do business.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum Buildout Supporting STEM Education and Workforce Development	Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum	\$5,000,000	Located at the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport (K59), the 501(c)(3) Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation is developing the Hangar Museum to honor the life and achievements of Amelia Earhart through the promotion of a STEM-based curriculum for K-12 students. Its formal Grand Opening is planned for the Fall of 2022, after the ceremonious unveiling of the Amelia Earhart statue in the U.S. Capitol building in July 2022, where she will proudly represent Kansas. SPARK funding is needed to support the final fabrication & installation of 13 interactive STEM exhibits and other costs associated with the Museum’s forthcoming application for Smithsonian affiliation. The completed Museum will help strengthen Kansas as the Air Capitol of the World and cement the birthplace of Amelia Earhart as one of the greatest small towns in America. Long-term systemic impact will be felt throughout the State given the broad reach the Museum expects to have. The vision of the Museum is to impact Title I schools and youth from across the socioeconomic spectrum by highlighting career opportunities in STEM, with an emphasis on female and other under-represented demographics, helping to diversify and expand the aviation, aerospace, and STEM industry workforces.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	American Royal Agricultural Education and Event Center	American Royal Association	\$35,000,000	These funds will help build the nation’s premier agriculture event, education, and entertainment campus. It will include a major multi-use complex comprised of first-class expo arenas, an education center, and indoor and outdoor arenas. In addition to hosting national equine and livestock events, competitions, rodeos, educational programs, food festivals, and other recreational and sporting activities, the facility will attract numerous other businesses and organizations and create a true ‘ag tech’ hub in Kansas. The American Royal has a rich and vibrant history of supporting, educating and fostering an environment for people of all ages to learn about and participate in agriculture. However, these largely in-person, interactive experiences have been impacted by COVID, as have the construction costs for the new facility. These funds will help offset the cost increases and enable the Royal to not only recover from COVID but implement even stronger programming and education than before. The project will provide long term benefits to a large, diverse group of Kansans, and out-of-state visitors from around the nation and globe, through events and programming deeply rooted in the State’s history and important for its continued success.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	approving recreational area / adding fishing area and camp sites	Yates Center City council / parks and public lands	\$400,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support and develop a safe outdoor recreation space with camp sites, walking trails, and fishing areas located at the city's Owl Lake. The enhancements to Owl Lake will also provide financial assistance to the City of Yates Center for future parks and recreational projects. These projects will help to meet current and future needs of the general public. Outdoor recreation provides important recreational ecosystem services through physical interaction with the outdoor world. In times of crisis, such as with the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor recreation also provides an important means of coping. As a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have taken on new outdoor and recreation hobbies as an alternative to being indoors. This grant will help provide additional outdoor options for people who are trying to improve their overall health, provide more outdoor opportunities for their families as well as cope with the impacts the pandemic has had on their lives. Providing more outdoor recreation opportunities will improve both our economy as well as the overall health of the people from our and surrounding communities.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Auburn KTA Interchange	Shawnee County	\$17,000,000	The requested funds would be used to pay the initial capital investment of a turnpike interchange in Auburn Kansas. This investment would spur economic growth in the city of Auburn and also address some of the workforce accessibility in Southwest Topeka. The increased access would improve 911 service response times. This would be a one time expense that would be in operation for decades. The maintenance and operational costs associated with the interchange would be paid with toll revenue. The city of Auburn is a rural community that currently has no highway access. This project would give them the same transportation and economic opportunities that most comparable communities already have
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Bag Converting OEM Production Line	Envision Inc.	\$750,000	The intended use of funds is to purchase 5 Bag Converting Machines with the latest technology and automation, allowing additional product types and requiring up-skilling of machine operators. The opportunity to double sales will be accomplished by hiring one additional salesperson. Collaboration with local partners like WSU Engineering to put adaptive technology in place and procuring raw materials from private companies like Pittsburg Plastics and Pratt Industries is a multiplier benefit to Kansas. Sales revenue at Envision Industries supports services provided to people with blind or low vision without regard of ability to pay. This one-time investment will result in sustainable benefits through Envision’s proven successful operation and ability to convert business opportunities to needed services for stakeholders. Embracing change and digital transformation will require collaboration with key partners resulting in long-term systemic economic impact for Envision and Kansas. Established tracking and performance measurements used are industry standards, including quality control (ISO 9000 certified), Market-Based Management and a three-year rolling strategic plan with Key Performance Indicators.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Boot Hill Distillery Expansion	Boot Hill Distillery	\$5,000,000	<p>Boot Hill Distillery began operations in 2016, after revitalizing a historic building in downtown Dodge City, Kansas. We have grown significantly each year and are now at a point where we must grow outside of our current footprint. We have purchased a ten-acre lot in the Dodge City Business Park and maintain a first right of refusal to an adjacent ten-acre lot. BHD is the first business to purchase and begin construction inside this new business park.</p> <p>This project consists of one core production building set in the middle of the property with multiple planned outlier buildings that will serve as rickhouses for barreled whiskey. This Expansion will be an anchor to the business park and will attract other businesses to build near this location. This new facility will bring Boot Hill Distilleries production up to the limit of 50,000 proof gallons per year that Kansas law allows micro distilleries to produce and will allow Boot Hill Distillery to distribute products across the US.</p> <p>We plan to add a minimum of 8 production Jobs and 4 marketing and administration jobs.</p> <p>The pride of a Soil-To-Sip product made in Southwest Kansas helps the area continue to attract talent to not only our jobs but also jobs in the area.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Bourbon County Community Hospital	Bourbon County REDI	\$25,000,000	<p>In 2019 Mercy closed the local hospital here in Fort Scott and left thousands of people without a local hospital. We were able to keep our emergency room open and our local clinic was able to expand offering us amazing services to fill some of the gap, however, there was still a need to be met. Since that time we have saw over 15 million dollars of healthcare expenditures not only leave Bourbon County every year but leaving the State of Kansas and going to Southwest Missouri.</p> <p>We know that while these families are getting their healthcare needs met in Missouri they are also doing their shopping and this causes the State and the local communities to lose sales tax income as well. With the reopening of Bourbon County Community Hospital we feel that it will not only bring some of those healthcare dollars back into the community, it will also bring back the much needed sales tax dollars as well.</p> <p>Finally the addition of the hospital allows us to provide services such as geriatric psych, rural health clinic, daycare and pre-school options, and family medicine within the first year of its reopening.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Capital Improvement to KHP Law Enforcement Training Academy	KHP	\$5,130,000	<p>The KHP Training Academy (TA) located in Salina, KS was authorized in 1992 and includes 170,000 sq. ft. housed in five buildings on seventeen acres. This campus is primarily used as a training facility for KHP recruits, KHP in-service classes, and provides a resource for outside agencies to obtain training for various certifications. The Academy is also the primary location for Troop C Headquarters, Central Dispatch, Central Supply, and a secondary Troop N office. Due to the age of the campus, components of the systems infrastructure are beginning to show signs of wear and tear and need updates to decrease operating costs and increase reliability. These projects are intended to extend the longevity of the buildings and improve efficiencies. The Training Academy also serves as a central gathering site and supply center for other state agencies and organizations. Through funding for this project, the agency will be able to update security, realize efficiencies through more modern energy systems, and improve the level of service which will contribute to a long-term systemic impact for Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Carbon Credit Through Bamboo Farming	Riverside Strategic Solutions, LLC	\$20,000,000	<p>Project...Public/Private partnership with the State of Kansas to fully engage the carbon credit market through the growth of self-contained bamboo plantlets on selected lands throughout the State. Bamboo is a carbon “sink”, a viable cover crop that rapidly sequesters carbon out of the air faster than almost any other plant/tree. Its properties, including superior biomass, ideal root depth, and rapid growth rate, allow it to be harvested sustainably on otherwise inhospitable, degraded land. By some calculations, bamboo can sequester CO2 at an annual rate of 12 tonnes per hectare (https://tinyurl.com/53avvwey). Request...Up to \$20m as a one-time investment for ~20,000 acres of designated land, equipment and materials, verification of practices and certifications, and construction of nurseries to populate, manage, and harvest bamboo plantlets in Hardiness Zone 5, establishing Kansas as a National leader in carbon sequestration. Benefits...Leverage partnerships with State of Kansas, Higher Education institutions, Native American Tribes resident to KS, and other private sector investors. Return on Investment of ~400% within first 4 years. Long-term, sustainable revenue stream to State of Kansas from carbon credit payments.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Cardinal Community Corner Playground Project	Legacy Foundation	\$50,000	<p>The Cardinal Corner Playground Revitalization Project has received a donation to its nonprofit from the City of South Haven combining local funds with private donations to maximize the use of the local funds.</p> <p>Our current playground has been in situ since 1950. The equipment is dilapidated. This is the only community space available for the community's children to play and explore yet sees few visitors each year because of its poor condition. A revitalized playground with engaging explorative age appropriate equipment will foster long-term systemic impact for the Kansans that reside in our small town. The design and equipment selected is proven to aid in children's development through interactive play, development of coordination, and healthy exercise through physical activity. The revitalized playground also would be accessible to handicapped children with features that create an inclusive environment for children and adolescents.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Catalyze Circular Economy within Rural Kansas by Deploying Scalable High-tech Infrastructure to Expand Regenerative Agriculture Industry while Increasing Soil Health & Water-Use Efficiency	PraireChar, Inc. dba PrairieFood	\$15,000,000	<p>One-time \$15 Million investment in rural community (executable up to 6) will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy high-tech biomass processing centers • Develop workforce for new industry <p>Sustainable circular economy will be created within each community selected to be funded. High-tech processing centers enable Ag waste (manure) to be transformed into engineered soil amendment specifically designed to supply nutrients to soil microbes. Cultivating soil microbes is the foundation of Regenerative Ag which increases soil health, retains rain and irrigation water, increases yield, reduces run-off, and reduces or eliminates need for synthetic fertilizers.</p> <p>Circular economics arise by using waste streams to create valuable products that can be effectively used within a 50-mile radius of where its created enabling cash flows to retain within the region and require significant job creation in all aspects of the circular value stream. Decentralized processing permits independent economic growth in each community.</p> <p>Ancillary outcomes to economic growth/retention include sustainable environmental prosperity by building land value, increasing soil resilience, water restoration/ efficiency, and carbon sequestration.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Central Topeka Grocery Oasis	Community Resources Council (CRC)/Central Topeka Grocery Oasis Group	\$5,000,000	The funds are for construction of a 14,000 sq.ft. neighborhood grocery store to be built on leased vacant land owned by a FFHC located in a Central Topeka food desert. It will be built with grants and gifts. The neighborhoods most directly affected by the closing of a grocery adjacent to this site in 2016 include 13,000 persons, 25 % of whom have no access to a vehicle. Thirty five percent have at least one disabled person in their household. More than 40 percent are persons of color who have had statistically high rates of COVID and low rates of immunizations. Thirty percent live below poverty. A grant from the KHF provided funding for two market studies which strongly affirm the sustainability of a grocery store at this site. Prior to the closing of Dillons the location supported a grocery store for 89 years. The business plan is being written by the Small Business Administration SBDC of Washburn University. The demographics, the distance from affordable healthy food, and the existing health outcomes of the community point to the need for this store. The plan is to hire and train persons from the neighborhood and provide a living wage. It will be an opportunity for occupancy by a grocery chain, a coop or an independent grocer.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Children’s Museum Sustainable Panels Project	Kansas Children’s Discovery Center	\$370,000	<p>The Discovery Center is a hands-on children’s museum in Topeka, Kansas. The museum serves families statewide both at the museum and through a mobile museum that travels the state.</p> <p>This project will create a durable cladding system for the Discovery Center, creating sustainability for this community anchor, which is a critical resource for underserved children and a major tourist attraction.</p> <p>The building is currently clad with a series of concrete panels, a unique material use that the builders and architects have expressed disappointment with in the years since installation. As the building has settled, the panels have cracked and crumbled. Multiple contractors have advised that the deterioration will continue and repair is not an option. The damage has now reached a critical level for safe use of the building and panels must be replaced. An alternative material chosen for durability has been selected to replace the concrete, with a total cost of \$370,000.</p> <p>This significant capital expense is a major burden for the privately funded, nonprofit museum, which lost 93% of anticipated revenues in 2020 and has an annual budget under \$1 million. However, the museum is capable of sustainable operations with support for this project.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	City of Yates Center US-75 (Fry Street) Project	City of Yates Center	\$500,000	The intended use for the funds requested from the SPARK committee is to make needed improvements to the portion of US-75 within City limits, from Holloway Street to Park Street. Through this one-time investment in a key piece of the City’s street infrastructure there would be a long-term systemic impact for not only the City but for commerce within the region and State. This portion of US-75 intersects US-54 on the west side of Yates Center, in the center of Woodson County, and is utilized by local residents, farmers, ranchers, and intra- and interstate commercial trucking companies transporting goods. Additionally, this portion of the highway is used to access the County Fairgrounds and monthly sheep auction which draws business from throughout the region. The City plans to pursue KDOT CCLIP funds and is considering the use of its own ARPA funds to complete the project. This investment of SPARK funding would allow the City to stretch its own dollars further to address the needs of its water, sewer and stormwater systems, and police department.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Conference Center Hotel and Stadium Development Project	University of Kansas	\$100,000,000	The University of Kansas will soon launch a strategic initiative positioning KU as a premiere convention and event location among universities. Facilities to support the initiative include a hotel conference center integrated with a multipurpose stadium facility. KU is requesting SPARK funding to supplement private donations, public-private partnerships, and revenues generated from the project, including premium seating and ticket revenue. A recent study completed by Unique Venues Consultants demonstrates that campus events and conventions in partnership with the City of Lawrence is a market KU can compete for significant additional revenue. The need for renovating the current football venue is of critical nature to ensure KU’s status in a Power Five conference, not to mention the significant economic advantages that P5 status brings to the State. The current 100-year-old stadium places us at risk in the constantly changing NCAA realignment discussions. The project meets nearly every objective by substantially expanding existing services, providing 20% of the funding to leverage other sources, providing a long-term impact to the State, enabling flexibility within investment strategies, and the impact can be measured and tracked.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Connecting the Dotted: equitable access to opportunities	Unified Government of WYCO/KCK Transportation Department	\$2,000,000	The Unified Government Transportation department is requesting SPARK funds through this submission to enhance connectivity through upgrades to the existing transit network as well as implementation of new services to previously under and unreserved areas of the community. This funding opportunity will allow us to continue to reduce barriers for Kansans to access employment opportunities, healthcare facilities, housing, educational and entertainment districts, and other regional amenities like the Rock Island Bridge project in a fare-free, environmentally sustainable way. By providing these enhanced services, this investment in our local transit network will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impacts for Kansans, especially those within designated Opportunity Zones, while also considering equitable opportunities and outcomes within the community. Given the current workforce shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these programs will benefit the community by connecting people to opportunities and removing geographic barriers.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Construct visitor centers to replace small & outdated state park offices	KDWPT	\$11,200,000	Construcion of new visitor centers at these select state parks. .
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Construction of Rail Loop Track Establishing Port Authority of Stafford County	Port Authority of Stafford County / Stafford County Economic Development	\$6,370,000	Stafford County seeks to make a one-time strategic investment that will build a public rail-road transload facility, anchored by a unit-car loadout facility for grain. The public-private partnership is not only needed to execute commitment of the initial anchor private investment, but will have a secondary benefit of establishing public infrastructure that can be utilized to recruit additional businesses and provide transportation efficiencies to existing businesses in a multi-county region. The Port Authority will build a one mile loop rail track that intersects with a Class 1 mainline railroad and accommodates 100 car unit trains - which is aligned with the transportation trends of the future and will give access to competitive transportation rates to central Kansas businesses, which is needed to maintain competitiveness to customers located in population centers outside of Kansas. This will create lasting economic opportunity in a county that was disadvantaged before the pandemic, has been harder hit economically and in public health during COVID than the state and US, and because of its low population didn't receive an allocation of federal ARPA funds sufficient to complete this strategic initiative without State support.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Courtland's- Upstairs Downtown Rental Project	City of Courtland Kansas	\$102,000	<p>The building houses City Hall, the public library, a public meeting room, and an un-utilized upper floor that we would like to turn into a workforce housing rental. The work would move the library into a larger newly renovated portion and fix the failing floor in this space. The community meeting room would be relocated to the former library space. Currently the second floor of the City Office is empty and used for storage. Due to the severe housing shortage in our area, especially in the rental market, there is opportunity through this project to make this floor into an upper floor apartment.</p> <p>The library has been in its current location for over forty years. Throughout its lifetime, standards in ADA and the responsibility of libraries have changed. COVID has necessitated that the library provide more room for spacing of patrons. The current library space is small and hard to navigate with wheelchairs and walkers. Now, not only do libraries serve the community through books, but in many instances offer movies, gaming, computer access, club meeting space, and community entertainment. The library is not currently designed for this and the renovated version will fix this.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	De Soto Economic Revitalization Infrastructure	City of De Soto, Kansas	\$20,000,000	The requested funds will be used to extend necessary public infrastructure to three potential economic development areas. One area is planned for a 1,200-acre light industrial or manufacturing park sited on the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, which is being remediated and returned to productive use. Another area is a 370-acre greenfield tract also being developed into light industrial. The third area is a 200-acre workforce housing project immediately adjacent to the future industrial parks. The infrastructure investment requested will make all three development possible and help return portions of the former ammunition plant to productive use. It will allow for billions of dollars in private investment, and generate thousands of high-quality jobs producing considerable economic activity in the community. This investment will set a positive course for what could soon become a regionally significant generator of economic prosperity in the state.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Diminishing Inflation Impacts on Speculative Construction Projects	Capital Development, LLC	\$4,000,000	<p>Our submission to the Spark Committee for the intended use of the funds requested is to directly combat the highly unsustainable construction costs of materials we have been forced to work with for the last couple years in the construction of speculative market rate rental properties, driving affordability out of the door as well as making projects impossible to start or be completed.</p> <p>In the last two years we have experienced lumber markets nearing 540% higher prices than January 2020, we have experienced other base materials increase daily. These increases are driving overall projects costs above 40%.</p> <p>Our smaller market in now fighting supplies shortages from local vendors; requiring us to have to haul in from further away again driving costs up.</p> <p>Our submission will meet multiple SPARK guiding principles such as prioritizing sustainable programs & investments through one time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services as well as fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans by bringing affordability back with the funds requested.</p> <p>These funds would allow us to combat these inflation challenges and seeing that projects get underway and completed.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Disinfectant Machine Manufacturing	AMA INC	\$975,000	At the height of the 2020 COVID pandemic, consumer demand for sanitizing and disinfectant products resulted in shortages and high prices. The American Mask Alliance (AMA) seeks \$975,000 in funds to build a manufacturing plant for a patented revolutionary machine which produces on-demand disinfectant with just water and salt. Additional funding per machine will be required to purchase the machine. We propose to install our Anolyte Disinfectant kiosks at targeted State-owned facilities based on foot traffic and consistent high occupancy rates. Anolyte kiosks will offer both on-demand production and distribution of hospital grade, FDA/EPA approved sanitizing disinfectant using only tap water and bulk food grade salt. A kiosk stores 20 gallons of fresh disinfectant and produces a gallon of new disinfectant in approx. 7 minutes. This product requires no PPE for handling/dispensing and treats a variety of surfaces with common spraying devices. Our objective is to ensure our most at-risk buildings have access to a virtually unlimited supply of a proven pathogen-killing surface disinfectant—regardless of supply chain issues or demand fluctuations; the ultimate goal is to provide Kansans with a SAFE working environment
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Dodge City Main Street Revitalization including Historic Building Facade Improvements, Water/Sewer Infrastructure and Broadband Access	City of Dodge City	\$2,000,000	The funds will assist with continued infrastructure updates to water, sewer, and broadband access throughout the downtown area, allowing Downtown Dodge City to provide free public wi-fi, and expand Main Street Dodge City's current Façade Improvement Program. This program's purpose is to provide critical matching grant funds to property and business owners to restore their dilapidated facades which are currently hidden by the awning that is in a state of disrepair. These improvements will make the storefronts more inviting to visitors and enhance the economic vitality in the area. The renovation and improvements of Downtown Dodge City will rebuild economic resilience to prepare not just the community but the region and the state of Kansas for long-term recovery following the economic downtown caused by the pandemic. This project is focused on enhancing resilience which will improve business retention and expansion. Also, by creating a welcoming cultural center in historic Dodge City, it will spark a spillover effect into the region as travelers coming from around the globe will have an opportunity to experience other regional attractions in Southwest Kansas when visiting Dodge City.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Dodge City Retail Corridors Gap Management	City of Dodge City, Kansas	\$10,000,000	The Investment Idea (II) would allow the City to acquire 2 sites. Property #1 is a laundromat that is located right in the middle of our Heritage District. If acquired this site would be razed & joined with adjacent City property providing space for a retail/service facility. Property #2 is primarily vacant & is located in between Walmart and Sutherland's Home Imp Center. The absentee owner has indicated that he may be interested in a sale. The City would then acquire both sites and work with developers that have shown interest. Once the developer is in place the City requests that the proceeds from the sale less improvement expenses be placed into the Local Revolving Loan Fund that is monitored by the State or return the funds to the State for future grants. The proposed II readily adheres to all of the guiding principles of the SPARK's program: as it is a onetime use of the funds, which would be leveraged with local match and developer investment. The results would be a long-term systemic impact through improved revenues to all governmental entities. The idea also allows the funds to continue to provide opportunities after the project is complete. The idea is also easily measurable to enable tracking and transparency.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Downtown Economic Driver: The Blair Center for the Arts: Historic Theatre	The Blair Center for the Arts Foundation	\$5,000,000	The intended use for funds requested will be utilized to renovate a historic theatre and supporting facilities in downtown Belleville, Kansas, to help provide an economic engine to those we serve. Our mission is to provide arts and entertainment opportunities to improve the quality of life in our region. But, the Blair must make updates to the facility to operate at total capacity. These updates include replacing antiquated lighting, sound, and video technology, expanding the stage and backstage accommodations, improving attendee accommodations like seating and bathroom facilities, and replacing general facility infrastructure like HVAC and roofing. These projects reflect community requests that showcase an existing need in our socioeconomically underserved, rural location. The arts and entertainment sector was an extremely hard-hit sector from COVID, with the recovery still in progress. The Blair was, unfortunately, unable to attain any funding help from the SVOG program, so all these projects are currently on hold. Using innovation, completing renovations, and implementing this programming will help bring business development to revitalize our underserved area, improving the quality of life and providing jobs in our region.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Downtown Olathe Economic Development Access	City of Olathe, KS	\$3,500,000	The successful revitalization of Downtown Olathe, which serves as the county seat for Johnson County's approximately 600,000 residents, is dependent on roadway improvements a railroad crossings. The crossings currently prohibit development along the western portion of the downtown area. Roughly one hundred trains traverse downtown Olathe each day severely impacting the ability of the City of Olathe to attract business owners and developers who can provide private investment to compliment the county's recently completed courthouse building. Additionally, Downtown Olathe is one of the most impoverished areas in Johnson County, with poverty rates near 20%, much higher than Johnson County or the State of Kansas.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Downtown Post-Covid Revitalization: Jayhawk Theatre Anchor	Historic Jayhawk Theatre	\$9,500,000	The Jayhawk Theatre was ineligible for SVOG funds. Mar-2020, everything came to a complete stand-still; recovery is painstakingly slow. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to fund critical infrastructure that will strategically leverage local support & the full restoration/re-opening of the official State Theatre of Kansas. This commitment will maximize discretionary funds; a one-time investment that will deliver proven, sustainable results. The long-term, systemic impact for Kansans is significant. In addition to many intangibles (job creation, quality of life, business recruitment/retention, robust educational & cultural programming), historic theatres are essential economic drivers, particularly to downtowns & industries (travel, tourism, hospitality) that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The sharing of data, ideas & best practices will be furthered by KHTA's (Kansas Historic Theatre Assn) network. Financial impact/data (e.g., new jobs, construction investment, earned revenue, hotel occupancy) will be closely tracked, providing the highest level of reporting & transparency. The economic response & impact will be immediate and ongoing, conservatively projected. ~\$10.8M annually, providing an estimated 12-month ROI for the requested SPARK investment.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Downtown Revitalization and Improvement Plan	Belleville Chamber & Main Street	\$1,200,000	As mentioned above, this project is a multi-faceted project consisting of a few different programs. The first program would be an Upper Floor Housing Grant. This grant would be a 1:1 matching grant fund up to \$50,000 to assist with overall renovation and repair to existing second level downtown buildings in the designated Main Street District. Building acquisition and public improvements would not be eligible expenses. We would fund up to 5 of these grants. The other program would be a building improvement grant that would be a 1:1 matching grant up to \$50,000 for anything on a downtown building including facade improvements, tuck pointing, roof repair, window repair and structural. We would fund up to 5 of these grants. Lastly, a project to make the downtown ADA compliant by removing double curb entry to the businesses and providing more ramped entries around the downtown corridor. While the sidewalks are being replaced we would also purchase historic street lighting and run all electrical underground. This project will help to create a historic atmosphere of a rural Kansas community while making all retailers accessible through ADA sidewalks.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Downtown Toronto Street Renovation Project	City of Toronto	\$100	The use of Spark funding will support efforts to restore community infrastructures by addressing the deteriorating roadway that passes through the main thoroughfare. Also, it would enhance progress to support community economic revitalization. Toronto is geographically located at the western edge of Woodson County, and is at the doorstep of the Flint Hills. It is less than a mile from Cross Timbers State Park and Toronto Lake. Tourism to Toronto has been hit especially hard due to Covid-19. Visitor numbers to Cross Timbers was 323,787 in 2018 and the numbers dropped to 116,148 in 2020. Additionally, Toronto is on the Trans Am Bike Route, which also saw a severe drop in numbers due to Covid-19. To further encourage tourism, resolve the issue of making a better and safer roadway for vehicles and bicyclists, Toronto sought an estimate to replace the road with a new layer of asphalt. Additionally, Toronto has also suffered loss of productivity, loss of employment and loss of local businesses due to Covid-19. While the city planned for The Downtown Street Project, it has seen delays due to lack of adequate funds during a time of reduced revenue. The current state of the road, makes maintenance time consuming, and with short term results.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Dunbar Theatre Project	Power Community Development Corporation	\$7,000,000	<p>The intended uses of funding are to complete the Dunbar Theatre Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of the 340-seat theatre and stage, including expansion of the box office and back-of-house spaces, adding public concessions, and restroom spaces. Developing adjoining land parcels to include a black box theater, educational facility, public gallery and bookstore, administrative offices, café and soda fountain, retail spaces, and on-site parking. Completing a Neighborhood Center to provide space for neighborhood initiatives, art classes, rental opportunities, and programming for marginalized youths. <p>The Dunbar Theatre Project will foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans by enhancing the McAdams neighborhood and creating economic and social stability. Revitalization of this area will provide systemic change and create a destination district for all of Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	E15 Fueling Station Upgrades	KDA	\$10,000,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Economic Development City of Coolidge	City of Coolidge	\$100,000	Set up a funding source for economic development in the City of Coolidge thru the City Council to help with investment ideas in the community to help spur growth, and economic development.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Enhancing Economic Vitality Through Beautification of Public Areas	North Topeka Arts District, Inc (aka NOTO Arts and Entertainment District)	\$700,000	Characterized by small businesses and non-profit organizations, the pandemic significantly impacted NOTO, and ongoing public health concerns make recovery slow and unsteady. The potential for NOTO is far greater than the resources available. SPARK funds will be used for beautification of public space to further enhance the area as an arts district thereby lending to economic recovery of this hard-hit area. Targeted areas for beautification include a bridge (City), adjacent land (County) and possibly UP Railroad land. As this involves multiple partners there is good potential in leveraging various funds. Significant communication and joint planning will be necessary to achieve a shared vision. Though once identified project milestones may be easily identified and measured.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Enhancing Main Street with Historic Jewel: Emporia Granada Theatre	Emporia Granada Theatre Alliance, Inc.	\$5,000,000	<p>Replace HVAC Reinstall stage lift Health & Safety Replace Front Doors Security & New gates for the Alley- COVID has had a huge impact on our underprivileged homeless population to where we are needing to add A security system set up at all entrances, with security digital door locks for the safety of our staff and peers. Basement Renovation It would be beneficial for the theatre to update the basement as we get water leakage when it rains. Deferred Maintenance -Green Room& Office renovations- chipped paint, broken countertop, floor replacement, repaint Stage Rigs & Light Fixtures- Damaged Curtains. Replace LED lights Economic Impact -Coffee Shop- The Granada Coffee. Accommodating Accessibility -Due to COVID-19, we are needing to add amenities such as a smaller bar in the mezzanine for smaller events. Additional investments to increase deficiency. Current & Compliant- update our software technology for hybrid and online events facilities Solar Panels for energy saving</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Establish advanced manufacturing and molding using recycled/sustainable composites and plastics	Shocker Composites, LLC	\$2,000,000	<p>Shocker Composites is a composite recycling company established in Wichita in 2016 by licensing and successfully commercializing a technology that was developed at Wichita State University. Since formation, Shocker Composites has been able to divert significant amounts of composite waste that otherwise are destined to end up in landfills. The company has developed further technologies that enable for the manufacturing of high quality plastic parts. The intended use of the funds is to facilitate the development and establish advanced composite molding. This can be achieved by leveraging Shocker Composites' established and proven technology to recycle composite materials. This would bring value to industries such as lawn care, agriculture, automotive by bringing access to high quality, long lasting and sustainable plastic products. The development and establishment of these capabilities will meet SPARK guidelines or prioritizing sustainable programs and investments through one time use of funds and to enable flexibility within investment strategies.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Etzanao Visitor & Immersion Center	Etzanao Conservancy	\$1,300,000	<p>The Visitor & Immersion Center engages the public with the heritage/culture of the Great Settlement of the Etzanao through a unique visitor center experience including interactive exhibits, an immersion theatre, outdoor trails, village replica, and simulation dig. Understanding/sharing the Etzanao story – culture,/heritage/daily life - advances knowledge of the prairie civilizations of North America and the dynamics experienced when contemporary civilizations interact. It also drives the local and state economy. It is by definition helping all current ethnicities as they learn about a Native American people and their interaction with new world expeditions. This project creates a sustainable investment in a one-time use of funds. With \$3.7 million already committed for the Center from local/regional donors, this grant will position and leverage the funds already committed with additional funders. A \$1.3 million grant combined with current funding leverages another \$2 million in funding for us to reach \$7 million. The systemic impact on the Kansas economy is specific: No other location in Kansas or America has this asset – the Great Settlement of Etzanao. It will assist the Kansas economy for decades and perhaps centuries to come.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Facade Improvement Grants	Barton County	\$250,000	<p>The Barton County Facade Improvement Grant (FIG) program provides financial assistance to businesses and property owners for façade improvements to downtown areas to create a visual impact and increase economic prosperity, accessibility, and quality of life in Barton County. This program was established in 2021 in response to the COVID pandemic to support local businesses and improve outdoor spaces in response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. In 2022, we want to focus on FIG to assist these businesses in developing outdoor spaces for dining and entertainment. The goal is to leverage local County reserve funds with SPARK funding to continue to support the FIGs for downtown Barton County business districts. FIG investments have spurred a downtown loft project with the City of Great Bend, created a consumption district, and spurred newfound energy in local economic development. One of our FIG recipients is also a HEAL recipient and anticipates applying for loft funding. Great Bend's downtown district is located in an opportunity zone, making the funding investment equitable, and the private-public partnerships ensure gentrification is not occurring.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Facelift for an Iconic Downtown Building	Topeka Performing Arts Center, Inc.	\$371,088	<p>The Topeka Performing Arts Center, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization which has contract ed with the City of Topeka to operate the former Municipal Auditorium since 1991. The nonprofit was formed in the late 1980's by community leaders to raise funds to renovate the 1930's art-deco style building and turn it into an attraction for visitors, but also to serve the artistic needs of the community. Little has been done to its physical structure since its reopening 31 years ago.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees has inventoried its needs and they exceed \$1.6 million, largely in theatrical upgrades, paint, carpet, and replacement of HVAC, roofing repairs, etc. The funding that is proposed for this SPARK state grant will fund paint, carpet, light fixture replacement on the lower level (banquet area) and upstairs meeting rooms, hallways, restrooms, etc. A request to the City of Topeka for \$455,,000 of its ARPA funds for infrastructure will deal with HVAC, roofing plus repairs that are life-safety issues. TPAC also has cash to match a proposal to Department of Commerce TASK grant request for \$227,970 for theatrical upgrades (electrical, sound, curtains, rigging).</p> <p>TPAC meets requirements for leveraging funds with measurable results.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Facelifting the Coronado Quivira Museum	Rice County Historical Society	\$325,000	<p>Rice County is rich with prehistoric archaeological sites, many representing the Ancestral Wichita Indians, which are referred to as the Quivira. The Rice County Historical Society is the nation's major repository to own and display these artifacts. Annually, over 2,500 students, scholars, and tourists come to the Museum. The intended use for the requested fund in this application to the SPARK committee is to redesign exhibits in the 1983 long term gallery of the Rice County Historical Society/Coronado Quivira Museum. The RCHS staff will work with a design team from the Kauffman Museum. SPARKS funds will be combined with leverage local and IMLS funds to maximize use of discretionary funds The long-term systemic impact for Kansans will be the development of a sustainable educational and tourist attraction for all people. Further the body of scholarly information will be available to other museums for use.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Feasibility Study for ICT Airport Customs Expansion	Kansas Global Trade Services, Inc.	\$50,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support economic development in Kansas. Specifically, Kansas Global Trade Services, in collaboration with the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (ICT), desires to conduct an initial feasibility study to determine if an expanded ICT Customs facility and international designation for ICT would benefit Kansas. This study would evaluate the potential economic impact for the state; it would seek to understand the needs of Kansas companies and their support of an expanded customs facility, and the study would analyze both passenger and cargo needs. This proposal fits the SPARK guiding principles by fostering long-term systemic economic impact for Kansas and ensuring that such an investment would have measurable results.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Fellowship Hi-Crest Economic Recovery	FELLOWSHIP HI CREST INC	\$200,000	<p>On December 31, 2020, the Joint Economic Development Organization decided to end its rideshare programs that allowed Hi-Crest residents access to new employers in Topeka. On January 5, 2022, Topeka Metro announced through a press release that they planned to reduce services to the Hi-Crest community. Even with its limited service for Hi-Crest residents, Topeka Metro serves as a critical link to jobs, medical facilities, schools, and shopping. This reduction in service will be detrimental to the Hi-Crest community.</p> <p>This program will allow Fellowship Hi-Crest to upgrade its people mover to accommodate disabled citizens, hire two part-time employees for three years, cover costs of the rideshare program, and market the program. The parameters around the rides offered would be to help people within a 2 miles radius of Avondale East Elementary (455 SE Golf Park Blvd). The rides would be restricted to get to and from work, primarily when our bus system does not run and to places that it does not go, to doctor appointments, the grocery store, and school. We will have additional limits like the ride has to originate or terminate in that same 2-mile radius.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Fellowship Hi-Crest Economic Recovery	FELLOWSHIP HI CREST INC	\$60,000	<p>The intended use of funds submitted in this request to the SPARK committee is to support the development of an online church community for Fellowship Hi-Crest to assist us increasing our flexibility in reaching our audience. Churches are a hard hit sector experiencing an average 50-60% reduction in attendance since the beginning of the pandemic.</p> <p>The online community is one of the most underserved and under-reached areas for the religious sector. Our potential for growth and recovery are tied with improving how we engage and reach people online. Development would mean investing in the Altar Live software and training, additional equipment, adding crypto currency as a donation option, and hiring a technical director in order to grow an engaged online community.</p> <p>The investments in the software, equipment and staff would not only allow us to prioritize growth online, but also improve the type of community events and how frequently we could host community events through our organization and through our partnerships with other local businesses, nonprofits and government agencies.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Financial incentives to improve air service at Wichita Eisenhower National Airport	Wichita Airport Authority	\$4,000,000	The funds will be used for minimum revenue guarantees to incentivize airlines to add service from ICT to strategic destinations. The airline industry has been hard hit by COVID, resulting in reductions in flights at ICT. Airlines cannot take on the risk of starting new routes, especially in smaller markets. Several cities including Tulsa are aggressively using public and private funds to incentivize airlines to add service. The FAA does not allow airports to use its revenue for risk mitigation incentives. ICT has access to only 1/3 of the national airline hub network and falls behind peer airports in the region, which puts our region's businesses and industries at a competitive disadvantage. New hub service is attractive as it not only provides business traffic direct access to major business centers, it also expands ICT's overall network of one-stop markets while better serving other markets with more efficiency. Improved access will make us more competitive with other regions vying for new companies, as well as enabling companies to attract talent. This is supported by Sedgwick County, City of Wichita, Wichita Chamber and Air Service Task Force, Greater Wichita Partnership and REAP.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Flint Commerce Center	Flint Development, LLC	\$12,500,000	The funds will be used to facilitate redevelopment of approximately 360 acres into a graded, pad-ready condition with utility connections for the development of approximately 4.6 million sq. ft. of Class A light industrial and manufacturing uses, along with substantial on and off site public and private infrastructure improvements. With the demand today for high-quality industrial space, projects that are willing to move forward with spec construction are critical to landing these highly sought-after companies in Kansas. The project will meet SPARK's guiding principles through long-term systematic impact, including substantial economic activity during the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated 2,000 new full-time jobs plus temporary construction jobs, increased future property tax revenues to the taxing jurisdictions, and supporting, developing and improving infrastructure which includes roadways, water and sewer improvements. Industrial development of this magnitude can truly become an anchor in the community, and will open up thousands of acres in the nearby areas of the project by attracting further development such as housing for the increased workforce, retail, restaurants and other new development.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	FNB Dodge City	DW Skyrise, LLC	\$2,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development and renovation of a Historic Landmark building in downtown Dodge City, KS. The renovation will include 22 residential units and the potential to host 45 small business offices through a coworking space. The requested funds will go towards an \$8.3 million dollar construction budget. The residential units & coworking space addresses multiple needs within the Economic Revitalization sector. The residential units support the drastic need for quality housing in the Southwestern Kansas Region. The coworking space promotes business innovation & business development. It provides an inclusive environment for small businesses that need a business setting. Downtown Dodge City is a neighborhood that all members of the community share. Revitalizing the FNB building would place a crown jewel in the downtown area that would act as a catalyst, creating an asset that all members of the community can share, and which will bring benefit, either directly or collaterally, to every member of the community. The FNB project has the ability to have a catalytic effect on the downtown district in Dodge City.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Ford County Legacy Center	Ford County Historical Society	\$450,000	The former Gamble's Dept. store offers many amenities with a 10,000 sq. ft. main floor, a 10,000 sq. ft. basement, and a 2,000 sq. ft. mezzanine. Ford County Historical Society will act as Curate and operate the Legacy Center, as we have the Home of Stone museum since 1965. Our goal is create a space which would give areas of display and allow visitors to experience our unique history of its collective communities. Our plan is first floor, displays, lower floor, storage and archival restoration, the mezzanine will be research. This building lacks features required by the City to open fully. We must have fire safety and suppression installed on all floors, ADA stair lift systems on each floor, and ADA bathrooms. The lighting system must be converted to LED for efficiency and archival protection, and the existing freight elevator does not function and is not upgradable. The HVAC is in poor condition and inefficient. Some wiring must also be upgraded for safety.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Fort Dodge	Ford County Historical Society	\$500,000	Primary goal is rehabilitate this historic building into a useful, productive tourism attraction for Fort Dodge and this region of Kansas through additional tourist opportunities. Renovation and restoration of this historic building will enhance Dodge City's tourism industry. Dodge City enjoys a reputation of being the most recognized old West city in the world. The Fort has huge potential for enhancing the tourism experience while continuing its mission as a Soldiers' Home.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Fort Scott Sports Complex	Bourbon County REDI	\$15,000,000	The funds we are requesting would be used to help with the development of the necessary infrastructure improvements. This would include the parking lots, roads, water and sewer lines, safety lighting, and ingress and egress into the complex off of Highway 69. This would also help develop pedestrian walkways and bridges across Highway 69 connecting this park with the current LaRoche Baseball complex. The addition of this infrastructure would not only allow this development to move ahead of schedule it would also allow us to begin the process of growing the City of Fort Scott farther South with more residential and commercial development.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Great Plains Infrastructure Enhancements	Tesseract Ventures, LLC	\$2,000,000	<p>The Company is developing a revolutionary human-machine interface system that allows organizations the ability to connect with a spatial, digital mosaic using various ultra-high-speed processing backends to intuitively reveal, organize and display vast amounts of information through proprietary extended reality interfaces, robots, and IoT connected devices.</p> <p>The Company's tools, robotic in nature, will collect and analyze data to support or confirm innovative solutions. The solutions or insights can then be quickly presented in a way that is easily communicated with others. The Company is creating both the tools and environments today to enable people to make better decisions with organized data, AI, and machine learning. The Company calls this integrated solution a "Tesseract".</p> <p>The enhancements provided by Tesseract would include 1) Tesseract Access and Control Technology (NODE, LoRA integration, Internet of Things (IoT testbed), 2) Tesseract PRISM Technology (wearable robotics/access + control/ health + safety), and 3) an AI enabled Smart Space (called a TESSERACT) that reimagines collaboration, visualization of critical real time data feeds, and serves as the brain/backbone for an IoT test bed.</p> <p>Sustainable Program; Investment.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Green Hydrogen Fueling Station	Avium, LLC	\$5,700,000	<p>Avium, LLC, along with collaborators at Peaslee Tech and the University of Kansas (KU), propose to design and build a green hydrogen fueling station located at Peaslee Tech. Green hydrogen is considered to be the clean chemical energy source of the future. Green hydrogen is enjoying unprecedented commercial and political momentum; over \$300B is announced or projected to be spent on hydrogen projects globally through 2030, and Kansas should not be left behind. We are requesting a one-time use of funds to build a green hydrogen fueling station (Avium), and convert two internal combustion vans to run on hydrogen (Peaslee Tech), which will be used to transport students at KU and Peaslee Tech. A new course on green hydrogen engineering will also be developed by the Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering at KU. The pandemic has taught us that local sources for critical resources, like energy, are key to being resilient. According to the US Department of Energy Kansas is geographically well-positioned to become a major exporter of green hydrogen with an excellent mix of wind and solar along with adequate water supply. This project will enable the growth of a green hydrogen infrastructure in Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Gross Coliseum duct work and cooling improvement	Fort Hays State University	\$6,081,000	<p>Gross Coliseum at Fort Hays State University is a highly valuable facility which supports the mission of the University by hosting a wide range of events. In addition, the facility provides significant economic impact to the City of Hays and the region each year by hosting several events which draw visitors from across the state of Kansas and beyond. Replacement of the aging HVAC systems and adding cooling to Gross Coliseum would further expand the ability to host these events. It will also assist in air exchange in the building which will help with COVID response.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Hangar Development at KHUT	Hutchinson Regional Airport	\$800,000	<p>The airport plans to use the granted funds to construct and set of t-hangars for use of private and business/commercial aircraft owners. This grant would be combined with a 25% local match to facilitate the project. Long term benefits for more hangar space include increased fuel sales, increased maintenance and servicing opportunities for airport maintenance facilities, revenue increase directly for the airport in terms of lease agreements, increased tax revenues for maintenance as well as increased airport operations that directly affects future federally funded infrastructure projects and funding for the Federal Contract Control Tower. The need for hangar space at the airport is directly measurable by the current hangar wait list. As of 2022, the airport has 36 based aircraft, 16 of which are in existing t-hangars. Our current wait list includes 11 individuals requesting hangar space potentially bringing our based aircraft inventory to 47. Many on these lists are private aircraft owners who intend to move existing aircraft to the airport, while others are in the process of building/outfitting aircraft. In addition, existing airport maintenance tenants need more space to store aircraft temporarily while they service others.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Heck addition infrastructure expansion	City of Waverly	\$10,000,000	<p>The intended use for these funds would be the development of an existing city property. It would provide a onetime investment into infrastructure that would allow for the needed increase in housing.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Hiawatha Kansas Dry Fertilizer Shed	Ag Partners Cooperative, Inc	\$6,500,000	<p>This 21,000 ton dry shed will lead to increased efficiency and increased sales to local agricultural producers. We currently operate many older and inefficient dry sheds with limited capacity. Capacity restrictions have impacted us due to logistical/supply chain issues. This is a state of the art asset that will help attract and retain employees in a tight labor market that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 global pandemic. We should also be able to meet producer demands for products they use in their efforts on food chain production. Increased traffic flows and labor opportunities should have positive impacts on the local economy of Hiawatha and North East Kansas.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Hi-Crest Market	SENT, Inc.	\$60,000	<p>The Hi-Crest area is known as a food desert. In large part, this designation is derived from the lack of transportation available. This population is also susceptible to the more severe effects from COVID-19 due to the presence of asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes and other underlying health conditions prevalent in the community. While public transportation is minimized, this community lacks access to the healthy choices necessary to combat the symptoms of COVID-19 to live a healthy life, in general.</p> <p>SENT is wanting to re-establish a shopper's model for the Hi-Crest Market. When COVID ramped up and Shawnee County was in the red, SENT transitioned to a model that minimized the communities power of choice by providing prepackaged family food bundles. SENT wants to return back to where we are moving in a way that allows the community to have a maximized power of choice, by moving away from prepackaged food bundles and providing a large variety of healthy choices for the community to pick from. In addition, SENT is wanting to hire a Hi-Crest Market Coordinator to oversee and execute the monthly Hi-Crest Markets. Providing an employment opportunity at an adequate living wage will add value to the workforce.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Hilmar Cheese Company Dodge City - Effects of COVID on Costs	Hilmar Cheese Company	\$70,000,000	<p>Governor Laura Kelly and Hilmar Cheese jointly announced the Company's decision to build a new state-of-the-art cheese and whey protein plant in Dodge City. The new facility will create 247 jobs and was initially thought to represent a \$460m investment with an additional estimated \$550m in dairy development and 750 new jobs within a fifty-mile radius of Dodge City. The cost estimate for the project has escalated to ~\$660m driven in large part by COVID related issues (inflation on materials and equipment, workforce scarcity/costs and supply chain challenges). We are reaching out to all taxing entities, utilities and the SFRF program to help share in the increased cost of this project that will benefit the local community, region and state. We have made strategic adjustments to help control costs like changing our project management to internal resources and we are also likely to include more regional contractors. We are confident in the design of the new facility and in our ability to execute based on the successful building and commissioning of our Texas facility.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Historic Colonial Fox Theatre Downtown Development	Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation	\$2,000,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This one-time investment gift will draw more than 80,000 people annually downtown. 2. Data from historic theatres show cultural, educational & entertainment programming draws visitors, and demonstrate the major year-round economic impact on businesses. 3. SFRF grant leverages the current \$1.9M in gifts & pledges, allowing for Theatre Pavilion construction to begin. It expands the \$2.4M already invested in the theatre. 4. Theatre Pavilion is required to satisfy restroom requirements, ADA accessibility, life-safety, and pre-production operational space. The Pavilion includes a large educational space to ensure needs of area schools and the Theatre. 5. From an equitable standpoint, the Theatre has a direct educational value, expressly for at-risk-youth & low-income households. 15.3% of regional population lives below the poverty line. Recognizing how vital the Theater is to child development: cognitive, social, cultural, & academic, is important. 6. The pandemic toll is heavy. The Theatre can be the region's greatest asset in recovering from this social & economic crisis. <p>Tracking methods include tickets, increased downtown sales tax revenue, program attendance, downtown business rehabilitation & new construction.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Historic Orpheum Theatre Restored	ORPHEUM PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE LTD	\$3,000,000	<p>The grant requested dramatically impacts the regional economy in a manner only possible utilizing a historic theatre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This one-time investment of \$3 million leverages another \$3.8 million to complete this \$8 million project, creating sustainable economic impact • In the first ten years this project is estimated to generate more than \$90 million in economic activity • The long-term systemic economic impact is created by the constant success of historic theatres to drive large numbers of visitors to the downtown area • The long-term systemic cultural impact is the theatre's ability to engage large diverse populations with its programming • Fully operational historic theatres are a catalyst for private investments in the downtowns they reside. Because historic theatres drive large numbers of participants, tourists and attention each year to its location, a wide range of existing businesses grow and new businesses are started. • Total annual performance attendance, the diversity of programs, total annual program and workshop participation, total annual theatre revenue, increased city and county revenues, national notoriety brought to Wichita and Kansas

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Homefield Wyandotte County	HFS KCK, LLC	\$3,000,000	<p>The Homefield project will be a major entertainment and tourism destination in Kansas, which will include a multi-sport athletic complex comprised of first-class amenities and other related retail, office and entertainment facilities, outdoor multi-sport venue, best-in-class youth baseball complex, and other related recreational tourism and entertainment activities.</p> <p>SPARK funds for the Electrical Infrastructure will address a gap in the capital stack to take care of this required scope of work. While the Electrical Infrastructure will not serve or benefit the Homefield project, it will serve other nearby properties and induce substantial economic investment and development there.</p> <p>The entertainment, hospitality, and youth sports sectors have financially suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Homefield project will provide a substantial boost to these sectors, helping not only to recover but to grow beyond historical levels.</p> <p>The applicant will utilize the requested SPARK funds to upgrade the Electrical Infrastructure, allowing the Homefield project to move forward and opening up properties to the south for significant future development projects and private investment.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Infill Sidewalk Pedestrian Plan	City of Topeka	\$2,500,000	<p>13. This program funds the construction and maintenance of sidewalks to provide for pedestrian connectivity that is identified in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan. This will improve connectivity by extending the network of pedestrian routes and adding to the City's multimodal transit system. The city has identified over 14,000 linear feet of poor or very poor condition sidewalks. This likely represents only a small portion of the real need as the entire city network has not been assessed.</p> <p>Many of those sidewalks are in low to moderate income areas where residents do not have access to sidewalks compared to newer neighborhood areas. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, more residents were going outside on walks. Those who did often did not have access to sidewalks were forced to walk on roadways and putting them at risk of potentially fatal motor vehicle collisions. This lack of adequate sidewalks also poses an equity issue for disabled residents who rely on quality pedestrian paths to move around the city safely. These funds would allow the City to leverage expenses from other projects, such as street and/or utility maintenance and repair, to promote equity and access in the community for people who are otherwise excluded.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Installation of a 150kW Solar Electrical Generation System	Peaslee Tech	\$450,000	<p>Installation of a 150kW Solar Electrical Generation System aligning with the Economic Revitalization Advisory panel, specifically related to Workforce development, Business Development and Business innovation for Peaslee Tech.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Intercultural Center	Emporia State University	\$3,500	<p>The intended use for funds is to support the development of an Intercultural Center (IC) at Emporia State University. An IC will function as a welcoming environment for student, staff and faculty to learn about, understand, and become comfortable with cultures different from their own while promoting a sense of belonging for underserved populations. An IC will offer exhibits, lecture series, diversity training, programming, and discussion groups. The center will contain a library devoted to information on historically excluded and systematically marginalized populations. The IC will affect retention and recruitment of underserved students assisting in developing a more diverse and credentialed workforce. By creating a connection to ESU and the IC, this diverse talent will more easily be retrained within Kansas' workforce. This center will also support communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Through the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, impact of the center will be measured, and adjustments will be made based on these assessments. This center will support Kansas' response to and recovery from COVID-19 among historically underserved populations and will strengthen the resilience of these communities and of Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	K-10 and Ridgeview Entertainment District	City of Olathe, KS	\$10,000,000	<p>The COVID pandemic has been catastrophic to the State of Kansas's tourism industry. Prior to the pandemic, there were more than 66,000 travel-related jobs in Kansas and more than \$8.6 billion spent by domestic and international travelers in Kansas. During the pandemic, visitor spending declined 33% and tax receipts declined 27%. This has been incredibly impactful to small businesses and hotel operators. This is compounded by the fact that despite having more than 1 million residents in Johnson Douglas Shawnee, and Wyandotte counties alone, the majority of residents in Northeast Kansas seeking sports and entertainment events migrate to Missouri venues like Cable Dahmer Arena, T-Mobile Center, Starlight Theatre, Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland, Bartle Hall, The Truman, and Uptown Theater. This represents a significant revenue loss to the State of Kansas that could be recouped with the creation of the proposed entertainment venue at K-10 and Ridgeview</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Kansas Advanced Simulation Center - Aerospace Innovation Ramp	Kansas State University Salina	\$17,000,000	<p>This submission is to support the establishment of the Kansas Advanced Simulation Center (KASC) on KSU's Aerospace and Technology Campus in Salina. The KASC will leverage augmented virtual reality to provide access to nationally recognized education, training, and research in the areas of manned and unmanned aviation, autonomous systems, smart manufacturing, and other areas that enable innovation in the aerospace and manufacturing industries. Investment funds will be utilized for the acquisition and expansion of facilities, equipment, and staffing necessary for the development of the KASC. The KASC will serve as the cornerstone for the Aerospace Innovation Ramp, where a dynamic community of educators, students, researchers, corporate partners, and entrepreneurs will share space, resources, and ideas to shape the future of the aerospace industry. The KASC will have a long-term systemic impact on Kansas by further enabling our ability to attract aerospace companies to the state; virtually extending our expertise across the globe; assisting companies in the state in virtual product testing, simulating manufacturing processes and industrial work environments; and market feasibility, investor matching, and product launch.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Kansas Proving Grounds	Great Plains Development Authority/Great Plains Industrial Park	\$25,000,000	This project will focus on prioritizing sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds , foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans, consider equitable opportunities and outcomes, enable flexibility within investment strategies, and ensure results are measurable to enable tracking & transparency. This project will create a symbiotic industrial environment fostering an innovation testing grounds which propels industry leading developments.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Kansas Underutilized & Revitalized Buildings (KURB) Program	Commerce	\$5,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	KBA Building Smart Factory of the Future	Tesseract Ventures, LLC	\$5,000,000	Tesseract Ventures is developing a revolutionary human-machine interface system that allows organizations the ability to connect with a spatial, digital mosaic using various ultra-high-speed processing backends to intuitively reveal, organize and display vast amounts of information through proprietary extended reality interfaces, robots, and IoT connected devices. Think of this as the convergence of big data, analytics, visualization, AI, robotics and human capacity all rolled into one game-changing and revolutionary next-generation real-time software and hardware product. Tesseract's tools, robotic in nature, will collect and analyze data to support or confirm innovative solutions. The solutions or insights can then be quickly presented in a way that is easily communicated with others. The Company is creating both the tools and environments today to enable people to make better decisions with organized data, AI, machine learning, and a direct communication pathway between humans and external computing devices. The Company calls this integrated solution a "Tesseract" and is focused on developing a Kansas based, 21st century Factory of the Future. SPARK guiding principles: Tesseract is a sustainable Investment.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	KEIP Lot 5 Infrastructure	Salt City Investments LLC	\$2,893,662	The funds requested will support the infrastructure for development of a 57,600sf spec building in Kansas Enterprise Industrial Park, Lot 5 in Hutchinson, KS. Salt City Investments LLC is a private development group funded by local investors which support development to aid in the economic development efforts of Greater Hutch. This new group has been formed with the sole intent to help grow jobs in the area. Salt City Investments is investing their own personal funds of approximately \$3.8 million of private funding for the construction of 57,600sf but has need for local and SPARK assistance to help cover approximately \$2.9 million of infrastructure. Infrastructure estimates provided by Wiens & Company as follows: survey and extension of 4,650 linear feet of 10" water main, isolation valves, 1,500 linear feet 12" sewer main, manholes, tap & street fees, 2,050 linear feet of gas lines, fire hydrants, survey and earthwork for 10" reinforced concrete drive, ingress road and rail spur and raised dock and related engineering costs for infrastructure: Proposed use of funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Utilities \$889,653 • Sewer Utilities \$407,770 • Gas Utilities \$232,000 • Access infrastructure \$1,364,239
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Lead Paint Remediation	City of Topeka	\$500,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support lead paint remediation in low-to-middle income (LMI) homes. Lead-based paint in homes poses a threat to the health and safety of those who come in contact with the paint product or inhale the dust from the paint particles, especially children. Lead poisoning has severe consequences for cognitive development and continued exposure can be life-threatening. This application meets the SPARK guiding principles of considering equitable opportunities and outcomes and is a one-time investment. This program specifically focuses on lead paint remediation in LMI neighborhoods, ensuring equitable opportunities for health and safety for disadvantaged populations.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Leon Apartments Elevator Modernization	Levare Properties, LLC	\$100,000	1) Sustainable investment through one time use of funds. This investment into the building infrastructure of Leon Place increases the viability of the building and the social and economic benefits to the downtown will be considerable and long-lasting. 2) Equitable opportunities and outcomes. As of the 2021 census, the population of Hutchinson is 89% white, and 11% minorities. But where Leon Place is located in downtown Hutch, the minority population is 33%. Leon Place serves this community, and modernizing the elevator will help ensure an equitable outcome for those affected. Affordable housing is a critical need within Kansas, and none were more effected by COVID-19 than those who are living on low/fixed incomes. The Human Rights Watch states that 'the pandemic's economic fallout has had a devastating and disproportionate impact on the rights of low-income people who were already struggling.' These are the residents of Leon Place, and modernizing the elevator in the building will assist in their recovery from COVID-19.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Library Annex	Cimarron City Library	\$250,000	SPRAK funding will be used in the following: (1) Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds: These funds will be used to support the Library expanding their existing services and helping with the revitalization of an existing historic building in downtown Cimarron to provide up-to-date meeting space for our community, expanding programs offered in southwest Kansas to include traveling historic exhibits, providing programming to share local history with patrons and outside visitors. This facility will help the library provide an opportunity to promote tourism to our community by providing programming that our area would not otherwise be exposed to. The funding would help with remodel and bringing the facility up-to-date with IT. Results will be easily trackable and transparent by attendance records and budget records. This facility will foster a long-term impact for our community with meeting space to promote outside organizations using our facility for meetings and continuing education.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Local Food Systems	KDA	\$20,000,000	Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services Access to meat proteins was at times limited early in the pandemic, promoting local processors to expand capacity, update equipment will help ensure state resiliency in the future to ensure access to locally processed foods
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Main Street Façade Improvement Grants	Commerce	\$10,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Main Street Market	City of Bucklin	\$3,000,000	The City of Bucklin is requesting SPARK funding to renovate and re-open, with a community-forward business plan, its Main Street grocery store that closed in July of 2021 due to stressors from COVID such as staffing and supply chain. Now being in a 'food desert,' (20+ miles from a large grocery store) the lack of a grocery store has and will continue to impact Bucklin's ability to recruit potential incoming workforces from the planned wind towers, Hilmar Cheese Factory in Dodge City, and new dairies to live in Bucklin. A sustainable and appealing grocery store will help Bucklin recruit and retain other professionals, such as teachers, as well as provide a vital service to lower-income and elderly sectors (both groups suffering physical and economical effects of COVID), who either cannot afford or physically capable to travel to get their groceries. Keeping more dollars in its local economy and resurrecting a Main Street building, Bucklin aims to create a ripple effect helping the other businesses. In summary, a grocery store will provide an essential service currently lacking to current residents, attract new residents, provide employment opportunities, and ultimately be a major part in building a sustainable future for Bucklin.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Maple Leaf Trail	City of Baldwin City, Kansas	\$20,000,000	Baldwin City intends to use these funds to design, permit, and construct trail and broadband public infrastructure between Baldwin City and Ottawa, Kansas. The Project will provide infrastructure connections, enable public-private partnerships, expand broadband to under-served rural areas and Ottawa, enable promotion of community development and marketing, provide vital connections to other State Park investments (Flint Hills Nature Trail & Prairie Spirit Rail Trail), and enhance quality of life and livability in southern Douglas/northern Franklin Counties with additional recreation opportunities & improved quality of life & health. This Project has been planned for many years. Phase 1 is funded by KDOT and underway. The City owns a trail easement to allow for trail, utilities, and ancillary improvements along the Midland Railroad. The funds will be used to construct the trail between Baldwin and Ottawa as well as the installation of "dark fiber" infrastructure. The construction will consist of clearing, grading, several bridges at stream crossings, trail surfacing, broadband infrastructure, and trail signing from the train depot in Baldwin City to the north limits of the City of Ottawa.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Meade County Helipad Construction	Artesian Valley Health System	\$500,000	The intended use of funds requested are to build a helipad on the grounds of AVHS. Currently AVHS does not have a helipad, and instead a parking lot is utilized. Several issues have been identified with the current location that is being utilized. The current location is surrounded by powerlines that power more than 25% of the city of Meade. An improper landing or take off can lead to several financial and safety issues. Air-med providers are also consider about the powerlines as they pose a significant safety risk to their flight teams. Additionally, the current location does not include the best practices for a helipad. A new location on the front lawn of AVHS has been proposed. The new location would have clear take off and landing paths as well as proper lighting and increased safety for residents, patients, and staff members. The proposed project meets the SPARK guiding principals by ensuring equitable and safe care to all of its patients. Additionally, the pandemic has had a major impact on patient volume, especially those patient who need higher levels of care. A helipad would allow for speedier, safer transportation of patients to a higher level of care.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Museum & Cultural Center	The Kansas African American Museum	\$1,300,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This one-time major infusion of \$1.3 million by SFRF program positions the current \$2.3 million raised. It encourages foundations and businesses to help with the final \$1 million to reach \$4.5 million. 2. Construction can start quickly. The new facility is acquired, and current designs and plans allows the renovation to start in 2023 and be finished in 2024. 3. This project was started in late 2019 before COVID arrived in March 2020. Funding efforts have been drawn out over the last 23 months. SFRF program funding puts funding back on track. 4. The systemic economic impact made on Kansas over the first 10 years is estimated to be more than \$42 million. 5. Project literally removes the museum from a current location which is surrounded on three sides by the county jail and a 4-story parking garage on the fourth side. 6. The systemic education impact is also significant. TKAAM collaborates with local schools, but also nonprofits, colleges and universities across Kansas. 7. Because of annual government support and as good fiscal managers, TKAAM maintains extensive information, data related to museum visitors, program participants, funding, website, video, and other digital visits.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	NE Grocers Project	Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group	\$706,095	<p>This project will create a sustainable improvement in the food system of Northeast KCK (NEKCK) by establishing a resident-owned and operated grocery co-op. The majority of residents in NEKCK—which is a food desert—are low-income and have low-access to grocery stores.</p> <p>More than \$2 million in SNAP/EBT money is spent by NEKCK residents each year; however, the lack of a grocery store means that most of those funds are captured by higher-income areas outside NEKCK and across state lines. Northeast Grocers will be an economic engine, retaining monetary resources in the community and bolstering NEKCK businesses and residents who have faced loss of income because of the pandemic.</p> <p>SPARK's investment in this project would leverage existing funds to: make capital improvements (remodeling bathrooms, replacing security doors), provide needed equipment (walk-in refrigeration), support the completion of a market study, hire consultant support for architectural and floor plan design, facilitate business planning, and support stipends for peer learning sessions to educate residents on cooperative organizing and food sovereignty—improving longterm community engagement with the project.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	New Dental Office Construction	Jordan D Haedt DDS LLC Dental Office	\$750,000	<p>I intend to use the funds to help construct a new dental office. My current dental office is almost 75 years old, & there are many problems with plumbing and electricity with modern equipment. I currently employ seven other women & would like to expand the type of dental services to the community as well as possibly employ another dentist, which would lead to other positions in the office as well. My current office is too small for that. Construction funds would also be used to employ local contractors and keeping money within the community. My dental office has existed in the community for almost 75 years, & I am the fourth generation dentist to own here. I have owned the dental practice for over four years now, including during the initial outbreak of the pandemic. The need for quality dentistry in the area has increased as three other dentists within a thirty mile radius have recently retired.</p> <p>By building a new office, it has been proven in dental studies to increase the net profit of the office by almost 25% and therefore increase the tax base for the community that I serve. This would lead to more funding for the community and better the town of Hiawatha. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	On-demand Transportation Improvement Project for Persons with Disabilities	Envision Inc.	\$200,000	<p>This project will provide on demand transportation to Kansans who are blind, visually impaired or with other disabilities by partnering with existing on-demand Transportation Network Companies (TNC). This funding mechanism will improve transportation while allowing time to develop a permanent program. Sited by many leaders in government, economic development and our community, public transportation needs great improvement. The impact of inadequate public transportation impacts our communities negatively and is especially detrimental for Kansans with disabilities</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Oregon Trail Historic Tourist Park	Oregon Trail, LLC	\$350,000	<p>This request of funding is for the infrastructure costs to build a historic themed tourist park centered around the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail was the reason this town was founded,its main street is named Oregon st for this reason. We plan to bring this local history to life in a roadside park and glamping destination while honoring the immigrants and indigenous tribes who have lived or traveled through this land we love. My wife Bethany, our son Creed and myself, are committed to being good stewards of this community. Our local economic board is supportive of our idea and is excited about the promotion of local history in our town. The infrastructure planned for this park would include dirtwork, electric service installation, water and sewer utilities, culvert and driveway expenses, 3 covered wagons (purpose built for nightly rental), 3 hand built tipis for glamping accomodations, a couple small log cabins, signage and history displays, multiple rv hookups installed to serve tourists, windfarm and other construction workforce on occasion. We plan to make this destination part of the face of this town and a great advertisement to nationwide travelers. Our goal is to showcase Kansas skill and craftsmanship exclusively.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Performing arts center	It Takes A Village Inc	\$1,000,000	Secure a permanent larger facility to house all facets of the performing arts youth center.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Pool Dehumidification Unit	Divya Laxmi LLC dba Rodeway Inn	\$30,000	I am seeking the funds to purchase a Pool Dehumidification Unit which is due for replacement for the Rodeway Inn swimming pool located in Hesston KS. This would help bring local and out of town guests to the town of Hesston. The town of Hesston is small town of 3,800 people we are right off of interstate I-35. One of the popular amenities that the hotel offers is the Pool and Spa which local people in the surrounding areas of Hesston come to swim and participate. The hotel itself is maintained well we have a 4.2 Google Review. We were in the top level of guest satisfaction for 2021. We were significantly down business wise during 2020 (50%) and we are slowly getting back on track.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Precision Agriculture soil moisture detectors to support small farms in KS hit hard by rising expenses and fluctuating commodity prices	Radiation Detection Technologies	\$4,500,000	Radiation Detection Technologies is recommending deploying precision agriculture soil moisture detectors that have been validated by academia and industry to Kansas farmers impacted by increasing energy and water expenses while being impacted by crop losses from severe drought. The large area CRNS soil moisture detectors were developed using \$1.2MM of federal funds by Radiation Detection Technologies located in Manhattan, KS. There have also been numerous federally funded grants that have validated this technology via academic research out of Midwest universities including Kansas State University and the federally owned NEON facility located on the Konza Prairie. The \$4.5 Million in funds to be deployed over 12-months giving 300 soil moisture detectors to Kansas Midsize family farms and smaller farms based on the USDA's classification criteria of farms with income under \$1 million. We would target farms hit hardest by drought conditions first and then expand to the areas around those counties. Once the devices are distributed and placed in fields the farmers can use their phones or laptops and log into their soil moisture information.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Product Diversification - Laser Cutting Machine and Router Machine	Hornet Cutting Systems	\$3,250,000	<p>Hornet Cutting Systems intends to utilize available funds to grow its product line, enter new market segments, and employ more local Kansas based workers. Our goal is to increase our sales in Kansas, the USA and internationally. Hornet intends to use the funds in the following ways.</p> <p>\$500,000 for hiring two new project engineers \$500,000 for a CNC laser cutter to increase production \$1,000,000 to expand production facilities and R&D testing space \$100,000 to purchase land adjacent to current production facility \$500,000 for initial equipment needed to build R&D CNC laser machine \$250,000 for initial equipment needed to build R&D CNC router machine \$200,000 for initial marketing expenses needed to penetrate the CNC laser and router markets \$200,000 for attending trade shows to showcase the new products</p> <p>Hornet anticipates the total price of getting the necessary equipment, staff, marketing, and trade show presence needed will exceed the amount being requested. Hornet Cutting Systems will be paying the additional amount required through private funds.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Professional Soccer Stadium	The G1 Group	\$25,000,000	<p>All \$25M will be used towards the construction of the soccer specific stadium that can also host other sporting teams and events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prioritize sustainable programs with one time investment - this one time investment will help provide a great community asset that will create jobs, spur economic development and increase quality of life 2. combine with local and agency funds - the city and/or county will provide the other \$25M investment, the private sector will invest \$10M - \$20M to secure and operate the team, along with provide funding to development the mix use real estate around the stadium 3. foster long term systemic impact for Kansans - same answer as #1 4. Ensure results are measurable - we can track based on job creation of stadium construction, stadium & team operations, hotel nights from home games, tax reporting from the mix use real estate development, economic impact identifier by looking at out of town visitors based on ticket sales

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Project Catalyst - Spec Building Infrastructure	Selwyn Investments, LLC	\$2,680,000	<p>The intended use of the funds requested is to supplement local and private funds used to develop infrastructure, lot construction, and building construction for a nearly 60,000 sq ft speculative industrial building project. Prior to the pandemic, we were entertaining out-of-state investment opportunities to develop a new spec building. The economic uncertainty and material fluctuations that were caused by the pandemic brought outside investment interest to a stop.</p> <p>Based on the leads we receive, and the lack of available building inventory, we have a very strong business case to utilize a spec building to attract new economic growth. This singular project stands on its own merit, but it also offers the added benefit to create a snowball effect of spec building development in our Kansas Enterprise Industrial Park. The pandemic has changed business needs for more warehousing, logistics, and renewed interest in localization (rather than globalization) of manufacturing. Hutchinson is in a strong position to capture that business and offer a better value. RS Means data reflects that Hutchinson has the lowest average commercial construction costs of all cities studied in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, or Colorado.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Provide funds for targeted agricultural infrastructure development	KDA	\$2,000,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Purchase and install CXT private shower and restroom facilities state parks	KDWPT	\$6,200,000	Purchase and installation of CXT shower and restroom buildings. As park visitation increased during the pandemic, the limitations of the outdated open-air bath and shower facilities were evident. Installing new CXT facilities with private restrooms and showers will not only be more attractive to prospective park patrons, they will provide improved safety for patrons.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Redbud trailhead area revitalization	Go Augusta	\$50,000	The funds will support the use of trails and continued outdoor activity during the Covid 19 pandemic. It will also assist in economic growth for downtown businesses that have been affected due to lack of foot traffic.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Reduce hunger in education	KDA	\$200,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Relocation of Professional and Youth Sports Teams to Kansas	Sporting Kansas City	\$30,000,000	'- The proposed facility would bolster the 2026 FIFA World Cup bid that includes the northeastern portion of Kansas via the stadium and nearby training facilities. Sporting Kansas City is pleased to submit the following application for the creation of an indoor sports facility in Wyandotte County through the use of one-time funds to relocate the 2nd Division and Youth Academy teams from Missouri while also adding a much-needed revenue-generating indoor sports field to the area. Improvements to the area's infrastructure would also be included in partnership with the UG and BPU. Those infrastructure improvements include water, sewage, LED lighting and electrical redundancy needs along with additional parking on private land already owned by the team.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Repair state park roads with 4 inches of overlay, necessary because of increased traffic during the pandemic and delay in maintenance due to heavy staff workload with record visitation	KDWPT	\$15,000,000	Funding would pay contract vendors to repair roads in all parks that experienced damage during 2019 flooding.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Replace obsolete Kansas Health & Environment Lab (KHEL) equipment	KDHE	\$4,500,000	Replacing the obsolete equipment strengthens the infrastructure of the Office of Laboratory Services and ensures their ability to meet the needs of Kansans from all parts of the state and from all socio-economic classes.
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Restoring Kansas Research & Education Backbone Network Capability	KanREN (The Kasnas Reseaerch and Education Network)	\$857,360	KanREN (The Kansas Research & Education Network) is a nonprofit consortium of (primary) educational institutions. KanREN's statewide backbone network colocates at the public universities (including Washburn) and JCCC. Due to both inability to gain access, lack of availability of new equipment, and associated problems with maturation of new technology due to manufacturer delays, KanREN was unable to conduct a routine 7-year capital refresh of backbone equipment intended for summer of 2020. Since that time, the project has continued to be delayed for the original problems plus severe inflation (~15%) in this sector. Additionally, operating end-of-life equipment in the meantime has incurred significantly increased operational costs, using funds earmarked for replacing the same gear. This project proposes to augment existing funding to complete the project by the end of FY25 and restore KanREN and our members to our regular capital refresh cycle going forward. It is a one-time request to balance the effects of the pandemic.

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Revitalization of Southeast Topeka through the Arts	Topeka Symphony Society	\$500,000	<p>The Topeka Symphony has served the Topeka community for over 76 years. The mission of the Topeka Symphony Society is to encourage and cultivate appreciation and support for fine music in northeast Kansas by presenting performances of high quality and by providing educational and performance opportunities for youth.</p> <p>We are more than a professional orchestra. We also have a youth ensembles program, a strings for success program for underserved children in the Topeka 501 School district, FREE School Day Concerts that educate and expose over 3000 students as to the power of classical, folk, movie, and popular music.</p> <p>Capitol Federal Bank is currently allowing to use office space at 519 SW 37th Street, Topeka to run all of these programs. We would like to buy and renovate this space that resides across the street from the old White Lakes Mall which is scheduled for demolition. This creates a great opportunity to improve this sector of Topeka that has been neglected for many years.</p> <p>The building and property is for sale for \$250,000. Renovations will cost at least \$250,000 for it to serve as an office and rehearsal space for our youth programs.</p> <p>See the listing: https://www.loopnet.com/Listing/515-519-SW-37th-St-Topeka-KS/19558395/</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Revitalization of the Historic Brown Grand Theatre	Brown Grand Opera House, Inc.	\$3,000,000	<p>Founded in 1907, the Brown Grand will be celebrating its 115th birthday in September 2022. We continue to foster long-term systematic impacts across our region by hosting a wide variety of performing arts events. As such, the SPARK funds will be used directly to revitalize our space, to make systems operable, and to preserve our historic gem for generations to come.</p> <p>We strongly believe it is important to bring surrounding communities to the historic Brown Grand Theatre, as we are one of the largest Opera Houses in North Central Kansas. The Theatre has a high economic impact in our community by bringing in performances and educational opportunities on a regular basis. Our audience members eat at local restaurants, stay at area hotels, and spend their money in our community. Since reopening our doors, after the first wave of the pandemic, in April of 2021, we have welcomed over 1,000 people for live performances and historical tours. Our rural community truly missed the performances the Brown Grand hosted while we were closed during the pandemic. In addition, as members of the Kansas Historic Theatre Association, we are proud to help revitalize our community and beyond. Funding for projects such as this are crucial.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Revitalizing Strong City's Historic Theater/Opera House	Strong City Preservation Alliance, Inc. (SCPA)	\$2,000,000	<p>Restoring the Strong City Opera House as a theater and events center will provide a systemic boost to the revitalization of Strong City. This project would make sound use of one-time funds by investing in the structure and stabilization of the theater itself (i.e. reconstructing the collapsed second floor). The project will leverage discretionary tax credits, individual donations, and other foundation grants. We will leverage the visitor experience to the Flint Hills and build upon existing destination partners, like TPNP and Pioneer Bluffs. This project will drive retail, restaurant, and other small businesses; cultural opportunities; and investment in rural housing. As a municipal center, equitable opportunities to events will be achieved through affordability, accessibility, and range of programming to meet rural, urban, young, and old. The project can be measured by restoration completion, visitor experience, events, impact to businesses and short-term housing market. The pandemic brought to light the need for community gathering, local resources, and cultural opportunities -- this project would provide community pride, quality of life and strengthening the resolve of one of our state's smallest towns and communities.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Rucker Road / Munson Road Safety Improvement Project	Geary County Public Works	\$1,900,000,000	<p>Intended use of funds for improving current gravel roads to an asphalt paved road network to support the existing Junction City High School and a future Elementary School. The west side of Junction City has seen recent growth in residential development and these two roadways provide secondary access to existing and planned future economic development opportunities.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Russell County Historical Society Museum Campus Improvement	Russell County Historical Society	\$330,000	<p>The Russell County Historical Society seeks to improve our physical campus for the purpose of achieving long-term sustainability goals for the cultural and historically important collections we have in our stewardship. This project will result in the construction of modernized facilities to house collections and increase public accessibility of those collections. We have secured funding for approximately 20% of the total estimated cost of \$945,260 with an additional \$450,000 in donations pledged. By applying to grants, we hope to fund the \$330,000 gap between the final cost and our successful fundraising efforts. Completion of this project would ensure that the archival collections are properly housed and preserved for future generations. It will increase accessibility to historical and educational exhibits which help communicate our shared pioneer past. By collaborating with state, local, and community stakeholders we are working towards a sustainable future for the Russell County Historical Society.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Save Our Streets (SOS) Program for KS Main Street Communities	City of Augusta, Kansas	\$20,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to provide a formula based allocation (e.g. on a per-capita basis) to create a new building revitalization grant fund (interiors and exteriors) for the 28 communities in the Kansas Main Street program. Main Street buildings are incredibly expensive to renovate and return to productive use as businesses and/or residential facilities. Pandemic related Inflation and supply chain issues have skyrocketed the costs of construction, making improving and redeveloping old buildings more untenable than it already was. High matching grants are essential to help close the gap. You should allow the local Main Street organizations 60-90 days to identify the qualifying projects for their local funding. Any uncommitted funds after that time go back into the pool to be redistributed to other Main Street communities.</p> <p>This program meets SPARKS principles through one-time investments that revitalize downtowns where hard-hit sectors like entertainment, bars, and retail typically locate. The matching requirements leverage private investment to bring blighted buildings back to productive use to foster long-term economic impact for Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Smart Tech for Automated Warehousing	Envision Inc.	\$2,500,000	<p>Install Smart Tech for automated warehousing including software integration to deliver pick-to-pack services using voice recognition software and controls to meet the distribution center needs of private companies across the nation. Add new business capability of warehousing and distribution center services to Envision's product offering. Hire additional employees in warehouse/distribution center and 1 salesperson. Potential increased revenue conservatively estimated at \$500,000 annually.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Soccer Stadium Entertainment District	Sporting Kansas City	\$95,000,000	<p>The proposed district would bolster the 2026 FIFA World Cup bid that includes the northeastern portion of Kansas via the stadium and nearby training facilities. Sporting Kansas City is pleased to submit the following application for the creation of an entertainment district in and around Children's Mercy Park through the use of one-time funds to add revenue-generating attractions such as a new restaurant concept, an additional retail and event rental facility, a concert stage, and the renovation of stadium infrastructure such as concession stands and video displays to support events beyond just soccer in the district. Improvements to the area's infrastructure would also be included in partnership with the UG and BPU. Those infrastructure improvements include water, sewage, and electrical redundancy needs along with a pedestrian overpass to increase safety between parking at Kansas Speedway and the district NE of State Avenue and an additional parking structure on private land already owned by the team.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Southeast Kansas Short Line Rail Modernization Project	South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad	\$32,484,179	<p>The Southeast Kansas Short Line Rail Modernization Project will tackle a major transportation problem facing Kansas farmers, shippers and receivers and drive local, state and regional economic development for generations to come, as well as aid in the economic recovery following the pandemic. In advance for Bartlett Grain's announcement of a brand-new over \$325 million soybean processing facility in Montgomery County, the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (SKOL) committed to upgrading/modernizing 200 miles of track to allow for 286,000-pound railcars. Today, the SKOL is unable to safely handle industry-standard 286K railcars. Due to its aged infrastructure, the lines that make up the SKOL are capacity constrained to 263,000-pound railcars. Therefore, customers must light-load cars for shipment to and from the SKOL. The project is estimated to cost \$46,405,970. The SKOL is asking for 70% of the total project costs from the SPARK Committee: \$32,484,179. The SKOL commits to 30% of the cost at \$13,921,791. This cost share match is in line with the current Short Line Rail Improvement Fund offered by Kansas DOT. This project aligns with supporting infrastructure, efficiency and modernization, as well as business development.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Special Project Funding for assistance to Communities in Region, for CV, SPARK, BASE and CDBG Grant applications	Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission	\$1,000,000	<p>The limited traditional funding for both the Certified Development Co. (CDC) Pioneer Country Development and the Northwest Kansas Planning & Development Commission (NWKP&DC), has not allowed either organization to be fully staffed. Thus, the prior level of service to Communities in the Region has suffered, due to lack of personnel, time available from limited personnel and travel within the region. This has been partially aided by an EDA Grant for recovery from COVID with the addition of 1 employee, but that grant is running out in Oct. 2022. Funds would be used to add additional personnel and retain 1 existing employee for the period of recovery in assisting Communities in the region with all aspects of their community development needs. This includes salary, benefits and travel for personnel, as well as training (as needed), to assist with the application process and administration of various grants, loans, etc. available to communities in the recovery effort.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Storage facility for COVID depopulation equipment	KDA	\$1,000,000	<p>Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Strengthening and Growing Our Community Through Arts - Youth Education, Performance and Community Outreach	C. L. Hoover Opera House	\$3,583,000	<p>Our projects will strengthen the infrastructure of the C. L. Opera House, making it better able to serve the needs of our region and community. The current pandemic has put a severe strain on the resources of the Opera House in particular and the Arts in general. Our ability to offer our patrons, young and old an outlet for artistic expression provides a much needed mental health outlet.</p> <p>As the heart of the Arts District, the Opera House leads our downtown in the economic development. We were instrumental in helping Junction City become a Kansas Main Street Community. Our plans to better define the Arts District with the Arch and landscaped parking center will help revitalize the community with easier access and spark the development of more downtown businesses and activity.</p> <p>We are a rural community and serve a region that includes Fort Riley. Our youth education and after school programs are a unique resource for our community. These projects will not only strengthen our existing work, but provide much needed help to expand all opportunities to even more students regardless of their socio-economic background.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	SWKS Chambers Alliance Health Plan, Inc.	Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce	\$1,000,000	<p>This is submitted on behalf of an insurance plan established by 7 chamber's within Southwest Kansas. We developed this plan as a way to help businesses within our region, specifically small businesses with health care costs, and access. The plan ended in a premium deficit at the end of 2021 and was exacerbated due to large COVID claims in 2020 and 2021. We are needing funds to mitigate outstanding plan claims costs. The current funds are inadequate due to a shortfall in premiums vs. health disparities caused by COVID. This is superior to other requests due to the nature that it impacts a large region of businesses within Kansas. The funds would relieve liability from businesses and therefore mitigate a negative financial impact. If no funds are received, this is another catastrophic impact of COVID. This was established in an innovative effort to aid businesses in our region and COVID significantly impacted the viability of this plan.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Taxiway A-1 Extension at Colonel James Jabara Airport	Wichita Airport Authority	\$4,600,000	<p>SPARK funds will support the construction of a taxiway to serve a large, undeveloped area (approx. 50 acres) in the NW area of Jabara Airport (Airport). The undeveloped land is fronted by Webb Road, a major arterial street in northeast Wichita, is 1.5 miles from K-96 and 2.5 miles from K-254. It is in the proximity to the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), a division of Wichita State University, on the Airport. NCAT, has become the nation's leading institution for aerospace manufacturing and aviation maintenance education and training. This one-time expenditure is an excellent use of Economic Revitalization funding as it will provide a long-term investment to serve commercial and industrial aviation related development on one of the busiest general aviation airports in Kansas.</p> <p>To remain a key aviation cluster for both commercial aerospace and general aviation, Wichita as a community must do the following: 1) continue to innovate in the production of advanced materials and automation; 2) globalize; and, 3) train and retain talent. This project helps to accomplish all three goals thereby positioning Wichita and the state of Kansas to continue being a leader in the realm of aviation manufacturing and innovation.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Thacher Building Enhancements	Gizmo Pictures. Inc.	\$50,000	<p>The 1888 Thacher Building is iconic, but for many years, sat empty. Gizmo Properties, LLC bought the building in 2009, and has created a retail space in the lower level, a restaurant on the main floor, a headquarters for Gizmo Pictures on the 2nd floor, and a professional video production studio on the 3rd floor. We have been unable to make improvements to make the top floor - south end. We hope to add mechanical HVAC, plumbing and electrical in the 2500' lease-able space to allow us to attract new tenants. However, COVID has caused the loss of tenants and the loss of a majority of Gizmo Pictures' video business.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	The Ford Center	Milk & Honey Coffee Company, LLC	\$200,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested of the SPARK submission committee is to transform Brookwood Covenant Church into a multi-use family resource center to meet the ever-expanding needs of the Brookwood community. The development of the Ford Center would allow Topeka First Baptist the opportunity to expand its program and provide Milk & Honey with the additional space it needs to serve the citizens in the city of Topeka. It would provide a commercial kitchen for local food trucks and other small businesses to use as prep space and serve as an incubator to allow people to move from their home to a commercial kitchen to start up their new local business. The Ford Center would provide the needed space to mentor middle school students, which benefits the community as a whole. Currently, at Milk & Honey we are offering space for bible studies, mentoring and ministering - at times we run short on space and understand the importance of giving our community the additional space for the time they need it. It would also provide space for mental health services and community meeting space.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	The Landon Trail Project	Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested to the SPARK committee is to complete the 38-mile Landon Trail from Topeka to the Flint Hills Trail State Park near Pomona. The Conservancy has completed 16 miles and the City of Topeka has completed five miles of the trail. The recreational trail will meet the goals of providing health benefits and economic revitalization for the people of Kansas. Having trails close to people's homes greatly increases the opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to incorporate exercise into a healthy lifestyle. The tourism dollars generated by trail users can give a modest economic boost to the economies of small towns that line the trail. The trail will meet the SPARK guiding principles including fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans. It will result in healthier residents and more sustainable local economies. Residents will be able to participate safely in outdoor recreation and small towns will get a modest economic boost.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Transportation Fleet for PRIDE (People Reaching for Independence & Development of Excellence) and Early Childhood Programs	Envision Inc.	\$350,000	<p>This project will provide transportation to Envision clients who are blind, visually impaired or with other disabilities. Sited by many leaders in government, economic development and our community as a disadvantage, our public transportation needs great improvement.</p> <p>Given this gap in public services and Envision’s need to deliver much-needed services to its stakeholders, operating our own transportation services is a must. Sustainable operations will continue indefinitely, with Envision shouldering the responsibility for funding.</p> <p>The impact of inadequate public transportation impacts our communities negatively and is especially detrimental for Kansans with disabilities.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Updating the Topeka Performing Arts Center	City of Topeka	\$2,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC). TPAC is housed in an elegant performance hall that can host up to 2,400 attendants. With an annual attraction of 75,000 people, TPAC is an asset to the downtown Topeka economy. Prior to the pandemic, TPAC held theatre camps for thousands of children and was an asset to the local community.</p> <p>The funds requested will be used to modernize lighting and sound equipment, replace curtains, refurbish the grand piano, expand School Time Theater, continue Master Class offerings, and support the Young Artists Scholarship Fund. Funding for this grant will fulfill two of the SPARK guiding principles: 1) Economic Revitalization – By attracting visitors to the Central Business District, and 2) Childhood Education and Activities – By providing theater camps and opportunities for children to participate in performing arts.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	US-69 Hwy Improvements – 103rd to 179th	WaterOne	\$3,000,000	<p>ARPA funding specifically identified water infrastructure as a priority use. The 69 Hwy improvement project is a one-time project that aligns with a one-time use of funds. This project is likely using Federal, State, County, and City funds, and multiple funding sources at each level. 69 Hwy has been identified as one of the most important and congested roadways in the State of Kansas. The ability to move people and commercial goods on roads is critical to economic success for every community. WaterOne’s pipelines are in existing right-of-way. Therefore, WaterOne must move water mains as part of the overall project and will not be reimbursed for project costs from any other entity or funding source.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Utility Cost Recovery for Business Growth	City of Cheney	\$1,291,038	<p>Funds would be allocated for for Kansans impacted during the February 2021 cold weather and natural gas emergency, that had a monetary impact totaling \$78,409,646.79 based on the 55 applications received for the City Utility Loan Program. Businesses feel like the burden of the expense and fear they will be required to pay their share of the natural gas costs in a lump-sum payment before the term of the loan expires. This fear and increased monthly cost has led to a reduction in consumer spending and a reduction in business expansion. Many local businesses were hit hard in 2020, some state they were forced by the State and County to close their doors for 10 weeks to 4 months and are still struggling to recover as customers are still limited and revenues decreased by 50% last year.</p> <p>In Cheney, 10% of utility accounts are commercial accounts and these commercial accounts consumed 45% of the natural gas during the February 2021 event. These numbers show that businesses are seeing a significant financial impact on repayment of natural gas costs.</p> <p>This program will meet the guiding principles as the funding will be a one-time commitment that and remove the financial burden among businesses and allow them to focus on other goals.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Welcoming Center in Dodge City	National Lead For America, Inc.	\$3,958,000	<p>Over the past year, Lead For America has worked with Hutton Construction, a Kansas real estate developer, on a plan to redevelop the vacant 38,000 sq ft Dodge City Daily Globe building as the Dodge City Welcoming Center, a one-stop shop for immigrants and community newcomers to access critical social services and economic development opportunities to accelerate their integration into the community. The Center would provide small business development workshops, civics education, language classes, youth mentorship programs, event space for social events, and centralized information regarding community services such as affordable housing, mental health resources, child care, and financial services.</p> <p>According to a quote from Hutton, the total renovation cost would be \$7,691,000, and the offered price for the building is \$225,000. Lead For America would match SPARK funding 1:1 with private philanthropy and support from other partner non-profits in Ford County. Lead For America has had extensive conversations with several social service providers, Dodge City local government leaders, and regional foundation directors, and would build a steering committee with these stakeholders to most directly respond to the needs of the community.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	Woodbine, Kansas – A Small Town Community Development Project	City of Woodbine	\$60,000	<p>This project meets SPARK’s guiding principles with additional emphasis on considering equitable opportunities and outcomes. With a population of fewer than 200 residents, Woodbine will never have a sizable economic development project worthy of state or federal funding. Still, it does have one project that enhances the infrastructure for its residents.</p> <p>Years ago, Woodbine lost its school, but the City was fortunate to retain ownership of the gymnasium. We use the gym for small sports team practices, family reunions, wedding receptions, auctions, and its well-known Lion’s Club Pancake Feed. While a small community, the number of people using this building is significantly higher. The gym is more than a building; it’s part of our community’s culture and way of life. However, it needs significant repair. The building’s walls must be tuckpointed to prevent additional damage. Currently, you can see daylight through some of the cracks.</p> <p>While we understand Kansas is positioned to receive billions of dollars through COVID-19 relief, we remind you that small communities and small projects matter too. While a seemingly small amount of funds, this project will yield a great return on investment in our community for generations to come.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Other Enablers	World Cup 2026	The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Visit KC & KC Sports Commission	\$10,000,000	<p>If Kansas City was chosen as a host city, the economic impact for the region would be profound. Over 3.5 billion viewers tune in for the games worldwide and tens of thousands of visitors would be visiting, dining, and shopping in the Kansas City area. Travelers from around the world would be taking advantage of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and tourist attractions throughout Kansas during the course of these games. It is estimated that host cities would see as much as a \$690 million increase in economic activity and upwards of \$480 million in net economic benefits. This would be the equivalent of two or three Super Bowls being hosted in Kansas City in a four-to-six-week timeframe.</p> <p>To bolster the chances of securing games, however, does require investments. These investments would be made to enhance facility upgrades and to provide fans with a world-class experience while they are in the Kansas City area. Much of these investments will be coming from private sources but will require public dollars from both Kansas and Missouri. As such, we ask the SPARK Committee to consider a \$5-10 million investment to enhance the prospects of Kansas City landing the World Cup games.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	!8' x 20' Carport for storing sections of Water Main pipe	City of Arma, KS	\$8,000	<p>The purpose of this request of funds is to purchase and have installed a steel carport building that will house our sections of PVC pipe used to replace or install water mains for the city. When left out in the elements, the PVC degrades from U.V. (sunlight) as well as ice/snow, to the point of being brittle and unserviceable for water mains.</p> <p>The 20' length of these sections of pipe make it difficult to find an indoor storage solution with the buildings the City of Arma has at our disposal and to have a shelter dedicated for the purpose of storing these sections will ensure that we will have good serviceable material on hand when the need arises.</p> <p>The City of Arma will be better able to serve our community in the event of a water main break by being able to address and remedy the problem in a timely manner by having the material we need, when we need it.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	30” Water Transmission Main Replacement – Quivira Rd, 68th to 75th	WaterOne	\$3,500,000	<p>ARPA funding specifically identified water infrastructure as a priority use. A water transmission main replacement is a one-time project that aligns with a one-time use of funds. This project need is based on specific and detailed inspection of the pipe and is need of replacement to unsure safe and reliable service to thousands of Johnson County residents and businesses. Reliable water infrastructure is critical for human health and safety as well as a requirement for robust business activity. A transmission pipeline has a useful life of 80+ years which will provide sustainable water supply for people and business for decades. This construction project will support economic activity through the purchase of materials and services from Kansas companies.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	4" vacuum hose upgrade with couplings and attachments.	City of Arma, KS	\$750	<p>The purpose of this application is to acquire the funding for an upgrade to our vacuum rig. We use this vacuum rig to help expose blown out sections of broken water main without doing more damage with a backhoe. Currently we are running a 3" vacuum hose that came with the equipment, but our distributor has assured us that it is rated to handle a 4" line for more the removal of larger rocks and volume of dirt, water, etc.</p> <p>By exposing the work piece and cleaning out the area faster we are better able to restore water service to our customers.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Abilene Southeast Drainage Resolution: Long Term Solution to a Centuries-Long Problem	City of Abilene	\$27,935,000	<p>This project meets SPARK's guiding principles with additional emphasis on prioritizing sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services.</p> <p>Eisenhower's Interstate System forever changed northern Abilene by bringing people to our community and encouraging residential and retail developments. Just like Ike's initiatives, the Southeast Drainage Resolution can forever change the southeast part of the community.</p> <p>For centuries, 14th Street to the north, Mudd Creek to the West, Smoky Hill River to the south, and Brady to the east have battled continued flooding. The watershed area is a tributary to the Smoky Hill River and is partially within the floodplain to the Smoky Hill River. The City completed two preliminary engineering studies in fifteen years and one smaller retention project to resolve this challenge. But to remediate flooding in downtown Abilene and other commercial developments, residences and industrial areas, the City must address its failing and undersized drainage system. However, the cost to resolve this issue is impossible and, like the creation of the Interstate System, only obtainable with the use of one-time state and federal partnership funds.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Addition of Wastewater Cell Lagoon: Discharging to Non Discharging Lagoon	City of Sterling	\$1,400,000	<p>This project matches well with each of SPARKS principles in that a) It provides a sustainable means of treating wastewater for our growing community with one-time use of funds b) It leverages City of Sterling Sewer Fund and KDHE agency's funding to make the greatest impact with the SFRF discretionary funds c) Provides a 30-year solution to the City's wastewater treatment facility challenges which has a regional impact on all Kansans considering our facility discharges into water systems that eventually lead to the Arkansas River, and further, impacts our anchor businesses which serve customers and other tertiary markets throughout the entire state. This project would make our system non-discharge d) provides an equitable outcome for our rural community in providing us an opportunity to serve our expanding industries e) provides a flexible financial scenario for both the City and KDHE in that the financial burden would be shared with an additional party f) would have results that are quantitatively measurable and transparent due to reporting requirements with KDHE and the City for wastewater operations. Lastly, economic recovery and resilience are fortified by serving our anchor businesses that have been effected by COVID-19.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Albert Lift Station Replacement KDHE Project No. 33854	City of Albert	\$66,020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services - project will extend sewage treatment facility life for additional 30 years • Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds • Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans <p>Loss of sewage treatment will be detrimental to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Arbuckle Study Wells	Kansas Water Office	\$900,000	<p>The Arbuckle formation is a resource heavily relied upon by a range of industries and municipalities in Kansas for fluid-waste disposal, oil production, storage, and fresh water. Rising fluid levels observed in the Arbuckle could be an early indicator of contamination risk to shallower freshwater aquifers, as well as potential seismic (earthquake) impacts, and if fluid levels continue to rise, the ability of this crucial formation to accept disposal fluids may be limited or impractical for some currently regulated applications.</p> <p>A one-time investment of funds to drill three monitoring wells at critical locations in the Arbuckle would fill key data gaps and be used in conjunction with agency funds to support ongoing efforts to characterize conditions in the Arbuckle. Data collected at these wells would aid in the creation of a long-term monitoring network, which would allow for proactive management of the Arbuckle for many decades into the future. Information obtained from these wells would address seismic and water quality risks, provide insight on appropriate actions to protect this valuable asset, and guide decisions to ensure the resource is managed sustainably and to the greatest benefit of all Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Automatic Meter Reading Project for our Water System	City of Mount Hope	\$190,000	<p>Having the ability to convert our water system to automatic reading, would significantly enhance the efficiency of our water usage readings and also aid our customers in monitoring their own usage should a problem arise ie: a water line break or other leaks. Additionally, it would create a more safe environment for our employees in inclement weather conditions, the ability for an employee to monitor potential issues throughout the city's water infrastructure.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Backup Generator for Nearman Water Treatment Plant (NWTP) in Kansas City Kansas	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities	\$5,000,000	Funds will be used to construct a backup electric generator at BPU's Nearman Water Treatment Plant (NWTP), ensuring long term continuity of critical water service in the event of electrical service disruption. This project enhances critical infrastructure resiliency and security, building redundancy and ensuring uninterrupted water for the 169,000 residents, 4200 industrial/commercial customers that employ thousands of residents, first responders, and the largest medical facility in the state (KU Med). Continuous water supply during the COVID pandemic is the highest priority for critical care facilities. BPU also provides water to Basehor, Lansing, Tonganoxie and Suburban Water district in Leavenworth County. Electric supply interruptions during the 2021 cold weather freeze highlighted the need for generator improvements after BPU, like many others, was forced to enact targeted brown-outs. If NWTP is not operating as the result of a power outage, it will pose a health risk to this diverse community, and also cause significant economic disruption (estimated at \$32 million for each day without water). BPU is currently using \$1,500,000 in State Revolving Fund funding for electrical improvements at NWTP and pump stations.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Biosolids Compost Improvements	City of Olathe	\$8,048,000	This project will expand the existing biosolids compost facility. In order to accept the biosolids from the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City will need to expand and enclose the current operations to include a larger operating footprint and odor control measures. Currently, biosolids are disposed at the landfill.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Cedar Lake and Garmin Marine Research and Development	City of Olathe, KS	\$53,000,000	This project will include a partnership with Garmin Industries and Hamm Quarry to expand the limits of Cedar Lake, located near the intersection of I-35 and Lone Elm Road. A new dam will be constructed to include the drainage from the quarry. Prior to flooding the quarry, a 200' deep pit will be excavated, which will be utilized by Garmin for research and development of related to their marine division. Garmin will also construct an onsite marine manufacturing facility. The expanded lake will also provide additional recreational opportunities for residents throughout the KC Metro region. The lake will also remove sediment from the stream feeding Lake Olathe, which is a water source for the City of Olathe.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	City of Fowler Water Distribution Rehabilitation	City of Fowler, Kansas	\$7,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to rehabilitate and improve the water distribution system in Fowler, Kansas. Fowler is a small rural community in Southwest Kansas with a population of approximately 500 residents. Approximately 50% or more of households are considered low to moderate income. Recent interruptions of water service to homes and businesses in the community due to a failing distribution system has added to economic hardship and increased health risks to residents. A major concern is the negative affect to the local school and long-term care facility. An updated and more efficient water distribution system will foster long-term positive impact for residents by providing safe and reliable drinking water, as well as, any other water needs. Safety will also be maximized by ensuring efficient fire hydrants are available in case of fires or other disasters. An updated water distribution system will positively affect economic development and housing expansion by providing efficient water pressure for commercial or residential use.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	City of Yates Center Green Street Storm Drain Improvements	City of Yates Center	\$350,000	The intended use for the funds requested from the SPARK committee is to make needed improvements to the storm drain along Green Street in the City of Yates Center. Through this one-time investment in a key piece of the City's storm water infrastructure there would be a long-term systemic impact for the residents living along this section of street. This portion of storm drain was constructed using large stones commonly seen in foundations and other building projects throughout the area. While improvements, including bracing, of the original structure have been made over the years the torrential rains and flooding experienced more recently have shown the need for the installation of a concrete box culvert to adequately handle the storm water in the area. The City is considering the use of its own ARPA funds to complete the project. This investment of SPARK funding would allow the City to stretch its own dollars further to address the needs of its streets, water and sewer systems, and police department.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	City of Yates Center Pipe Gallery Improvements	City of Yates Center	\$500,000	The intended use for the funds requested from the SPARK committee is to make needed improvements to the City's existing pipe gallery at the water plant. Through this one-time investment in a key piece of the City's water infrastructure there would be a long-term systemic impact for not only the City but Wilson #9 and Woodson #1 Rural Water Districts and the City of Toronto it provides water to, by providing a more secure and sustainable source of safe drinking water. The City is considering the use of its own ARPA funds, as well as those of other funding agencies, to complete the project. This investment of SPARK funding would allow the City to stretch its own dollars further to address the needs of its streets, sewer and storm water systems, and police department.

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Clean water	For rwd#2	\$200,000	NW Docking Road between 70th and 86th street does not currently have access to rural water. There are homes on this road that do not have an adequate supply of water (either very slow wells, dry wells), a home has a contaminated well and unable to drill a new one...many residents have attempted to drill a new well, but there is not sufficient ground water. The water department wants the residents to pay for the line to be put down the road, which is not feasible. Residents will then be responsible for purchasing a water meter (\$6,000) and running the water line on their property (an additional expense). The residents cannot finance the main water line down the road in addition to the expense of the water meters and private water lines. Rwd#2 has talked with an engineer, the water line would tie in at 62nd and docking rd and run to 78th and docking rd (\$200,000). Rwd#2 has then agreed to pay for the line to run under the railroad at 78th and Docking to tie the line in on the north which would then service addition residence from 78th to 86th on docking rd. Clean water is essential to good health. These residents are dire for an adequate supply of safe water.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Connect Cheney and Fall River state parks up to rural water districts to provide safe, reliable water supply for park users.	KDWPT	\$1,700,000	Funding would be used to hook up Cheney and Fall River state parks to rural water districts.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Cottonwood River Low Head Dam Project	City of Cottonwood Falls	\$4,000,000	The low water dam has a direct impact to water levels in the area water wells that feed PWWSD 26. This is impact the potable water impact to residents of Chase County.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Demonstrating Technology to Increase Soil Health and Improve Water Resources in Western Kansas Agriculture	Kansas Association of Conservation Districts	\$2,500,000	Conservation Districts across Kansas are committed to addressing natural resources concerns through improved land management practices. In recent years a movement has developed to increase the health and function of soils by practicing no-till planting, growing cover crops, extending crop rotations, and integrating livestock on crop acres. These practices build soil structure, protect the soil surface from water and wind erosion, and provide habitat for soil microbiology to flourish. While producers across Kansas are implementing these practices currently we see a lag in participation in Western Kansas. This is due to a number of reasons including larger farm size and lack of specialized equipment to implement these practices in arid environments. Farmers learn best from other farmers which increases the importance of demonstration projects. This proposal seeks one time funding opportunities of \$2,500,000 to purchase specialized equipment for no-tillage planting and cover crop planting and termination at a large enough scale that we can provide local evidence to producers across Western Kansas that these practices improve soil health, reduce demand on the Ogallala Aquifer, and increase farm profitability.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Developing Advanced Water Processing System for Growth Management	City of Eudora	\$13,000,000	The intended use of the requested funds from the SPARK Committee is for the construction of a new water treatment/processing infrastructure that will be able to accommodate and support existing and impending business and residential growth along the K-10 corridor. If funded, it will provide the city the capacity to efficiently process significant amount of raw water thus improving the quality and meeting the demands of our current and future residents and businesses. The infrastructure project will meet the Committee's guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans by providing good quality water that is essential for all Kansans. Without good quality water communities and humans cease to exist. Local funds will be used and other funding sources pursued to maximize the use of available discretionary funds. The equitable opportunities and outcomes principle is achieved through the mitigated cost increase of such a project on residents (and small businesses) who are of a lower social-economic status. Small communities such as Eudora are at a competitive disadvantage when competing for resources that would be used to provide the much-needed infrastructure that is critical in attracting businesses.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	District Manager	CRWD#2	\$350,000	This project would involve the installation of two miles of rural water main to serve seven to ten families that now have bad wells.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Drinking Water Protection - Well construction/ Rehabilitation	KDHE	\$2,000,000	KDHE's Drinking Water Protection program has been working with small communities with rising nitrate levels. The program involves assessment of the groundwater watershed near the groundwater wells and working local stakeholders to put in place best management practices to reduce concentrations of nitrates in groundwater. With additional funding, well construction issues including relocation or rehabilitation can be implemented.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Drive By Water Meter Reading System	City of Atchison	\$700,000	The City of Atchison currently utilizes the stick read method of reading water meters, which requires an employee to walk up to each meter and place reading the device on a sensor attached to the meter pit lid. The proposed drive by system would enable the employee to drive down a street and receive signals from each meter to record readings.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Drought Set-aside reservoir storage	Kansas River Water Assurance District No. 1	\$8,142,000	Drought protection is vital to the health and welfare to the communities within the Kansas river basin. Approximately 1 million Kansas citizen are supported by the KRWAD No. 1 storage releases during drought operations. Adding additional storage at Federal reservoirs will assure that water will be available during an extended drought.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Ellis County Rural Water District No. 1C Infrastructure Enhancements	Ellis County Rural Water District No. 1C	\$72,500	The intended use for the funds requested in this submittal to the SPARK committee is to develop sustainable rural water district (RWD) infrastructure to enhance and provide access to potable water in rural Ellis County Kansas. The RWD infrastructure enhancements will include extensions and loops of existing waterlines, to improve current service flows and pressures, and allow the district to serve new customers who have been waiting for water. In conjunction with this request, the RWD will apply for USDA Rural Development Water & Environmental funding to leverage our infrastructure enhancements and investment. Enhancing and updating our current infrastructure will provide water for rural Kansas families for decades to come. As a member of the Kansas Rural Water Association, we maintain detailed business records and maps. As a result of the physical nature of a water infrastructure project and the nature of our public non-profit rural water district, transparency will be very high.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Extend drinking water supply lines for property impacted by contaminated groundwater.	KDHE	\$5,000,000	Groundwater contamination associated with the contaminated sites has resulted in a need to install water lines from the closest public water supply (PWS) systems. The PWS systems can be several miles from the impacted community and property owners often determine that self-funded installation of the water mains is not economically feasible. The installation of the PWS infrastructure would provide a long-term solution to providing safe drinking water supplies for impacted communities.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Fremont Hill Phase 1	SENT Inc	\$1,200,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to close the gap on needed site work(water/sewer, fiber, sidewalks) in the new Fremont Hill Subdivision. Kansas Gas and Evergy are committed to partnering if governmental assistance can also be provided. This \$10 million project is a part of a \$110 million investment in the Hi-Crest community. The total 29-acre development (phases 1 & 2) are expected to have an economic impact of \$164.4 million on the local economy over the first ten years after construction. Phase 1 will include 20 new single-family LMI homes and 10 new single-family market-rate homes, for a total of 30 new homes. The subdivision will also contain a community clubhouse, walking track, and several pocket parks. The average home cost in the subdivision will be \$160k. The market rate and LMI homes will be interspersed. The project will require a total of \$2.2 million in site work. A portion of that has already been secured. The land also is owned out-right. This means that the funds attained via tax credit would go straight towards structures, lowering the entry rate into homeownership for local families.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Frontenac Hydraulic Improvements	City of Frontenac	\$2,692,415	The proposed project is to upgrade the water system's main line from an 8-inch to a 12-inch line extending from the water treatment plant to the West Industrial Park. This project is part of the city's 2021 Capital Improvement Plan and supported by data compiled in the city's 2019 Hydraulic Analysis and Improvement Plan, prepared by Kramer Consulting, LLC. The city is a municipality operating a publicly owned treatment works as defined in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and meets the eligibility requirements for funding. This project improves the transmission and distribution of drinking water, meeting the criteria under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund rules, and has received approval for loan funding. Local funds allocated for city water infrastructure projects include revenues from water sales and local sales tax. This is an immediate need project and will support recovery efforts through investments in necessary infrastructure designed for sustainability and meeting water demand while providing for reasonable growth through the next 20 years.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	High Service motor and pump/Transfer motor and pump for emergency spares.	City of Arma, KS	\$11,400	Our intent upon receiving funds through the SPARK program through this application is to have on hand a spare High Service Pump and Motor, as well as a spare Transfer Pump and Motor. The High Service Pumps are what our Plant uses to pump clean finished water from our storage basin up into the towers. The Transfer Pumps are used to pump raw water from the wells into our filters which in turn is stored in the finished water basin. We have 2 of each pumps working together during high demand, or alternately during normal demand. What we would like to do if possible is to have a spare motor and pump on-hand in case one unexpectedly goes out. I will relate a situation that occurred last summer that emphasizes the rationale for this need. In the City of Girard, KS last summer, one of their High Service Pumps went out and while they were waiting for one, the other one went out too, so they had no way of treating and pumping their own water. They had to receive all their water from Bone Creek Reservoir. At this same time, one of our Transfer Pumps went out on us and if the other one went out, we would not be able to draw from Bone Creek as they were sending 100% to Girard. Luckily the one kept going for us.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hillsboro Blue-Green Algae Ozone Pilot Project	City of Hillsboro	\$1,000,000	Blue-Green Algae in the states reservoirs created problems for public water systems, but the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified those issues by increasing water demand across the board. The Hillsboro pilot project would introduce ozone to the raw water. The iron and manganese that is present from the algae can be filtered out before the current water treatment process. If this project proves effective, it will dramatically reduce the cost of water from the community of Hillsboro and Peabody. It will also enable Hillsboro utilize its excess plant production to service other communities in the county and surrounding rural water districts. The City of Hillsboro and City of Peabody would support the initial costs, but as more communities are serviced they will participate to the make the project sustainable for the long-term. This will have a generational impact on Marion County and surrounding rural water districts. The pilot would be in conjunction with KDHE and will be closely monitor to determine success.

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hilmar - Wright, Ks Improvement District – Sewer Collection Rehab	Wright, Kansas Improvement District	\$275,000	<p>The small community of Wright, Ks is located in Ford County, Ks, 6 miles east of Dodge City, Ks. The sanitary sewer collection system was installed in the late 1970's to provide a safe, sanitary sewer collection system and treatment to prevent contamination of soil and ground water by having numerous residential septic systems in a confined area. After nearly 50 years of service, the entire collection system needs to be cleaned, inspected. Manholes need to be internally coated to prevent infiltration or the extreme possibility of a sewer leak. With over 10,000 LF of sanitary sewer line and 38 manholes to maintain, being proactive and preventing maintenance issues is hard for this small community of 83 sewer service connection.</p> <p>The Rehab Project would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean & TV Inspection of all Collection Sewer Line • Make necessary repairs found during TV inspection • Apply Cementous Coating on the interior of all Manholes • Raise all Manhole Lids to the surface for ease of future maintenance <p>Estimate to complete the outlined rehab project is \$275,000.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hilmar - Wright, Ks Improvement District – Sewer Treatment Facility Improvements	Wright, Kansas Improvement District	\$450,000	<p>Wright, KS is a bedroom community located 6 miles east of Dodge City. The treatment facility installed in the late 1970's to provide a safe, sanitary sewer collection system and treatment to prevent contamination of soil and ground water by having numerous residential septic systems in a confined area. After nearly 50 years of service, general improvements and maintenance needs to be done. Lift station pumps and valve are nearing their useful life, general station upgrades are needed to prevent any down time or emergency conditions. The actual treatment lagoons also need improvements to bring them back into good operating condition as to continue to provide years of service to the community.</p> <p>The Treatment Facility Improvement Project would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace and provide a spare pump for the current Sanitary Sewer Lift Station • General upgrades to the Sanitary Sewer Lift Station • Repair to lagoon gates and other general improvements • Re-establish flow from the Improvement Districts water well to the treatment lagoons • Add additional slope paving around lagoons <p>Estimate to complete the outlined rehab project is \$450,000.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hilmar - Wright, Ks Improvement District – Supplement Waterline	Wright, Kansas Improvement District	\$4,040,000	<p>Wright, KS is a bedroom community located 6 miles east of Dodge City. In the 1990's, it was discovered that many of the private domestic water wells were contaminated. With help of an EPA grant, a potable water supply line and distribution system within the town were constructed. There is a single 8" waterline running just over 2.75 miles from the City of Dodge City's Industrial Park to the community of Wright. However, from the Industrial Park back to a loop feed line is another 1.5 miles. From time to time either due to routine maintenance or because of an emergency either the 8" water line to Wright or the water line to the Industrial Park has to be shut down somewhere along the line. Leaving the community without potable water or fire protection. Dodge City Utility Crews work as quickly as possible to limit the time without water, however in the past it has taken the better part of a day to restore water service to Wright. The Supplemental Waterline Improvement Project would include the installation of a 12" waterline approximately 5.5 miles from the connection point with two separate feed lines to a point in Wright where the towns distribution system is looped. Estimate to complete the outlined rehab project is \$4,040,000.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hilmar - Wright, Ks Improvement District – Water Storage Tank for Emergency Use	Wright, Kansas Improvement District	\$1,000,000	<p>Wright, KS is a bedroom community located 6 miles east of Dodge City. In the 1990's, it was discovered that many of the private domestic water wells were contaminated. With help of an EPA grant, a potable water supply line and distribution system within the town were constructed. However, there is a single 8" waterline running just over 2.75 miles from the City of Dodge City's Industrial Park to the community of Wright, Ks. However, from the Industrial Park back to a loop feed line is another 1.5 miles. From time to time either due to routine maintenance or because of an emergency either the 8" water line to Wright or the water line to the Industrial Park has to be shut down somewhere along the line. When this happens, it leaves the community without potable water or fire protection. Dodge City Utility Crews work as quickly as possible to limit the time without water, however in the past it has taken the better part of a day to restore water service to Wright, Ks.</p> <p>An Emergency Water Storage Tank of approximately 250,000 gallons would ensure there would be water available for the residents and businesses. There would also be minimal fire protection. Estimate to complete the outlined rehab project is \$1,000,000.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Hilmar, National Beef & Dodge City Wastewater Improvements	City of Dodge City	\$30,000,000	<p>In May 2021, Hilmar Cheese Company announced the location of a new innovative cheese and whey production facility in Dodge City, Kansas. This project's core purpose is to enable Dodge City to treat wastewater effluent from the new Hilmar Cheese facility and increase the capacity of the domestic sanitary sewer network for residential growth.</p> <p>The components of these improvements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 8" forcemain from the South Dodge lift station across the river to the main interceptor • A new 30" domestic sanitary sewer main parallel to the existing 90+ year-old 27" clay tile main • Line the 27" clay tile sanitary sewer with CIPP • A new primary pump station for National Beef to separate the industrial flow from the domestic. • A new sewer pump station at Hilmar's facility. • A new intermediate lift station to handle Nation Beef and Hilmar's wastewater. This separates National Beef's flow from the domestic at the existing intermediate lift station. • Install 11-miles of 16" forcemain to deliver Hilmar's wastewater to the WWTP. • A new anaerobic digester, aerobic digester and facultative holding ponds to increase the capacity of the WWTP <p>The estimate to complete these improvements is \$60 million (asking for 50% match).</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Improve drinking water access	KDA	\$5,000,000	Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Incentivize community entry into LEMA	KDA	\$250,000	Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Incentivize sustainable irrigation	KDA	\$5,000,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Indian Creek Trunk Main Improvements	City of Olathe	\$12,500,000	<p>This project will include the rehabilitation of 27,117 linear feet of sanitary sewer trunk-mains ranging in size from 18-inches to 54-inches. In 2019, over 73,500 linear feet of sewer trunk-mains were inspected within the Indian Creek Sanitary Sewer Basin. Of those mains inspected, 63% or 53,960 linear feet of the system had either visible infiltration and inflow (I/I) or structural damage. These segments were classified into three priority groups based on rehabilitation needs. This project will include the rehabilitation of Priority 1 segments only. These improvements will include pipe grouting, joint grouting, cured in place piping (CIPP) and manhole end seals. This one-time investment will prevent future structural failures and provide more reliable service to citizens of Olathe.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Innovating Reservoir Water Supply Sustainability for Kansas – Tuttle Creek Reservoir Water Injection Dredging Demonstration	Kansas Water Office	\$4,100,000	<p>Funds will be used to develop and demonstrate an innovative water injection dredging strategy to increase water supply sustainability for long-term systemic economic development, population growth, and ecological needs for nine counties in northeast Kansas.</p> <p>Support of this project will allow for the state of Kansas to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in developing and demonstrating the next generation of water supply reservoir sustainability tools, to support water supply needs into future generations. Funding for this project may leverage a 50% funding opportunity from the Federal government, allowing for a maximizing of this discretionary funding opportunity.</p> <p>The benefits of this project will be equitably distributed to the people of Kansas, as a reduction in the long-term operating costs of water supply will benefit every Kansan that is a water user of the state or supports water supply infrastructure through their taxation.</p> <p>This project will allow for the development of a flexible tool with measurable outcomes to support the foundational water needs to support the state's economic revitalization.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Kansas Hydroponic Partnership	Riverside Strategic Solutions, LLC	\$25,000,000	<p>PROJECT...Public/Private partnership b/n State of Kansas, private investment groups, localities, and Higher Ed for the design/construction of an automated organic hydroponic greenhouse farm located along I-35 corridor in SW Johnson County, for the production/sale of packaged leafy greens & lettuces, cucumbers, peppers, etc. Discussions underway since 2020 between Kansas, SW Johnson County, private investors, K-State, & interested retailers. REQUEST... \$25m from SPARK with an anticipated \$25m private sector match will help secure remaining ~\$250m of project funding.</p> <p>COSTS...Land purchase of up to 180 acres, design/construction of greenhouse facility estimated at ~\$300 million. BENEFITS...Public/Private partnership would provide Kansas with long-term revenue stream that can be reprogrammed for underfunded socio-economic recovery & revitalization priorities resulting from COVID-19. Over 100 temp. construction jobs and approx. 75 high-grade, perm. positions (>\$60k/yr) will be created. Business relationships w/ packaging, freight, rail, and air industries will result from growing operations. Quality of produce avail. to KS will be superior, organic, less costly & more isolated from factors that typically disrupt the food distribution pipeline.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Kansas River Intake Hydro Power Facility	WaterOne	\$8,522,787	WaterOne owns a water intake at River Mile 14.9 of the Kansas River. Water is diverted into the intake by the Kansas River Weir across the river, adjacent to the intake. The permanent Weir is in Wyandotte County, Kansas and was built by WaterOne about a decade ago. The Weir diverts and raises the water level in the Kansas River to ensure continuous supply to raw water pumping operations for WaterOne. The length of the Weir is 1,284 feet. WaterOne recognized the hydroelectric potential resulting from the installation of the Weir, and conducted preliminary study to investigate the addition of a small hydroelectric plant. The study was conducted with the intention that the new hydropower plant would provide energy to the Pre-Sedimentation facility. The study was continued to a Feasibility Level and it was determined that more than 96% of the time, the Kansas River Weir functions as a broad-crested weir where the difference between the upstream and downstream elevation varies between 5 to 17 feet. This corresponds to flows ranging from minimum recorded flow up to 30,000 cubic feet per second. A small hydropower plant, one that exploits the flows and head differential across the Weir, would produce energy about 85 to 90% of the time.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Lagoon Basin Repair Wastewater System	City of Albert	\$57,750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services - Repair is needed to bring lagoon into compliance with KDHE guidelines. • Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds • Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans - Lagoon repair is needed to bring the wastewater system up to date and in compliance with KDHE, necessary for recovery from COVID 19 pandemic
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Lead Pipe Remediation	City of Topeka	\$750,000	The use of funds requested is to improve the quality of life for Topeka residents by eliminating lead service lines (LSLs). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated the identification and removal of LSLs as well as galvanized service lines (SL) downstream from a lead pipe or fitting. Additionally, unknown SLs are considered to be lead and must be replaced per the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). LSLs are often found in older areas of communities. In Topeka, this aligns with many Neighborhood Improvement Associations, indicating that low-income residents are being disproportionately affected. Supporting the elimination of LSLs will meet SPARK guiding principles of considering equitable outcomes by addressing health concerns within low-income communities; ensuring measurable results and transparency by providing LSL information to the public as required by the LCRR, and leveraging funds to maximize the use of discretionary funds as the City intends to provide a 50% match. SPARK funding will assist the City in developing and implementing a plan to replace LSLs - maintaining regulatory compliance, improving quality of life, and increasing the resiliency of infrastructure by providing upgrades and documentation.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Lift Station E Upgrade	City of Longton, Kansas	\$28,505	The money requested will purchase a lift station pump that pumps sewer into our 3 cell waste water treatment facility (waste water stabilization lagoon system). Our current system is not working. Our measurement tool is an hour meter that determines the amount of waste flow into the lagoon, therefore this would demonstrate an immediate improvement in function, with measurable results. This is an equitable project that provides long-term, improved outcomes for our total community.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Little Cedar Creek Stabilization at Olathe Landfill	City of Olathe	\$6,000,000	A gravity wall for erosion protection is needed along the south side of Little Cedar Creek. In 2019, a complaint was filed by KDHE-BWM in response to the allegation that solid waste was entering the Little Cedar Creek along the north portion of the closed Olathe City Landfill. Heavy rains and flooding in the area exposed and dislodged solid waste into the creek. K.A.R. 28-29-23(q) requires solid waste disposal areas be designed to prevent nonpoint source pollution discharges. This project will rectify this issue. As this was an unplanned project these funds will help to meet the SPARK guidelines to combine and leverage local agency funds.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Long Term Water Supply - Cities of Hays and Russell	City of Hays, KS	\$90,000,000	<p>The Cities of Hays and Russell are requesting your consideration for an investment of \$90 million in one-time use funds through ARPA for the Long-Term Water Supply Project that will serve our region’s water needs for the next 70 years and help sustain and grow a \$2.8 billion regional economy. In July of 1992 the City of Hays passed a ½ cent Water Sales Tax fund water exploration, this fund is just over \$40 million and combined with an investment of \$90 million will ensure this project is fully funded.</p> <p>In June 2015, the cities submitted application to the Kansas Department of Agriculture to change the use of water from irrigation to municipal use. This application included a voluntary reduction of our legally entitled 6,800-acre feet of water to 4,800-acre feet, meaning we will never remove more water than what is naturally recharged, demonstrating our communities’ commitments to water conservation are unchanging.</p> <p>The cities have also worked to remove all irrigation infrastructure and have planted the land back to native grass. This work has been done to transform the ranch into a natural habitat and wildlife preserve for educational and recreational purposes which will have long-term impact and be enjoyed by all Kansans.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Meade Waterline Updates	City of Meade	\$180,000	The intended use of the funds we are requesting in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the upgrading of our water infrastructure. We need to upgrade and replace 7 blocks of water lines and valves. We recognize that if we want to continue to grow our business district we need the larger 6 in lines to support this growth. The upgrading of our water infrastructure will meet the SPARK guiding principals of enabling flexibility within investment strategies, by providing better infrastructure so that investments in other strategies, such as new business or the need for increased housing will be supported. Also we will combine local funds to maximize the use of discretionary funds. Supporting the updating of water infrastructure in rural Kansas fosters long-term systemic impact for Kansans.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Modernization of Operations and Controls for Water Treatment Plant	City of Emporia	\$1,100,000	The City of Emporia requests funding to build piping and controls for the modernization and controls at the water treatment plant. The City of Emporia is a regional water supplier to Lyon County residents and surrounding communities. Currently the City has been successful recently with job growth and industrial development with the pet food industry which utilizes a significant amount of potable water for their operations. City needs to supply a reliable continuous source of potable water to the industries and to the residents and to attract additional pet food industrial growth. A key component for those future businesses will be a potable water supply necessary for operations and production. The current operations do not have existing controls to provide the quality of water and actual control of existing infrastructure at the WTP, both at the sedimentation basins and the standpipe storage. A quality potable water resource that meets the needs for existing and future industrial growth is a necessity to sustain jobs and grow the local wealth of the community. Not having these requested improvements to better control the process and operations limits the ability of the City staff to operate effectively and efficiently.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Mt Olivet Water Storage Tank & Transmission Mains	Leavenworth Waterworks Board	\$5,800,000	Leavenworth Waterworks is a quasi-municipality operating a water utility for the City of Leavenworth under KSA 13-2414 to 13-2429. It also supplies water to 7 Rural Water Districts in Leavenworth and Jefferson Counties. It serves a population of nearly 65,000. The Project developed from the system's Risk & Resiliency Assessment. It will provide redundant storage capacity to an existing 140 year old, stone masonry, 5 MG tank. Currently, the project is to be funded by a pending KPWSLF loan. The project also eliminates the need for a 0.5 MG elevated storage tank on the site of BOP's replacement facility for USP-Leavenworth. It is intended for BOP to contribute to the project somewhere between their proportionate share of the project cost and the avoided cost of an elevated tank, the amount TBD. This project will be a one-time us of SPARK funds. It combines with other agency funds. It will have a long-term impact on the utility's service area. Finally, the project will stimulate the economic recovery through the creation of construction employment.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Municipal and Rural Water District Improvement and Modernization	Kansas Rural Water Association	\$45,000,000	The Kansas Rural Water Association requests funds to supplement existing federal and state loan and grant programs. Some water systems in Kansas have been required to install treatment facilities beyond their financial capacities. Due to Covid impacts, project costs have increased above loan and grant funds available from USDA. Grants for these projects will improve access to clean drinking water and improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems where the costs of projects exceed already approved budgets. Smaller projects such as valve replacement and upgrading control systems are needed by rural communities. But those projects are often not large enough to warrant the administrative processes required to access assistance programs. Funding would be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the consolidation of drinking water systems • Replace or rehabilitate aging distribution and transmission pipeline • Replace lead service lines • Improve and repair wastewater treatment systems • Manage and treat stormwater or subsurface drainage water • Facilitate water reuse and protect water bodies from pollution • Upgrade cybersecurity and related training for water and wastewater facilities • Improve resilience to severe weather events
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	New water booster pumps and new booster station building for the City of Glen Elder	City of Glen Elder	\$76,000	The City of Glen Elder intends to use the funds requested in this submission to replace aged and inefficient water pumps at our booster station and the building they are housed in. New booster pumps will improve the volume of water and the water pressure to our residents and businesses in the western third of town, and to Glen Elder State Park. New booster pumps will also supply better water pressure to the fire hydrants located in the western third of town. Our current pumps cannot produce sufficient gallons per minute for safe fire protection. We have hired a local engineer, Stuart Porter with Schwab-Eaton, and will utilize the American Rescue Plan Act funds for this project. We plan to build a larger building to house the new booster pumps, as our current building is too small. Once the new booster pumps are installed; residents, businesses, fire hydrants, and the visitors at Glen Elder State Park will finally have sufficient water pressure. This provides opportunity for future expansion. The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on every aspect of life. With the help of ARPA and SFRF funds the City of Glen Elder can replace old inefficient water booster pumps and provide good water pressure to our service area.

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	New Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	City of Herington	\$2,500,000	<p>The water treatment plant we had previously was almost 100 years old and was non compliant to KDHE and EPA standards. We were able to win a grant from USDA RD along with obtaining a loan for the rest. The cost increase due to the supply costs due to the pandemic. We also had to increase rates ~\$7.57 for the first year of a proposed water rate increase plan with an additional 3.6% yearly with no end date.</p> <p>If we were able to get some money back for this project (estimated final costs ~\$5mil) we can reduce the burden of debt to our ratepayers and keep them invested into Herington, while also being able to spend more of their money locally.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	North Topeka Waste Water Treatment Plant Nutrient Removal	City of Topeka	\$13,922,721	<p>The use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to assist in preventing the North Topeka Waste Water Treatment Plant (NTWWTP) from falling out of compliance with Kansas Department of Health and Environments (KDHE) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Nutrient Effluent Limits. NTWWTP treats the municipal waste to ensure that the plant is effluent is safe to discharge in the Kansas River. The high quality effluent benefits all of Northeast Kansas and communities downstream of the Kansas River. The updates done to this treatment plant will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systematic impact for Kansans and considering equitable opportunities and outcomes by increasing the quality of effluent discharged into the Kansas River, which benefits all communities downstream. Updating the Plant will help build the resilience of the Kansas River. The pandemic has prevented the NTWWTP from getting in compliance with KDHE's regulations in a timely manner. NTWWTP has sought an extension from KDHE to complete the improvements required under the permit. Receiving this grant will provide the treatment plant with the resources it needs to comply as soon as possible.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	North Treatment Plant Transmission Mains Relocation	Leavenworth Waterworks Board	\$1,250,000	<p>The Leavenworth Waterworks Board is a quasi-municipality operating the water utility for the City of Leavenworth under KSA 13-2414 to 13-2429. It also supplies water to 7 Rural Water Districts in Leavenworth and Jefferson Counties. It serves a total population of almost 65,000. This project would relocate the water transmission lines leaving our North Treatment Plant. KDOT is currently designing the replacement of the US Highway 92 bridge over the Missouri River. The planned relocation will intrude on the Plant property and will be located on top of two water transmission mains installed in 1882. This project also includes the replacement of a third transmission main installed in 1960. This third main will reconnect the Plant to the distribution system.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Olathe Pipe Replacement & Education Program (O-PREP)	City of Olathe	\$450,000	<p>The Olathe Pipe Replacement & Education Program seeks to meet federally mandated Lead and Copper Rule Revision requirements to reduce lead in drinking water and eliminate public/private lead service lines. This program is also driven by Olathe's desire to improve the health of our citizens/customers. Exposure to lead is known to cause brain and nervous system damage to children, slowing their growth and development. Olathe's Pipe Replacement and Education Program will include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a computerized service line inventory • Development of a Lead Service Line Replacement Plan • Development of a Public Education Plan • Annual sampling of elementary schools and childcare facilities • Development of a plan in the instance that Lead Trigger Level of 10 ppb occurs <p>The development of our Pipe Replacement and Education program will meet the SPARK guiding principle of prioritizing sustainable programs through a one-time use of funds. We propose to utilize these funds to put a program in place and then utilize future funding received from rate payers would be utilized to help maintain this program.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Osawatomie State Hospital public water supply system upgrade	KDHE	\$10,000,000	Foster long term systemic impact to Kansas
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Osawatomie Water Treatment Plant & Distribution Replacement Program	City of Osawatomie	\$40,000,000	<p>1.) Osawatomie is in dire need of replacing its water treatment plant. The current facility is >50 years old and the technology with which we treat our water is not much newer. Our engineers (BG Consultants) have estimated the cost to build a new water treatment plant at roughly \$20 million dollars. In February of 2021, the city council adopted a resolution creating a water study committee that met multiple times, and that committee has since crafted a recommendation to the city council to (among other things), take the necessary steps to replace the existing water treatment plant.</p> <p>2.) It is estimated that the cost to replace the aging distribution lines, of which an unknown number are lead and copper services, in Osawatomie is approximately \$20 million dollars as well. Our committee also recommended to the city council that these lines be replaced and the city take the necessary actions to ensure this happens over the course of the next 4 years.</p> <p>3.) The city council accepted these recommendations on January 13, 2022 with the passage of Resolution 941.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Ozone Disinfection Modification	City of Topeka	\$16,500,000	The funds requested in this submission is to support the development of Ozone Disinfection Modification at the Topeka Water Treatment Plant. Topeka pulls water from the Kansas River. Flows from the Kansas River are supplemented by Turtle Creek and Milford Lake. In the last several years the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has issued warnings for Milford Lake because of algal blooms or Cyanobacteria. Warnings from KDHE show that the water is unsafe to drink and water contact should be avoided. Cyanobacteria produce toxins that may present a hazard for drinking-water safety. These toxins lead to liver damage (including liver cancer) and may cause neurotoxicity. Ozone is one of the most cost effective ways to neutralize cyanobacteria. Ozone is effective in treating MIB and Geosmin which cause poor taste and odor in water. Installing this modification will meet two of the SPARK guiding principles. 1. Fostering long-term impact for Kansans because it has an estimated life of 20-100 years. 2. Equitable opportunities and outcomes by providing cleaner, better tasting, higher quality water to all Topekans especially those in low to moderate income areas because of the Water Plant's location.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Pittsburg Flood Mitigation Study	City of Pittsburg, KS	\$500,000	This proposal is to provide funding for a study to mitigate flood conditions in and around Pittsburg which will reduce damage, encourage additional development, attract new talent and create outdoor recreation areas. The proposal will reinforce the priority areas of resilience, housing, health, and talent retention and recruitment by converting a problem into an amenity. Development in and around Pittsburg has, to a great extent, been restricted to areas outside of the many flood zones in the area. First and Second Cow Creek, East Cow Creek, Taylor Branch and related waterways regularly present high-water hazards and cause damage. This has prevented the constructive use of potentially valuable lands within and immediately surrounding Pittsburg. With channelization and detention, these areas could turn from constraints and blight into coveted features. Limiting flooding would remove development concerns and create desirable land in and near the city to build much-needed housing. If flooding was minimized and the areas were managed as parkland with trails spaces would be usable for outdoor recreation and gatherings. Such amenities would be attractive to potential residents, improving the ability to attract new talent.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Polk-Quincy Project Support	City of Topeka	\$5,000,000	This project combines current funding from the State and local funds to accommodate for utility relocations as part of the Polk Quincy reconstruction project. The project will include the following relocation of sanitary collection, water, and stormwater systems to accommodate the Kansas Department of Transportation's I-70 Polk Quincy Viaduct improvement project. The City is impacted by this Kansas Department of Transportation Project and does not have the option to not make these changes regarding the Polk Quincy project. Therefore, the City would like to leverage additional funds to maximize use. The Polk Quincy project is a long-term, transformational project that the State is pursuing to boost the infrastructure of a heavily traveled area of the region which will improve not only Kansans but non-resident travelers. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term impact for Kansans by improving a heavily used highway. Furthermore, the results of this project will be easily seen as commute times shorten and the Polk-Quincy viaduct roads improve.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Pre-sedimentation basins	City of Emporia	\$7,000,000	The City of Emporia requests funding to build pre-sedimentation basins at the water treatment plant. The City of Emporia is a regional water supplier to Lyon County residents and surrounding communities. Currently the City has been successful recently with job growth and industrial development with the pet food industry. City needs to supply a reliable continuous source of potable water to the industries and to the residents. The City is also attracting other pet food industrial growth and a key component for those future businesses will be a potable water supply necessary for operations and production. Currently the City of Emporia has a limiting choke point at the WTP that operates at a less than desirable flow rates to provide the best quality water to produce the quantity of water necessary for the City's users. This improvement will provide a reliable and redundant component for the WTP and for the City to provide a critical component for the industries and for the citizens of Emporia and the surrounding communities. A quality potable water resource that meets the needs for existing and future industrial growth is a necessity to sustain jobs and grow the local wealth of the community.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Provide funding for high hazard dams on which regulation has elapsed	KDA	\$3,000,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Public Water Supply Emergency Power	Osage County Rural Water District No.3	\$50,000	Our District currently lacks an emergency power source at the intake pumps in Lake Pomona. Without the ability to pump raw water from the lake to the plant, no water can be proceed and supplied to the delivery system. Funds will be used to purchase emergency power producing equipment to be installed at the District's intake pump facility. Installation of this equipment will allow uninterrupted water service to approximately 1000 residents and businesses in the event of power loss. This one time expense will benefit our local population for years to come.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Public Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Grant Program	City of Derby	\$91,000,000	<p>The proposed Public Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Grant Program proposes a one-time grant program for public water/wastewater/stormwater owners in Kansas to apply for funding to make/update business plans, carryout specialized studies, and make subsequent capital investments. Owners would be asked to contribute a local match. This program meets all of the SPARK guiding principles. It prioritizes sustainable programs and investments thru a one-time grant program. It is assumed this program would partner with the existing CDBG Program, the KDHE State Revolving Fund program, and the USDA Rural Development program to leverage partnerships.</p> <p>This type of program will strengthen Kansas’ resilience by ensuring the most basic of systems – drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater – are managed with long term sustainability in mind, and updated processes and equipment to address aging infrastructure and regulatory requirements to meet the needs of individual communities for decades to come.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Public Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Grant Program	City of Andover	\$91,000,000	<p>The proposed Public Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Grant Program proposes a one-time grant program for public water/wastewater/stormwater owners in Kansas to apply for funding to make/update business plans, carryout specialized studies, and make subsequent capital investments. Owners would be asked to contribute a local match. This program meets all of the SPARK guiding principles. It prioritizes sustainable programs and investments thru a one-time grant program. It is assumed this program would partner with the existing CDBG Program, the KDHE State Revolving Fund program, and the USDA Rural Development program to leverage partnerships.</p> <p>This type of program will strengthen Kansas’ resilience by ensuring the most basic of systems – drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater – are managed with long term sustainability in mind, and updated processes and equipment to address aging infrastructure and regulatory requirements to meet the needs of individual communities for decades to come.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Radial Collector Well	City of Atchison	\$13,000,000	<p>The City of Atchison draws ≈3.5M gallons/day from the Missouri River as the sole source of public water supply. In addition to the ≈11,000 residents within Atchison, the Water Treatment Plant serves close to 3,000 others in surrounding rural areas and over 300 commercial and industrial customers. The City's raw water intake facility currently pumps water from the river; however, during periods of low flow, the pumps experience cavitation. Low flow combined with suspected river bed degradation has created a potential and very real threat to the City's ability to draw a sufficient volume of water to meet the growing demands of the community and surrounding areas. The City is taking this issue very seriously and has partnered with a local corporation (largest water customer) to purchase and install an emergency pump system; however, the system is not viable as a long-term solution. The optimal, sustainable solution is to construct two radial collector wells near the river to draw from groundwater. The City is currently working with FEMA on funding assistance for the design of this project. Once implemented, the collector wells would be a consistent water source that carries fewer solids, lowering treatment and maintenance costs.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Removal and Environmental Remediation of Wastewater Lagoons	Sugar Creek Packing Co.	\$4,860,500	<p>This project would support economic revitalization through the environmental remediation of an existing wastewater lagoon site and also provide opportunity for efficiency and modernization of the City of Frontenac's sewer treatment process. SugarCreek proposes to purchase land better suited for a mechanical wastewater treatment facility and exchange that land with the city for the property where their current wastewater treatment lagoons operate. Removal of the lagoons would provide land for possible development and create the needed distance between waste treatment and food production. The funds requested in this submittal could help us cover the cost of securing that land, exchanging with the City of Frontenac, and help pay for the environmental remediation required after decommissioning of the treatment lagoons.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Replace all touch read and first generation radio read meters in the City of Spring Hill water utility	City of Spring Hill Kansas	\$350,000	<p>The Spring Hill water utility serves approximately 1,800 customers. Spring Hill has citizens in both Southern Johnson County and Northern Miami County, Kansas. The utility does not produce it’s own water supply. We purchase all water consumed. The water utility has a limited water district with no opportunity for growth and thus limited opportunity for new revenue. Our water utility serves the original City of Spring Hill. In recent years, the City has experienced significant water loss on the system. New meter technology will allow the City to better locate and resolve unknown water loss issues. The end result is lower cost and higher accuracy to serve citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This one time project will benefit approximately 1,800 residents. ● The City and Customers will receive benefit of this upgrade for the next 10 to 15 years. ● The benefits will apply equally to all residential customers in the City. ●The number of meters replaced, and the associated costs will be tracked. Any reduction to system water loss will be measured and tracked. Additional benefits will be received through reduced labor to read meters and increased ability to respond to meter read questions and complaints

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Replacing Waster Water Lift Station	City of Arma, KS	\$85,000	<p>One of the five Waste Water Lift Stations that we have to serve our population of ~1,500 residents, is almost constantly requiring attention and repair. We have invested \$6,000 in repairs last year and logged in many hours of overtime manually attending to the lift station to prevent an overflow violation.</p> <p>Our local residents will benefit tremendously for years to come in the alleviation of the inconvenience and the danger of an overflowing system or disrupted service.</p> <p>The company we are talking to and received this quote is a company hear in Kansas and we aim to be completely open and transparent with all of the funds gained from a grant, how it was used, and how it has benefitted our citizens.</p> <p>By replacing this old system, Arma will be able to allocate those funds that would normally upkeep the old system into other areas that make Arma a great place to live for our citizens.</p> <p>In an effort to increase our chances of securing a grant from the SPARK program, the City of Arma is able to contribute to make up for a shortfall from the cost of the project.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Restoration of Community Lake and Mitigation of Potential Flooding of Watercourse	Independence Community College	\$300,000	<p>This project restores storm water capacity of the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism designated "Community Lake" on the Independence Community College campus and its on-campus tributaries, as part of essential water management that leads to Rock Creek. This project mitigates downstream flooding on the two-mile tributary that starts just south of campus, forms a lake from a small dam on campus, and flows into Rock Creek in the City of Independence. Rock Creek has often flooded, notably in 2007 in which dozens of homes were lost. The lake is also yearly stocked with fish by Kansas Wildlife. The project clears brush and debris, drains the lake, and safely removes silted material--the latter is difficult due to steep banks, requiring specialized equipment. Upon completion, the campus lake will have greater water storage prior to flowing downstream. The project also mediates upstream marshy areas on campus, where flooding creates temporary and year-round standing water. This project levels mounds, removes silting, and clears areas where vegetation impedes the waterway's course through the campus.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Rose Hill Booster Pump Station Modifications, Water	City of Rose Hill, Kansas	\$550,000	<p>Additional chemical addition to boost the chlorine residual is required to ensure a concentration of 1 mg/L can consistently be achieved in the distribution system. Improvements required for the project include the chemical feed building, chemical feed equipment, monitoring and control equipment, piping and associated components, structural elements, and electrical supply.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Safe Water for Geneseo	City of Geneseo	\$550,000	<p>The requested funds are for the purchase of a new water tower tank of 500,000 gallons. The current water tower is from the 1940s and near the end of its life. The internal panels and roof have holes.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Scanning of hardcopy water right files	KDA	\$1,125,000	<p>Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Settling Basin Liner	City of Atchison	\$280,000	<p>The City of Atchison Water Treatment Plant utilizes a concrete settling basin as its primary means of treating raw water from the Missouri River. The basin was constructed in the 1940's and has developed leaks over its many decades of use. The leaks have worsened in recent years, and the plant manager estimates that during peak use, the basins are losing up to 800,000 gallons per day. City staff have been working with a company that installs a special liner system at a fraction of the cost of rebuilding the settling basins, and the company could mobilize on this project within the next three months. The water treatment plant serves approximately 14,000 residents within Atchison and surrounding rural areas including 300+ commercial and industrial customers.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Sewage Life Stations Upgrades	City of Atchison	\$400,000	<p>Currently, there are four sewage lift stations in the community that are in need of complete upgrades (pumps, communications, controls...etc.). The facilities have been in use for nearly 40 years, and due to neighborhood development projects, they are now undersized. One current issue that the City is facing with these lift stations is that one of the pumps has nearly worn through its metal casing. The City is waiting for a replacement pump; however, if the pump were to fail in the meantime, it would likely result in the flow of raw sewage into a nearby pond at one of the local golf courses. Beyond this types of imminent threat resulting from an aging system, there remains the issue of the stations being undersized as this area of the community expands. Additionally, a local developer has constructed new infrastructure to accommodate the construction of more than 40 new homes in the area.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Sewer interceptor	City of El Dorado	\$3,500,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of a sewer interceptor project that has a two-fold advantage. Replacement of aging clay tile infrastructure will reduce the impact of I&I gaining additional capacity for use today, upsizing the interceptor will gain even more additional capacity as we target industrial customers to our area in the future. This particular interceptor runs along a creek that is exposed in some places, creating vulnerabilities to the treatment plant and the river itself. Completion of this project will meet the SPARK guiding principles of expansion of existing services to address present day capacity issues within our sanitary sewer while providing a driver to attract more business.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - Aylesbury Drainage Channel into Lake Sherwood	Sherwood Improvement District	\$180,000	<p>This project will provide a sustainable program to allow for the construction of a drainage channel flowing into Lake Sherwood. The project will be combined with local Sherwood Improvement District funding to provide a one-time funding for the project.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - Canterbury Town Stormwater Erosion	Sherwood Improvement District	\$25,000	This project would allow for a one-time investment that would allow for the improvement of a cove, which has been impacted from the erosion coming from the stormwater pipe entering Lake Sherwood. During significant rainfall events, water flows heavily out of the pipe and onto the natural vegetation, eroding the embankment to the Lake.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - Catch Basin Replacement across District	Sherwood Improvement District	\$150,000	The existing roadways were installed from the 1970's and 1980's for the majority of the Sherwood Improvement District. The existing storm sewer inlets are continuing to fall into a safety hazard for the traveling public in terms of vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. We have replaced 2 inlets annually for the past 5 years due to inlet grates falling into the structure or the inlet top collapsing creating a large hole on the edge of the roadway. Replacing the tops would increase the safety for users of the roadways for the next 40-50 years.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - Nottingham Drainage Ditch Modification	Sherwood Improvement District	\$40,000	This project will provide a one-time project that will resolve drainage and sediment movement entering Lake Sherwood. The project will be leveraged with Local Funds and we can tract the measurable returns because we will no longer have to hire an excavator to clean up the sediment and erosion that is cleaned from the roadways during significant rainfall events.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - SW Robins Drive Drainage	Sherwood Improvement District	\$25,000	This is a one time project that would resolve major drainage and flooding issues within a neighborhood in south Sherwood. The District would like to improve several drainage channels to contain stormwater during heavy rain events, but budgets have not allowed the project to move forward.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	SID - Tutbury Town Drainage Project	Sherwood Improvement District	\$120,000	This project would provide a sustainable investment that solves drainage and flooding around the Tutbury Town Corridor in Sherwood. These funds would be used for this one-time project.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Small Diameter Water Main Replacement	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities	\$10,000,000	Funds will be used for replacement of existing 75+ year old water infrastructure (small diameter galvanized water mains) in older, lower-income areas which have been impacted heavily by COVID health and economic factors. Replacing deteriorating lines would improve flow capacity, reduce the 500 leaks and breaks that occur annually, mitigate lead exposure health risks associated with galvanized piping per EPA studies, protect against possible contaminants getting into water mains, and preserve a natural resource. Main breaks cost the utility, and subsequently customers, millions in repairs, create public safety concerns with reduced or no water pressure at times, and are a barrier to redevelopment, new home construction, and economic growth where it's needed most. BPU's water system services 55,000 customers, with 1,000 miles of water mains. BPU has made significant investment in its aging water infrastructure, putting in place a program to replace these smaller water mains with \$10 million expended. A one-time stimulus injection would help expedite the replacement of these mains in older areas, acting as a catalyst for economic growth, ensuring positive health outcomes, and equitable opportunities for the entire community.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Small Town Clean Water Act Compliance	KDHE	\$29,650,000	foster long term systemic impact to Kansas
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Small Town Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance	KDHE	\$21,830,000	foster long term systemic impact to Kansas
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	South Wellfield Water Supply Project	McPherson Board of Public Utilities	\$21,500,000	The South Well Field Project, located 20 miles south of McPherson, is underway to develop a new, sustainable, long-term public water supply source for the city of McPherson and four rural water districts, including the city of Windom. The project consists of 3 new public water supply wells, a 20-mile-20 inch pipeline, pumping stations and a treatment facility. The BPU has issued revenue bonds to finance the original project cost of \$27.6 million. However, cost escalation due to COVID impacts and resulting supply-chain disruptions has caused the revised project costs to increase to an estimated \$49.1 million based upon current pricing for materials. To fund the debt service on the revenue bonds issued for the project, the BPU has increased water rates 34 percent over the past three years and will implement an additional eight percent rate increase in 2023. Funding in the amount of \$21.5 million from State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) is requested to for the COVID-related cost escalation and negate the need for further water rate increases. The request is based on current market prices for project materials. Should the actual cost of materials be less than the current market price, the BPU would return any unused funds.

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Statewide Sewer Pipe Lining Program	City of Augusta, Kansas	\$100,000,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to allocate funding for a special wastewater grant program for cured-in-place-pipe sewer lining. The state could consider bidding these services as a statewide-contract that will achieve tremendous economies of scale for participating communities.</p> <p>As sanitary sewers age, they deteriorate. Specifically, cracks appear and joints separate. Infiltration of water from the ground through these cracks and joints creates external voids, accelerates structural deterioration, and can overload wastewater collection systems and the treatment plant. Sewer backups into homes are fairly common in older neighborhoods with old infrastructure.</p> <p>This program for wastewater line repairs meets the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansas through long-lasting infrastructure investments and ensures equitable outcomes by targeting improvements in older neighborhoods with poor infrastructure where underserved communities are more likely to reside. Unlike a wastewater treatment plant upgrade, sewer line repairs directly impact families by reducing sewer backups that damage homes, which may or may not be covered by insurance.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Stormwater & Sewer System Improvements	City of Louisburg	\$5,500,000	<p>Intended use of these funds is for one-time system improvements to both stormwater and sewer utility infrastructure. These two utilities coincide for needs due to inflow and infiltration from stormwater system deficiencies, into wastewater system deficiencies, and is serving to strain the treatment process of wastewater by mechanical treatment. The combined improvements would address significant deficiencies one through one-time needed improvements and repairs to existing systems, allowing for short- to medium-term utility rates to focus on maintenance, which in a residential community is a huge impact. Combining these funds with ARPA funding already received, as well as utility funding will maximize the amount of one-time work to be accomplished. Utility funds not being utilized for these needed improvements and repairs may then be used to offset by stabilizing utility rates currently under review, helping our aging community as much as our young and low- to moderate-income community. These projects are measurable through oversight of already designed plans for stormwater projects, and combined effort on sewer system deficiency mapping and ongoing recording of areas improved with program funding--manhole repair, main lining, etc.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Support for sewer districts (example: Keats community sewer benefit district, Riley County)	Riley County	\$10,000,000	<p>Many lots were created (platted) well before sanitary codes were in place, as is the case for Keats which was originally platted in the 1880s. Many homes on these lots either have no system in place, or a system that is either failing or does not meet today's codes (and the lots are too small to fit/support a compliant system). Supporting public sewer infrastructure to serve a benefit district is a one-time investment that will provide a long lasting solution for these homeowners to stay in their homes and have a reliable means of sewage disposal. For the Keats benefit district within unincorporated Riley County, we are utilizing APRA funds as well as applying for USDA Rural Development funds. The Keats community is not eligible for CDBG funds due to not quite meeting LMI threshold (48.43%). Many of these homeowners are on fixed incomes and cannot afford the monthly user fees that are expected of them, and without additional funding mechanisms, these costs will be even higher for homeowners. The results will clearly be measurable, as we will be able to maintain and rely on public infrastructure for decades, and will not have to worry that individual homeowners' systems will fail and they will need to leave their homes.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Topeka Riverfront Prospectus	Riverfront Advisory Council/Riverfront Authority	\$152,500	<p>he project "Riverfront Prospectus" will be the official "Riverfront Vision" document that identifies catalytic mixed-use development and quality-of-life features that are possible along or near the banks of the Kansas River. It will serve as a prospectus for site developers; arts, entertainment, business and retail entities; housing developers; and targeted industries that realize interest in the area.</p> <p>The prospectus will illustrate land use on the north and south side between the Topeka Boulevard bridge and Kansas Avenue bridge. It will introduce developers to performance metrics, permitting considerations, and probable costs in the plan.</p> <p>The project meets SPARK's guiding principles by surfacing long-term systemic impact of riverfront investment. Mixed-use developments along the river will change the natural and economic landscape of the community. The "Riverfront Vision" document will paint Topeka's potential future. This project directly supports Kansas' desire to recover economically from the pandemic and thrive in a post-COVID-19 world. It also strengthens the resilience of Kansas and its capital city by presenting a clear vision of opportunities that are bound to impact the entire community and region for generations.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Upgrading of water infrastructure	City of Towanda	\$50,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support economic revitalization supporting our water infrastructure. City of Towanda will be upgrading the water distribution system. The city will be upgrading the water main shut-off valve. This will prevent the city from losing all the water available. This development will meet the SPARK guiding principal of economic revitalization by upgrading the supporting water infrastructure.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Wastewater Infrastructure to Accommodate Child Care, Early Childhood Education and Housing	City of Girard	\$650,000	This project will extend water/wastewater infrastructure to the planned site for Head Start and CHDO homes. This one-time investment will impact the local economy for years to come as well as help families return to work after leaving the labor force due to school and daycare closing and remote-learning transitions which occurred during the pandemic. This project will strengthen our resilience if future disruptions occur. The City is currently utilizing ARPA, county funds and CDBG for a wastewater project to make necessary updates/repairs. The City is working with an engineer. SEK-CAP plans to utilize County ARPA funds and federal expansion dollars for the Head Start and KHRC CHDO funds for housing. The impacts of increasing child care slots and providing subsidies will be large and systemic as access to child care affects the local economy, adds jobs, increases labor participation and reduces poverty. These services will be subsidized for low-income families thus ensuring equitable access. Measurable results include number of child care slots, persons accessing affordable housing, and children enrolled in preschool. These data points will be tracked by SEK-CAP. KS DCF and Child Care Aware analyze direct and indirect impacts.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Wastewater Treatment Plant Price Increase Due to COVID-19	City of Salina	\$10,000,000	<p>The intended use of the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to fund the additional costs of the City of Salina's Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The project has been part of the City's capital improvement program for several years and is already being designed. The original budget for this project was \$38.7 million. The cost of the project is expected to increase by over \$10 million to \$48.7 million. The increase in cost is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Salina is requesting \$10 million to offset the increase in price. This project must be completed in order to meet the requirements outlined in our National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.</p> <p>The City of Salina has increased water and wastewater rates over the last few years in anticipation of this project. The City expects that it will have to continue to increase rates annually for the foreseeable future in order to make payments on this project. The project will require an annual increase in rates of around 3%. The increased cost will require larger increase. The increasing cost of utilities has a disproportionate impact on those in our community who have the least ability to pay.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water and Wastewater Infrastructure to Support Affordable Housing, Business Development, and Healthcare Training	City of Ottawa	\$6,150,000	The City of Ottawa will use SPARK funds, matched with local funds to complete one-time urgent water and wastewater upgrades which aren't possible without this investment. This project serves the City and supports the Rural Water Districts (RWD) who serve southern Franklin County and since COVID have experienced problems with water pressure, volumes, and reliability due to more citizens working from home overburdening their systems. This project crosses a significant river to deliver wastewater treatment and has been on hold due to the negative impact of COVID causing uncertain economic conditions along with workforce and supply chain disruptions. If funded, this project will help meet resident's health needs, serve impoverished areas of the community, and supports the significant surge of businesses wishing to locate in the area to on-shore their supply chain due to COVID challenges. The engineering and design for the water tower (which has been planned for 5 years), pump, and lift station are complete. This is a catalytic investment critical to providing water stability to residents and businesses seeking to relocate to the area. It enhances the regions COVID resiliency and provides quality infrastructure for the next generation.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water capacity infrastructure improvements (dredge water reservoirs and provide grants to communities to secure necessary water capacity)	KDA	\$20,000,000	Prioritize sustainable programs & investments through one-time use of funds vs. substantial expansion of existing services
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Distribution Main Replacement Program	Leavenworth Waterworks Board	\$6,000,000	Leavenworth Waterworks Board is a quasi-municipality operating a water utility for the City of Leavenworth under KSA 13-2414 to 13-2429. It also supplies water to 7 Rural Water Districts in Leavenworth and Jefferson Counties. It serves a population of about 65,000. This program involves the replacement about 1 mile of failing distribution mains each year for 5 years (\$1.2 M per year). Project costs include the design, construction, and administration. Pipelines will likely be replaced through horizontal directional drilling to minimize disruption. Service lines, fire hydrants, etc. will also be replaced. It would enhance LWB's current program to reduce breakage, water loss, and prevent potential contamination of the system.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Main Improvements for Industrial Park III	City of Emporia	\$15,000,000	The City of Emporia requests funding to build large water main piping from the water treatment plant (WTP) to Industrial Park III. The City of Emporia has been the beneficiary of recent industrial development pet food manufacturing businesses that utilize significant amounts of potable water for operations and production. The location of Industrial Park III, which houses Simons' two plants, Hills and other industries is located on the southeast side of town and the water treatment is located on the northwest side of the city. The City currently does not have a direct main feeding to Industrial Park III and the existing mains in town transmit the water through 80- to 100-year-old mains and the number of railroad crossings have been reduced by half due to aged failures. The City is currently planning on a large main replacement to Industrial Park III to better supply the current users and provide service for the additional space available for industrial development. This will be a key improvement for the future growth and support of the existing businesses. A quality potable water resource that meets the needs for existing and future industrial growth is a necessity to sustain jobs and grow the local wealth of the community.

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Main Transmission Upgrade	City of Junction City	\$5,516,349	The funds will be used to build a secondary water transmission main into our water system. Our current water main is aging and requires regular service. The potential for it to burst somewhere along its span continues to grow every day. With our water system and our community growing, the need to provide a redundant system continues to become more important. If the line were to fail today, the community would have mere hours to seal it off and repair it before water stores are emptied. Our community recently witnessed the devastating effects of being without water during a pandemic after our Water Treatment Plant lost power during a storm. Our residents were left without water to drink, wash their hands or clean with. Many were forced to leave the comfort of their home to receive bottled water rations or to purchase their own supply at the store. Leaving our main transmission line vulnerable, as it is now, risks putting these citizens in the same predicament.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water System Expansion	City of Junction City	\$8,266,782	This expansion is a portion of the plan to extend the City's borders westward to incorporate a new industrial district. This area will be comprised of four quarter-sections available to companies wanting to establish themselves in our community. The funds will be used to construct a 1-million-gallon water tower along with the waterlines needed to connect it to our current system and extend it to the new industrial district. This new district will provide our community with much-needed and essential jobs that promise to weather the current pandemic. With unemployment reaching unheard of levels for modern times, these jobs are crucial for our community to recover and endure unforeseen events in the future.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water System Rehabilitation	City of Humboldt	\$13,000,000	The water system is in dire condition. It is no longer possible to extend life and it is posing potential risk to health and safety of our residents. The steel distribution pipe has corroded internally, restricting flow as much as 80% and introducing possible contamination to our drinking water. Erosion has damaged the integrity of the pipe to the point that it is increasingly difficult to patch or repair. The replacement of steel pipe with poly pipe will provide 75 to 100 years of service. We will also remove all lead pipes and taps. We have applied for \$13 million in USDA funds and have requested the maximum grant of 45%. Even with the 45% grant, cost to the average consumer will approach \$75/month which is cost prohibitive to underprivileged and socioeconomically challenged residents. Due to EPA and KDHE non-compliance, we recently completed a \$6 million sewer collection project, so we are already deeply in debt to maintain regulatory compliance and ensure public safety.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Treatment Plant - Private Business Partnership	Rural Water District No. 1 Ellsworth County a/k/a Post Rock Rural Water District	\$20,000,000	This project would allow Post Rock Rural Water District to construct a new water treatment facility and to provide the water necessary to support the business expansion needs of a private business. This private business would grow the economy with the addition of 30-40 jobs and an investment of approximately \$125 million dollars. This benefits the State and the local economies while also providing critical infrastructure - water - to serve more customers both wholesale and retail.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Valve Exerciser	City of Arma, KS	\$6,500	As part of our annual distribution system maintenance program, the water main valves (in-ground), are supposed to be checked every year and each valve fully closed and reopened to keep them from freezing open (rust). This ensures that we are able to close these valves when the need arises, such as the isolation of a water main to do repairs. The bad thing is that each of these valves require 20 to 30 turns to fully close and all we have to use is a t-handle and turning manually by hand. This takes alot of time that we usually don't have and sometimes the valve is extremely hard to turn. Consequently, our annual valve exercising program falls short every year due to not being able to address each valve before the cold weather sets in. With the help of this powered Valve Exerciser, we will be better able to do the needed preventive maintenance on our city's water main valves and better ensure their serviceability for our customers (residents).
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water Well Replacements (Offsets)	City of Arkansas City	\$2,000,000	The intended use of this funding will be to replace two municipal water wells. The water wells to be replaced have been in service since the 1930s. The replacement wells (offsets) will continue to furnish water to the City of Arkansas City well into the future. Water is the element required for public health and industrial growth. Water is essential for life and so are jobs for livelihood. Available water is needed to keep our industries located here and to attract new industries. Both the industries located here and new industries that may locate here need an adequate supply of water and a healthy workforce. A healthy workforce is dependent on clean water to drink and for sanitation. This is especially true of Creekstone Farms, the City's largest employer, industrial water customer and economic powerhouse. Ensuring the safety and security of our water supply well into the future is essential for Creekstone's continued growth and investment in Arkansas City!
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Water/Sewer infrastructure & support	City of Potwin	\$4,000,000	It is the supporting infrastructure of the City of Potwin for Water and Sewer for the whole town. for the health and services for upcoming and growth that the City will have in the future. will modernize a City that has been in in existence since 1885

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Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Winwood Park Relief Sewer Line	City of Gardner	\$1,638,000	Gardner has the highest projected growth rate in Johnson County through the year 2030, with the need for 1,185 additional housing units by 2025 and 2,534 units by 2030. While conducting a hydraulic modeling study in 2021, the City identified a need for improvements to the sewer infrastructure, due to the substantial growth. The proposed project requires a one-time investment that would accommodate projected growth in the area until a new wastewater treatment facility is constructed. The City will contribute a 25% cash match for the project and has plans to make other significant sewer infrastructure improvements to support residential development and economic growth. In order for Gardner to support on-going investment in housing and attract new residents to the community, it is critical to provide a range of housing options to meet the needs of all income levels. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected Kansas resident's income, which has in turn negatively impacted their ability to secure stable housing and delayed home ownership. Increasing housing supply and creating a diverse array of housing options in high growth areas, like Gardner, will help address the lack of affordable housing in Johnson County.
Economic Revitalization	Water & Sewer Infrastructure	Wyss Pumping Station Engine Generator Facilities	WaterOne	\$8,185,000	WaterOne recently completed construction on a new pump station in the southwest portion of its service area that we would like to protect with natural gas generators to serve as back-up power sources. The generators would serve as backup power for the Ralph Wyss Pumping Station which operates a 7.5 Million Gallon Reservoir and transmission main that greatly expands WaterOne's service capacity to the quickly growing southern Johnson County area. Having this power redundancy is key to WaterOne's emergency preparedness commitment. In the event of a widespread power outage, with this backup generator, WaterOne will be able to continue to serve our customers clean and safe water. Additionally, in other emergency events, WaterOne could potentially accommodate a request by the local power provider to either reduce the electrical demand or operate the facility "off grid" while still meeting demands resulting from public consumption or fire flow. This is a request for a one-time investment in equipment and construction that will be maintained by WaterOne for the 40-year useful life of the equipment.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Ad Astra Medical Devices, LLC	Ad Astra Medical Manufacturing & Education	\$3,633,500	The funds would be used to develop a Kansas based manufacturing capability specifically focused on Medical Devices and Medical Device R&D. Through recruitment, educational outreach and partnerships Kansas educational institutions would receive benefits new knowledge, talent, and innovations. Moreover, a key objective is supporting better patient outcomes through the use of innovative products. The funds would support: 1. HEALTH AND EDUCATION: Workforce development (Dedicated personnel obtaining valuable R&D skills with premium pay) 2. HEALTH AND EDUCATION: Treatment capacity (Short supply-chain to Kansas Hospitals with local production) 3. HEALTH AND EDUCATION: Early childhood health (Medical devices for pediatrics) 4. HEALTH AND EDUCATION: Early childhood education (Medical device samples and technologies delivered to Kansas schools to support STEM and entrepreneurial curriculum) 5. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION: Workforce development (Obtain scientific, medical, manufacturing R&D capabilities) 6. ECONOMIC: Talent recruitment (out of state talent recruited) 7. ECONOMIC: Business development (Building and supporting small Kansas business) 8. ECONOMIC: Business innovation (Developing new technologies, exported to the region)
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Addressing Workforce Training Needs for Regional Businesses	Cowley College	\$5,200,000	Cowley College area businesses have serious workforce challenges and need trained employees to carry out their work to serve their customers, and our proposal meets those needs. Our institution has a long history of aiding in specialized training for regional businesses, but we lack the physical capacity to scale up our instruction to meet the demands that companies seek. COVID-19 supply chain issues and skilled workforce shortages have exasperated our need for new space to quickly up-skill workers. This is not a request for 100% funding as Cowley College and private sector partners will match this one-time funding request to establish a dedicated Career and Technical Education facility in Ark City. This CTE Center will enable us to expand existing capacity to serve more students pursuing high-demand vocational careers upon completion as requested by our stakeholders. This new CTE facility will target Carpentry/Construction Trades, Welding, Electromechanical Maintenance, and other in-demand occupations. Students will be offered specific industry training for high-wage, high-demand careers through boot camps, short-term certifications, and full-degree programming choices.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	AdultBuild Topeka: Pre-Apprenticeship and Transitional Jobs Program	IBSA, Inc.	\$630,000	The AdultBuild program will help prepare participants who have not otherwise had the opportunity to enter into the apprenticeable occupations or upward mobility employment. The program will include related instructions and paid on-the-job training, supervised by the employer and teacher/coordinator. AdultBuild courses will include but is not be limited to: communication skill, leadership skills, human relations and employability skills, safe and efficient work practices, and skills needed to operate and maintain a variety of related equipment and tools. Training will be provided through contractors with the knowledge and experience to instruct and certify in their specific field. Other providers and governmental agencies will be utilized to provide other support services needed to sustain an individual's participation in the program. The development of these targeted individuals will meet several SPARK guiding principles including the consideration of equitable outcomes; combined with leveraging local funds to maximize the use of discretionary funds. SPARK funds will be used to address the negative economic impacts which has led to high worker shortages in areas hit hard by the pandemic; especially workers of color.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Advancing Women's Aptitude & Resilience Economically (AWARE)	4L Foundation	\$1,000,000	<p>We are requesting ARPA and SFRF funding for Economic Revitalization for workforce development, talent retention, and recruitment. The 4L Foundation, a 501(c)(3) located in Johnson County, Kansas, has a residential program called Shepherd's Care Ministries (SCM), approaching its twentieth year. For each program participant, for up to two years, we provide housing and utilities (without cost) for program participants (underprivileged women and children) with exposure to traumatic experiences such as COVID-related food, job and housing insecurity, domestic violence, and illicit drug and alcohol abuse.</p> <p>Partnering with a "sister" organization entitled Grace Restores Overcoming Women (GROW), now in its nineteenth year, which provides transitional housing and reentry programs aiding women emerging into society following incarceration. We provide transparent, measurable, and sustainable outcomes by developing productive citizens within the community. This is accomplished with mentoring and wraparound services for the individuals and families served. We will enhance awareness in our communities by creating new positions, pathways and partnerships caring for and equipping the underserved in Johnson County, Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Agricultural skills & innovation	KDA	\$5,000,000	Combine with / leverage local and agency funds to maximize use of discretionary funds
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Brown County Sheriff's Office Retention & Recruiting incentives	BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$140,000	<p>The funds we are requesting from the SPARK committee will be used to provide incentives for recruiting new talent and retention of current staff. Under the SPARK advisory panel Economic Revitalization and the Guiding Principles of Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans, as well as Consider equitable opportunities and outcomes. We intend to meet the aforementioned Guiding Principles by maintaining professional pre-COVID staffing by attracting new talent and incentivizing current employees to remain at their posts. Brown County is located in a diverse and economically depressed part of our state, hiring and keeping talented people is a challenge. Brown County is the only county in Kansas that is home to three (3) separate tribal entities, the Sac and Fox Nation, Iowa Nation, and the Kickapoo Nation which makes up approximately 10% of our county's population. Many surrounding Law enforcement agency's beginning pay is significantly higher than ours. This results in a heavier turnover for our agency. Our proposal would include a \$5,000.00 retention payment for all full-time employees (23), a \$2,500.00 for the agency's part timers (7), and 3 recruiting incentive payments of \$2,500.00 to help us in filling our 3 vacant slots.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Building a Manufacturing Workforce Today for a Resilient Kansas in the Future	Kansas Association of Technical Colleges	\$70,865,710	<p>The intended usage of these funds is to support the necessary transformation of Kansas public technical colleges' manufacturing education into programs and facilities that can support Kansas manufacturers and Industry 4.0. Manufacturing faced a severe negative economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and this request strengthens the colleges' abilities to provide the workforce needed today and will strengthen Kansas manufacturers' ability to be resilient in the future. This request meets multiple SPARK guiding principles including investing in one-time use of funds and programs that will be sustained long-term through revenue obtained from increased enrollment and tuition; fostering long-term systemic impact of Kansas by building a resilient manufacturing workforce trained in Industry 4.0 competencies; providing equitable opportunities and outcomes to the diverse communities and students served by technical colleges; and providing results that are measurable and consistently tracked through established college practices and protocols. The funding requests include additional facilities and lab spaces, advanced equipment and training, outreach on educational opportunities to future students, and additional faculty and staff.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Building- Hub of Women's Services	Wichita Women's Initiative Network	\$994,000	<p>Wichita Women's Initiative Network (WIN) will use requested funds from the SPARK committee as a one-time infusion of cash to match funds to purchase a building that will dramatically increase workforce development capacity for disadvantaged adults through creation of a resource hub in Sedgwick County. This project will meet the SPARK committee guiding principles of development of long-term systemic impact for Kansans through developing a one-stop facility for services for minority and marginalized adults. In addition to services provide by WIN (Domestic Violence Employment Program and Dress For Success), this hub will provide a wide range of services by partner organizations/businesses who will be provided office space. For example, an attorney who focuses on women's issue, Substance Abuses of Sedgwick County (SACK), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) will have a satellite office space. This mixed-use facility will improve the community's response to disadvantaged women impacted by COVID-19 by increasing the access to community resources, as well as providing employment opportunities.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Building Trades Training Center	USD 363	\$900,000	<p>The requested funds would help establish an important educational and workforce development program. There is a need for skilled building trades people to enter the work force, particularly in SW Kansas; however, there are simply not enough training programs in the area.</p> <p>Establishing a building trades center fed by multiple SW Kansas school districts (Holcomb, Deerfield and Lakin) ensures meeting the guiding principle of creating a sustainable program through the use of one-time use funds and will go a long way toward providing the number of people/skilled workers needed in the field.</p> <p>Partnering with multiple school districts and the local Community College meets the guiding principle of combining local agency funds.</p> <p>The guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansas is absolutely tied to this project as this program will pump into the work force capable skilled trades people to ensure construction efforts across the region continue to flourish.</p> <p>Lastly, the guiding principle of ensuring results are measurable and are able to be tracked is met as the sheer enrollment in the program is easily tracked as is the job placement that occurs once the students matriculate through the program.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Cardinal Community Career Partnership	Eudora Schools - USD #491	\$180,000	<p>Eudora Schools is working to create a new job training program and career partnership with local businesses for not only our students, but everyone in our community. Eudora Schools will partner with area Douglas County businesses to create a job training and career readiness program. Eudora Schools would also employ a College and Career Coach to be a resource to our community. By exploring career opportunities and practicing job skills, students will be prepared to either make a successful transition to college, trade school, military service, or straight into the workforce after their graduation. This experience also will be available to all of our community members to allow the opportunity to gain career readiness and additional job training. This allows students and community members to explore job opportunities not only to enrich their knowledge and increase their success rates, but to also build on success early in their life and in their careers. The COVID pandemic has taught us that our community and our present and past students are lacking in job training opportunities, career building, and goal setting to achieve success. This program builds on the guiding principle of fostering long-term systemic impacts for Kansas.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Computer Support Specialist Program Expansion Wamego, KS	Highland Community College	\$75,000	<p>Highland Community College offers the State Aligned Computer Support Specialist Program at our Atchison Technical Center Location in Atchison, KS. This project request would allow us to expand the program offering to our Wamego Center in Wamego, KS. The Wamego area is growing at a very rapid pace and has a great need for trained workers. This project would allow for local students in the Wamego area to receive Computer training that is not currently available in the Wamego are. The project would support the purchase of the needed infrastructure and equipment needed to offer the program. The program expansion would help workers that were displaced by COVID-19 to be retrained and retooled to join high skill, high wage career. Highland Community College is committed to the support of Technical Education across our service area. Highland has been offering Technical Education Programing in Northeast Kansas for over 14 years. The offering of new technical training in the Wamego area will have long term systemic impact for Kansas as it will continually being adding to the skilled workforce.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Converting and expanded living spaces with work from home opportunities	KC Built	\$400,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the development of a showroom, warehouse facilities, sales and installation employees and a vehicle for our installers.</p> <p>KC Built is Kansas City's exclusive authorized dealer for Sunspace Sunrooms outdoor living space products, specializing in building and converting covered spaces and screened in porches into 3 and/or 4 seasons sunrooms. In 2019, we secured a handful of jobs using the Sunspace products and at that time, we devised a plan to expand that business. In March of 2020, this plan was terminated around the uncertainty of economic growth. Our business opportunities were stifled because of the pandemic. The Sunspace product continued to be offered as an option for our customers, but the investment funds necessary to grow our company were depleted. In just 2 years while we have been able to triple our business, that business is still quite small in scope grossing just under \$100,000 in revenue in 2021. To build and sustain a larger business, we require a showroom and warehouse facilities, sales and installation employees and vehicles.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Creating a Skilled Workforce in Northeast Kansas	Mid-America Regional Council	\$2,500,000	Project will: outreach to employers & job-seekers; career coaching; wrap-around support (e.g., transportation, childcare); job-ready skill training & technical skill training in target industries w/good paying jobs – manufacturing, construction/skilled trades and logistics; & employment services. Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) & Workforce Partnership (WP) will work w/employers & community colleges & other trainers to share information on skill requirements for training job-seekers. WP is the workforce agency for Johnson, Leavenworth, & Wyandotte counties. NCircle is an Olathe non-profit providing support to youth and adults leaving the criminal justice system/incarceration w/career coaching, job-ready & skill training, & connection to employment. MARC is the assoc of local govts serving 4 NE Kansas counties involved through KC Degrees program in helping adults w/career coaching & connection to training & employment. The target job-seekers are unemployed, underemployed & those out of the labor force, all disadvantaged due to the pandemic. Services will leverage other public & private funds; help employers fill jobs toward economic recovery; ensure flexibility to meet client & employer needs & be designed to measure outcomes.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Creation of a Dedicated Training Range for Johnson County Community College's CDL-A Program	Johnson County Community College	\$2,538,502	Johnson County Community College is requesting funds to support the construction of a new training range for its Commercial Driving License-A Program. The new training range will meet the SPARK guiding principles by 1) growing a sustainable program through a one-time use of funds, 2) fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans, and 3) achieving results that are measurable to enable tracking and transparency. The investment in a new training range will directly support our state's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by helping more dislocated workers into a career path with a family-sustaining wage. More CDL-A drivers will also aid to ease the supply chain and logistics challenges created by the Pandemic. Historically only offering weekend courses, in 2021 JCCC started to hold weekday courses by leasing a training range. However, this arrangement still limits our number of weekday courses. The requested funds will support purchasing of 8 acres on which 6 driving concrete pads will be poured to create the training range. The current property also has an outbuilding that will be renovated to include a classroom, restroom, and storage space. If land purchase is deemed unallowable, JCCC will lease the land on a long-term basis.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Dodge City Community College Technical Education Center	Dodge City Community College	\$13,000,000	Dodge City Community College, in partnership with private sector industry, proposes to construct a new Technical Education Center on the campus of Dodge City Community College. The new Center would initially be home to the following programs: HVAC, Electrical Technology, Plumbing, Building Construction, and Industrial Maintenance/Automation. This proposal is submitted with strong local industry partner support including National Beef, Cargill, Hilmar Cheese, and several other program advisory committee businesses/corporations. A one-time investment in a new facility will make possible additional technical education programs at the College and will create efficiency and synergy within current programs through consolidation of space and staffing. These funds would leverage local private sector funds to secure equipment donations and investments from local industry partners. The construction of a new Technical Education Center would create a long-term systemic impact for the Southwest Kansas region, bringing a much-needed infusion of resources to support Career and Technical Education that links directly to industry-recognized skills, certification, and employment to meet the large, ongoing demand for a trained workforce.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Drones Across Kansas	Pitsco Education, LLC, Pittsburg, KS	\$15,500,000	The Drones across Kansas program is designed to meet the current need for standardized drone training and curriculum, providing an advantage to Kansans in tomorrow's workforce while also propelling Kansas aviation into the future. Funds requested would support the creation of a workforce development program designed to provide Kansans with meaningful hands-on aviation education/training. The program will prepare students in Grades 3-14 for the world of drones and drone technology, support the professional development of educators through regional training hubs, and retrain/reskill current members of the Kansas workforce to complete the FAA Part 107 certification. The development of this program will meet the SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing sustainable programs, fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans, considering equitable opportunities and outcomes, and ensuring results are measurable to enable tracking and transparency. Additionally, the curriculum will meet Kansas Competencies for Grades 3-12 in ELA (Reading Informational Text), math, science, SECD (Responsible Decision-Making and Problem-Solving), STEAM, engineering, technology, information technology, and transportation.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Economic and Workforce Development in High Demand Technical careers for Kansas	Garden City Community College	\$1,500,000	This request is to support the physical expansion of GCCC training space, directly increasing the number of skilled workforce participants in three high-wage, high-demand occupations. Farm Equipment Mechanics, Industrial Machinery Mechanics, and Welders show tremendous demand and growth in southwest Kansas, with long-term projections totaling 123 annual job openings and average salaries over \$50,000. GCCC continues to work closely with industry partners to meet their training needs, both through certificate and degree attainment and short-term skill-up courses for existing employees, but the college's physical space for technical education has been stretched for years. These funds would support an 8,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Annex building, providing space for a larger Agriculture Technology shop space suitable for training students on large equipment (i.e. combines), additional space for welding training, approximately 5 additional classroom spaces for use in all 3 programs, and expanded building services. This request follows SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing sustainable programs, leveraging local funds, fostering long-term impact for Kansas businesses, and focusing on equitable and measurable outcomes.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Economic Empowerment for Latino Families	El Centro Inc.	\$175,000	We have a 45-year history working with the Latino communities. This funding will support an intensive 40-hour, 1 week HAZWOPER certification training in high demand locally. Additional we will continue to host 4-session small business training workshops quarterly and provide 1:1 coaching for individuals wanting to start a small business. Since November 2021, El Centro has assisted 20 Hispanic entrepreneurs who are looking to start a business. Special efforts will be made to recruit BIPOC, veterans and re-entry candidates for both programs. Years of undervalued work by early childhood educators has led to staffing shortages across the country. Parents who already had limited options for affordable, high-quality childcare before the pandemic are facing even fewer options now. These are two things we know all too well here at our dual-language preschool the Academy for Children. These funds will provide relief to this hard-hit sector two-fold. By providing scholarships opportunity to low-income working families needed a little assistance affording childcare and by providing stipends to teachers to help us retain the bilingual talent we need and make us complete when recruiting for open positions.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Economic Recovery Through Workforce System Improvement and Sustainability	Kansas Association of Workforce Boards	\$5,000,000	The funds requested will support the efforts of the Kansas Association of Workforce Boards to establish and foster long term systemic impacts to the workforce system allowing for flexibility in strategizing, developing, and implementing targeted projects directly supporting the efforts of employers dealing with unprecedented low unemployment. This initiative and request for funds is part of a statewide Workforce Board effort to address/support collaborations to train and/or promote individuals to improve the skill sets for careers that are facing significant shortages in in-demand industries: healthcare, transportation, manufacturing, plumbing, electrical, food preparation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 million Baby Boomers retired during the 1st year of the pandemic with acceleration the next year • Over 66,000 Kansas jobs remain unfilled • Most of those vacant jobs cannot be filled by existing talent due to lack of aligned skills. • The inability to fill these high-skilled jobs prevents businesses from expanding and impedes Kansas' ability to grow its economy. • Many unemployed or underemployed residents will need to upskill or re-skill in order to successfully earn and retain post-pandemic employment
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Education and Promotion of the Skilled Trades Campaign	Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City Foundation	\$1,500,000	Trade workers across multiple sectors remain in high demand, yet young people are not entering these occupations at rates needed to sustain the current workforce needs. The primary challenge is the education and promotion of available skilled trades jobs. Students typically cite lack of interest and knowledge about the trades as the reason they don't pursue those paths. College is considered the only path to a good job in many schools, families, and communities. This perception is in direct contrast to the reality of the skilled trades careers including benefits like job stability, no college debt, career growth and ability to learn high-tech skills. To address this problem, the KC Chamber proposes a multi-pronged marketing/advertising campaign to change perceptions of jobs within the skilled trade industries among young people. This campaign will use a variety of media to develop and maintain regional marketing resources, share information, as well as create and deliver consistent, cross-sector messaging to expose youth to the benefits of the trades. The KC Chamber believes this campaign will provide sustainable and equitable workforce solutions to high demand careers in Kansas.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Employee Retention Proect	City of Leavenworth, Kansas	\$975,000	The City of Leavenworth would establish a retention pay system for Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and Dispatchers that would be effective for 3 years. The employee would agree to stay employed by the City of Leavenworth for at least three years. Each of those three years the employee would receive a retention bonus payment that would meet the criteria of less than 25% of their base pay salary. A Police Officer would receive \$10,000 over three years. A Fire Fighter would receive \$6,000 over three years, and a Dispatcher would receive \$5,000 over three years.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	EMS Education Incentive Grant	Kansas Emergency Medical Services Board	\$1,000,000	The intended use for the funds requested is to augment an existing grant program offered by this agency and designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of EMS personnel in rural and frontier counties. This program strengthens the sustainability of the EMS response system in Kansas and meets the SPARK guiding principles of a one-time enhancement to an existing sustainable and successful program; ensuring equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities; providing additional personnel to address staffing struggles; and demonstrating measurable results from the investment made through the tracking of recipients through their EMS certification life cycle and requiring the recipient to provide EMS for an ambulance service as a condition of receiving the grant. This one-time enhancement is anticipated to provide a nearly 10% increase in the number of EMS providers in Kansas and will assist in rebuilding and preparing the EMS workforce for the next pandemic.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Establishing a Kansas Center for Employee Ownership	Kansas Center for Employee Ownership	\$300,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to assist in launching a Kansas Center for Employee Ownership (KSCEO) 501(c)3 that will provide awareness and educational activities across the state on the benefits and process of transitioning businesses to employee ownership. This programming will be directed to business owners, their trusted advisors (accountants, attorneys, bankers, etc), local governments, and community stakeholders to create an ecosystem around employee ownership. This is a one-time investment to establish the initial operations and programming of the center, which is part of a network of more than a dozen state centers across the country. These funds would be combined with private donations, foundation grants, and support from partner agencies for long-term sustainability. Success will be measured by the number of employee owned businesses in the state, along with measurable business outcomes in comparison to peer businesses that are not employee owned.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Executive Director	Salina Community Economic Development Organization	\$6,000,000	Project will strength state resilience with improved job creation and health of industrial community.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Expanding Capacity for Technical Education in Southeast Kansas	Southeast Kansas Career and Technical Education Center	\$4,000,000	CTEC as a non-profit is the result of a public-private partnership to meet the skilled workforce needs of the region. CTEC allows local high school students, as well as college students and adult learners, to access excellent skilled trades education at CTEC's campus. Programs provided by Ft. Scott Community College include welding, masonry, HVAC and carpentry. Pittsburg High School offers auto tech. Students completing the programs are job ready. This proposal enhances/expands an already successful education/business partnership to provide skilled workers in needed areas specific to the region. The proposal will expand the current 30,000 SF building by half, allowing implementation of additional programing. CTEC, Ft. Scott Community College and City of Pittsburg are exploring programing for heavy machine operators; SEKWorks has thirty-nine job openings in this area. This project meets SPARK principles in workforce development, investing one-time dollars for long-term investment for business/industry development, support for hard-hit sectors due to labor shortages, business innovation not restricted by unskilled labor and supporting infrastructure. A labor force in skilled trades is essential for Southeast Kansas.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Family Forward Kansas	First 1,000 Days Kansas, an initiative of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.	\$600,000	Funding will create "Family Forward Kansas" (FF KS), an employer-led program to engage and assist a diverse range of Kansas employers to adopt family-friendly policies and practices shown to mitigate negative consequences stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing workforce participation, particularly by women. FF KS will provide technical assistance to employers to implement the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paid family leave - Encourages new parents to return to the workforce. ● Flexible work and scheduling - This is particularly important in the context of pandemic-related quarantines and restricted childcare options. ● Child care - Women are more likely to participate in the workforce when affordable childcare is accessible. ● Accommodations and support for pregnant or breastfeeding workers - A cost effective measure to support workforce sustainability and improve health outcomes. FF KS, based on Family Forward North Carolina, will create the following resources with input from Kansas employers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide with policy templates and case studies of Kansas employers ● Award to recognize Family Forward Kansas employers ● Annual survey of human resource professionals to measure adoption of FF KS policies

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Flint Hills Technical School - Coffey County Campus	Coffey County Commission - Economic Development Director	\$2,800,000	Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia is unable to accept all students who wish to attend due to lack of physical space. After research, FHTC intends to expand into a second full size campus in Coffey County (Burlington). The intended location is the current Elementary School in Burlington. USD 244 intends to sell the elementary to FHTC and construct a new Elementary School next to its Middle and High School to be more efficient and to reduce overhead and operational.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Forging and Filling Current and Future Workforce Needs by Expanding NCK Tech's Welding Program	North Central Kansas Technical College (NCK Tech)	\$13,100,000	The funds requested are to support the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. building, finished with new equipment, furnishings and adjoining parking lot. This will increase our ability to train more Kansans in our Welding Program on our Beloit Campus and will allow us to increase capacity and enrollment, as we have waiting lists due to space constraints. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles by investing in one-time use of funds and programs that will be sustained long-term through revenue obtained from increased enrollment and tuition; fostering long-term systemic impact of Kansas by expanding a strong workforce trained in Industry 4.0 competencies; providing equitable opportunities and outcomes to students served by our technical college; and providing results that are measurable and consistently tracked through established college practices and protocols. This request includes new facilities and lab spaces, advanced equipment, and outreach on educational opportunities to future students. The ability to fill jobs in north central and northwest Kansas with people who want to stay in the area will directly support Kansas' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the resilience of our rural communities.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Goodwill Mobile Employment Services	Goodwill Industries of Kansas	\$1,725,000	This program will serve individuals who are un- or underemployed and incumbent workers in need of upskilling, as well as employers. Employers are in a crisis in recruiting, and workers rapidly need digital skills and other credentials to attain middle-skill jobs post-pandemic. Goodwill will travel its two mobile workforce units, each equipped with Wi-Fi and ten computers, to high need areas of the state (especially rural areas) to provide digital skills training, hiring events, credential training, and placement services. We intend to convene local employers, elected officials, and community based organizations to identify local needs, gaps, and goals and then create a collaborative where Goodwill supports efforts to grow a trained workforce. Additionally, individuals may enroll into long-term employment services and work regularly with staff to accomplish their career goals (via virtual career navigation and training). This will strengthen Kansas' economic resilience by adding talent to the labor pool and increasing connections to and usage of the internet. It aligns with SPARK priorities by creating long-term individual and business economic impact for the state, and establishing more equity for low-income, rural individuals.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Goodwill Reentry Services	Goodwill Industries of Kansas	\$1,900,000	This program will serve individuals with legal history who are not receiving extensive reentry services from the Department of Corrections. Thousands of people are released from Kansas institutions each year, and with additional supportive services, this labor pool can meet employer demand for talent while reducing recidivism in the state. Goodwill will provide participants with foundational skills training, focusing on digital skills, essential skills, and personal finance while the individuals are enrolled into college partner-based high school diploma and career training supported by Accelerating Opportunities for Kansans. Participants will be intensively supported by a Success Coach along the way to receive wraparound support for barriers like transportation and substance abuse, which will make graduation more attainable. Once training is complete, Goodwill will help graduates earn employment. This will strengthen Kansas' economic resilience by adding talent to the labor pool. It aligns with SPARK priorities by leveraging other state and federal workforce training dollars, creating long-term individual and business economic impact for the state, and establishing more equity for previously incarcerated individuals.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	GWO Training Facility	ALLTITE, Inc	\$1,800,000	<p>Technicians in the wind industry require specialized training with a price tag of \$4-\$6,000 every two years. The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is for the construction of a Global Wind Organisation (GWO) certified Wind Training facility in Wichita, KS. GWO is the international standard developed by the world's largest wind energy companies and is quickly becoming the essential requirement domestically. There are only 24 facilities in the United States certified to perform GWO training, according to GLOBALWINDSAFETY.org.</p> <p>Kansas consistently competes for first place as the largest consumer of renewable energy by consumption percentage in the country. However, Kansan wind technicians wanting training to work on, repair or install wind turbines must travel to Oklahoma, Missouri or Colorado as there is not a GWO training facility in Kansas.</p> <p>This facility will prioritize sustainable education program through a one-time use of funds. By partnering with Cowley College we can leverage local talent and educational resources in order to maximize discretionary funds for a measurable, long-term systemic impact for Kansans to maximize use of funding.</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Heavy Equipment Operator Training	Fort Scott Community College	\$800,000	Currently Fort Scott Community College is pursuing higher education training for heavy equipment operators and would utilize equipment leased and borrowed from industry partners for the hands-on portion of the training. The funds requested in this grant would support the long term systemic impact for Kansans by continuing to train and up-skill? a workforce for years to come. This project also brings together multiple agencies to maximize the use of funds including Crawford County Technical Education Center (CTEC) and its six school district partners, Fort Scott Community College, City of Pittsburg, Pleasanton School District, Jayhawk-Linn School District, and Prairie View School District. The impact of the program will be measurable and transparent, as FSCC is a public-funded entity, which has a demonstrated ability of tracking local, state, and federal grants. The long-term impacts can be measured by graduates and graduates employed; which is annually tracked in the Kansas Training Information Program, prepared by the Kansas Board of Regents. The simulators would provide equitable opportunities to students in a low-income area of Kansas to earn a skill, earn a credential, and move into the workforce.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	HirePaths 2022 Media Expansion	HirePaths, a fund of the Kansas Rural Communities Foundation	\$360,000	After years of development and delay due to COVID, we launched HirePaths Feb. 1, 2021. A year later, we've reached more than 1.3 million unique people nationwide, with the majority of those living in Kansas. Our mission is to excite and inspire parents to support their children going into skilled trades and other high-demand jobs, while in the process promoting and celebrating great careers available in Kansas. We promote CTE programs in high school and all possible career paths after high school, esp. apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, technical schools, and community colleges. We've had amazing reach on a limited first year budget, but we have great goals for expansion that require us to increase our media budget to better promote HirePaths this year in our urban communities, where media costs are higher (esp. in the KC metro and Wichita); add TV/streaming video or radio into our media mix; add paid search to our digital media budget to broaden our ability to attract people searching for our content online; and increase the volume of paid social media we can purchase monthly. Our campaign is highly measurable, and we produce a quarterly analytics report for investors to measure our progress.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Installation of Wind Turbine Generation System(s)	The Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center	\$400,000	Purchase and installation of 150 kWh wind turbine capacity as a training laboratory for area students. This project supports the Economic Revitalization advisory panel, specifically the training of a skilled workforce, support of small businesses that will be involved with it and business innovation through the implementation of carbon free energy production.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Kansas Degree Guarantee	Degree Insurance	\$205,264,300	"Go to school in Kansas, get a job in Kansas and we'll guarantee how much you'll earn." Degree Insurance guarantees a specific income level to college graduates in the 5 years following graduation. Students are guaranteed the median expected salary, by college/major, given the best available data. Students can change majors as often as they like. Then, for 5 years they submit their tax returns. If they earned less than was promised, Degree Insurance cuts them a check for the difference. This proposal will guarantee \$12B in salaries to new college graduates resulting in state tax revenues over \$650M. This investment creates a long-term competitive advantage for colleges in Kansas, working to increase the attractiveness of our colleges bringing more students to the state and addressing the state's talent pipeline challenges. By boosting college enrollments this program pays for itself at a college level, making it a sustainable long-term solution. By covering the salaries of students in every major, we have maximized the flexibility of the investment to address all of the state's various talent needs. The proposal could adapt to focus on particular needs (nurses, teachers, etc.), or not to run 4 years, as we propose here.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Labor Expansion	ALLTITE, Inc	\$2,087,500	The state of Kansas consistently competes for first place as the largest consumer of renewable energy by consumption percentage in the country. Per the U.S. Energy Information Administration, renewable energy provided 44% of Kansas's in-state electricity in 2020. More exciting, wind energy has made a significant financial pivot, according to the International Energy Agency, as the lowest levelized cost of energy. As a state, we employ only 3,100 of the 415,000 total wind jobs in the US (0.007%.) The large portion of these economic opportunities are leaving Kansas. ALLTITE is proposing local Kansas investment. In 2022, ALLTITE was asked to step-to a customer-centric need; to hire and train 50-100 local wind technicians. The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to stand-up a labor program including training, capital expenditures for vehicles (safety regulations require one truck per wind crew), and the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE.) The development of this workforce will meet the SPARK guiding principles by creating a measurable outcome, fostering a long-term systemic change to renewable jobs, and will be providing equitable opportunities to Kansans.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Mitchell Career and Technology Center Renovation Phase II	Neosho County Community College	\$500,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the renovation of the new Mitchell Career and Technology Center (MCTC) located in the Chanute Industrial Park. \$200,000 will go toward facility renovation and \$300,000 will be spent on equipment at the facility. This renovation includes installing four additional laboratories in the facility – welding, construction, electrical, and HVAC. A gift of 1.4 million dollars from Mike and CeCe Mitchell joined a Sunderland grant gift of \$750,000, a \$500,000 gift from USD 413 and a \$745,000 USDA Rise Grant. The combined gifts equal \$3.4 million but the planned renovation will be \$3.9 million, which includes \$3.6 million for the renovation and the remaining \$300,00 for equipment such as computers for the labs, multimedia stations, and lab equipment. The expansion of the MCTC will meet the SPARK guiding principles by creating a “one stop” location for workforce creation, combining efforts of NCCC, local USDs, Kansas Works and regional employers. Workforce needs are critical across the state and the Mitchell Career and Technology Center (MCTC) will act as a one-stop shop for career guidance and training. NCCC and its programs are open to all.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Mobile Van	Dress For Success (Wichita Women's Initiative Network)	\$40,000	Dress For Success Wichita is requesting \$40,000 from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) adding to the \$30,000 secured leverage funds to create a mobile van program will provide free work clothes, emergency food boxes with self-stable food, and conversation with a social worker (who is the van driver) about work/life barriers, followed up with an action plan of referrals to community resources. This project will meet the SPARK guiding principles by providing long-term economic revitalization through workforce development in five counties to disadvantaged women (many who have experienced trauma or domestic violence) who need workforce support but face transportation barriers to receive services. Most of these women work essential jobs and are often impacted by COVID-19 through illness or layoffs.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	My Reemployment Plan	KDOL	\$146,863	HB 2196 required implementation of the My Reemployment Plan (MRP) program. The MRP has assisted unemployment claimants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic find their way back into the workforce.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	National Hometown Fellow	Lead For America	\$120,000	Lead For Kansas proposes to have 5 National Hometown Fellows who will build organizational capacity, increase meaningful community engagement, and establish recruitment infrastructure for young leaders and civic entrepreneurs in rural, underserved, and geographically diverse communities across Kansas. At the end of the first program year, fellows will be responsible for having provided the stakeholder, best practices, and community engagement analyses needed for under-resourced local government and public institutions to advance key community development initiatives. In addition, the fellows will leverage community who will be engaged in civic engagement activities and/or move to the community to fill existing workforce gaps caused by COVID-19. Declining population, and particularly the departure of educated young people along with the economic as well workforce impacts created by COVID-19 threatens economic stability and reduces the critical supply of civic leadership needed to tackle any of the crises facing our state. Our fellowship will serve as meaningful intervention into Kansas challenges created by COVID-19 and offers a bench of diverse, talented leadership with the passion to help solve the complex issues at hand.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Nex-Generation Student Internship Program	Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth	\$272,000	To grow and sustain the Student Internship Program, we are requesting funding for 100 internships at \$2,720/each (\$272,000 total). The program pairs area college and high school students with local businesses for paid summer internships. Students are given hands-on projects that nurture skill development, work ethic, and team effectiveness, while showcasing a vast array of careers. Students receive professional mentorship and attend leadership workshops, and learn to invest in their own communities. Rural youth are experiencing business first-hand at an early age (16+) and directing their own career paths. The funds will be utilized to offset the business’ costs to hire their interns at the base wage of \$12/hour. Participating businesses are responsible for approximately 37% of the cost to host an intern, and Nex-Generation’s grants provide the remaining 63%. When COVID hit, numerous area businesses in our 28-county region were impacted. Many lost revenue, employees, and consumers. The grant will allow each intern to receive a competitive hourly wage, and will defray businesses’ costs, as they continue to recover from COVID setbacks.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Onboarding Training and Re-Skilling training Kansas Workforces for Improved Productivity, Reduce Costs and Positive Economic Impact	K2br Enterprises, LLC, dba Nucleus Training Solutions (NTS)	\$450,000	Nucleus Training Solutions (NTS) specializes in incorporating video into organizational training programs, along with operating procedures and process documents. Passionate about working with organizations that support career readiness and job-specific training for adults with disabilities and justice-involved employees. We also create training for manufacturing, biotech, healthcare, and other diverse companies. In addition, we created cyber-security awareness training for hundreds of our client's customers, augmenting security measures for Kansas companies and citizens as more cyber-equity rolls out. Through video modules, live seminars, and customized leader discussion guides, NTS training reduces onboarding and retraining costs and improves organizations' employee performance and overall bottom line – in fact, 42% of companies say that e-learning has led to increased revenue. NTS will use SPARK funds to create custom training programs that support small business development, talent retention and recruitment, and economic revitalization. Further, we'll prioritize strategic investments with long-term, positive impacts on our state—from workforce development to hard-hit industry sectors, NTS can be a change agent for Kansas!

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Premium Pay	Cowley County Sheriff's Office	\$52,000	Staff in Law Enforcement agencies were never given the opportunity to just stay home, when other occupational fields were allowed to do so. Law Enforcement continued to work through increased health risks. Correctional Staff were put in increases to their health and safety due to quarantining procedures as well as increased sanitation duties.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Premium Pay for Essential Water Utility Workers	WaterOne	\$1,354,682	<p>ARPA funding specifically identified premium pay as one of the ways to help recover from the negative economic impact of Covid-19. Water utility workers were and are essential to protecting the public health during a pandemic. Water utility workers must physically be on-site to produce safe water, repair pipeline failures, and many other activities. In addition, water infrastructure was specifically identified as an area of focus. Premium pay was not budgeted by WaterOne.</p> <p>Premium pay was a one-time expense. Reimbursement of premium pay expenses would be used to fund distribution pipe replacement, which is a one-time use of funds.</p> <p>WaterOne was not allocated any ARPA funds directly. WaterOne requested premium pay reimbursement from the cities WaterOne serves and Johnson County and was denied any reimbursement.</p> <p>Pipeline replacement has useful life of 100 years. Reliable water service is a basic need for residents and business in Kansas.</p> <p>The oldest water pipe infrastructure that needs replacement is located in the oldest parts of all communities. The oldest parts of cities are typically the lowest socioeconomic status. Reliable water infrastructure is critical for economic revitalization.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Premium Pay for Highest Performing Teachers	NA	\$110,000,000	<p>The goal of this significant investment (~14.7% of total funds remaining) is to maximize the return on investment over both the short (<6 months) and long-term (4 years+). The widening gap between the top 40% of wage earners and the bottom 60% has increased from 1980 to 2017 according to studies compiled by Bridgewater Associates, LP which can be viewed at: https://economicprinciples.org/downloads/bwam102317.pdf.</p> <p>My proposed solution is to create an organization that awards \$10,000,000 in funding to the highest performing teachers in the state of Kansas. This organization would have an operating budget of \$1,000,000 per year to objectively administer these awards, with funding for 10 years.</p> <p>The Bridgewater report clearly displays better economic outcomes for individuals that obtained Bachelor and or Graduate Degree's (Pg 6). The hypothesis of this investment in K-12th Grade educators is that Teachers who are financially awarded for their performance will drive better outcomes for their students, supporting their obtainment of value creating knowledge which as a college degree is a proxy for. As a result these students will be able to produce more value for themselves, the state of Kansas and our great Nation.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Pre-Pandemic Employment Restoration and Pay Incentives	City of Topeka	\$2,250,000	<p>Due to the instability and uncertain outlook at the beginning of the Public Health Emergency, the City of Topeka eliminated 34 positions within the City's Neighborhood Development Department. The funding of this proposal would allow for the city to restore its Full-Time employment back to pre-pandemic levels. These positions work to ensure that all of the City's neighborhood residents have equitable opportunities and outcomes as well as deliver critical homeless support services to Topeka's homeless population. Restoring the 34 positions would help the City as a whole with its service delivery to the 126,000 Kansans that live in the City of Topeka.</p> <p>The City is among the top employers for the residents of Topeka. Restoring these positions allows for more economic opportunities for Kansans to take advantage of. Additionally, this funding could be used as a retainage tool "...designed to persuade employees to remain with the employer as compared to other employment" as detailed in the SLFRF Final Rule. Providing more opportunities for jobs would help to foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Provide training for volunteers to respond to ag-related emergencies (e.g., dam safety breaches, grain-bin safety (increased on-farm storage), FAD/depopulations	KDA	\$200,000	Foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Race for Technical Education	Greenwood County Fair Association	\$2,737,000	The 28,815 sq. ft. concourse building at Eureka Downs now sits vacant on the Greenwood County Fairgrounds. Only memories linger of bygone days that packed hundreds of people in the building to watch horses run. It is a long-shot that horse racing will return, but it is a safe bet that the solidly built red-iron and concrete structure can be repurposed. A one-time investment of \$2,737,000 will bring together a wide-range of collaborators including Butler Community College (BCC) to create a regional technical education center where people of all ages can earn degrees in the high demand areas of construction science (mechanical, electrical, plumbing - MEP), welding and masonry and become a regional game changer. The structure will also house agricultural education and youth programming. Technical education programs will specifically benefit economically hard-hit southeast Kansas counties of Butler, Greenwood, Elk, Wilson and Woodson. Citizens will benefit from the positive long-term impact and improved socio-economic well-being of the area with a trifecta of positive results: 1) workforce development, 2) retention of young people and 3) community revitalization.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Registered Apprenticeship Capacity Building	LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA III, INC. d/b/a WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP	\$500,000	Workforce Partnership (WFP) proposes to become an approved state Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Intermediary, sponsoring apprenticeship programs on behalf of employers across our service area of Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties. We will work with employers to educate about RA, and assist them in developing, registering and implementing new RA programs and enrolling apprentices in them. Although formalizing long-term training as an apprenticeship is advantageous to employers and job seekers alike, employers are largely unfamiliar with the model (outside of the skilled trades) and have little staff capacity to develop detailed training plans or to meet the regulatory requirements necessary to register and maintain RA programs on their own. The intermediary-as-sponsor model helps alleviate employers' administrative burden of setting up apprenticeships, particularly for small/medium sized businesses. WFP will hire staff dedicated to employer outreach and RA development, will serve as the sponsoring entity for each apprenticeship program registered and take on the administrative burden on behalf of employers. Funding will support staffing and administrative costs to launch our Intermediary Model over three years.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Revitalize Work Force Training for Human Trafficking survivors. (Cottage Industry)	Raise My Head Foundation	\$75,000	Our program supports Economic Revitalization by teaching the women in our program how to support, manage, create products, and financially manage a business. We teach work responsibility, importance of communication, and positive relationships with others. We serve all women that have been in Human Trafficking. We encourage them to reconnect with children that they may have been unable to care for. We support overall mental and physical health with extensive programing and overall life skills training. We provide a two year residential and aftercare program for all of the women that we serve.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	SCCC Truck Driving Program Revitalization and Modernization	Seward County Community College	\$3,731,100	SCCC will use a one-time investment and leverage local funds to revitalize and modernize its Professional Truck Driver Program, facility, and Diesel Technology lab. The trucking industry is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy with nearly 70% of all freight tonnage moved in the U.S. on trucks. There is no other industry more crucial to long-term positive impact on Kansas's economic development. However, the industry faces an extreme shortage of drivers due to COVID, retirement, service hour restrictions, and increased shipping. Our industry partners demand more drivers, as well as diesel mechanics who can service trucks and equipment. We are extremely limited in facility size, condition of the driving range, and number of faculty to produce enough professional drivers that are vitally needed to maintain the economy and growth of Southwest Kansas and the surrounding region. We will build a facility large enough to immediately more than double enrollment, tall enough to service full-size day cab trucks, and modern enough to meet and exceed new regulations, while ensuring that the needs of underserved populations are being met. This project addresses at least five SPARK guiding principles and directly strengthens Kansas's resilience.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	South Central Kansas - Pratt Community College Welding Technology Center	Pratt Community College	\$778,444	Pratt Community College has invested over \$500,000 to develop an NC3 and AWS certified welding program. The College purchased a 9,120 square foot building and industrial welding equipment that has operated as Pioneer Tank & Steel. The requested investment would insure job-ready students for industry throughout Kansas and would benefit the State of Kansas through increased employment and tax revenues. The program would serve as a pathway for high school students to obtain industry recognized certifications to be job ready after high school or continue their pathway to an Associate Degree or Certificate at Pratt Community College. PCC has a proven record of high quality education for high school students with automotive and/or welding programs at Kingman and Attica High Schools. With the investment of \$778,445 for equipment including robotic welding equipment (\$229,032), a pipe fab welding system (\$14,315), a laser cutting table (\$132,453), water jet cutting table (\$102,645), and a five axis CNC machine (\$300,000) and the equipment already the program would be able to produce welders to meet the demand projected by o*net of 790 per year over the next ten years. The tax revenues generated would have PV of over \$1.4 million.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Sowing the Seeds of Success: Expanding Beginning Farmer and Rancher training in Kansas	Kansas Rural Center	\$295,000	Kansas Rural Center (KRC) is currently developing a robust, comprehensive statewide beginning farmer/rancher training program that includes business and financial planning and management, in-depth education on agricultural practices that increase biodiversity and mitigate climate change, information on accessing land and capital, and support strategies for the physical, mental and financial stresses that accompany farming and ranching. We have partnered with the Farm Beginnings Collaborative, currently active across 14 states, to provide high quality farmer-lead beginning farmer and rancher training and KRC is currently engaging partners across the state to tailor the training to Kansas. Utilizing SPARK funds, we will speed the development and quickly expand the scope of this ongoing project for three years to increase opportunities for small and mid-sized beginning farmer/ranchers in Kansas. The program will partner with organizations around the state to support socially disadvantaged beginning farmers. KRC's training program will not only support the development of successful new farm businesses, but it will increase food security and equal access to healthy, locally-grown food across Kansas, in both rural and urban areas.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Staff Retention Emergency Bonus	Lyon County Sheriff	\$146,160	We currently have 63 FTE employees and another 13 openings with 11 of those openings in the detention center. Staff shortages decreases our ability to provide the necessary services to the 33000 citizens of Lyon County. We propose a 1 per hour bonus for 40 hours per week during the period of January 27th, 2020 to March 3, 2021. Our average salary is \$23.61 / hour which is a 4.2% bounus.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	State Aligned Welding Technology Training Program facility and equipment improvement	Highland Community College	\$350,000	The state aligned Welding Technology Training Program facility and equipment improvement project is a part of a sustainable program by Highland Community College. This endeavor will foster long-term systemic impact for Kansans in providing improved training opportunities for students entering into the welding industry. This project will have a direct impact on the quality of students trained in Welding Technology. Results from these improvement to the Welding Technology Program will be measurable with the collection of follow up date provided to the State of Kansas. This data includes number of completers, those employed in the field of training, wage information as well as other information. This will increase the number of skilled workforce persons available to our employers in the State of Kansas. The welding industry is classified and high skill and high wage and there is a known shortage of skilled workers.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Statewide Apprenticeship & Internship	Commerce	\$2,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Talent Retention Project	Casa of the 17th Judicial District, Inc.	\$200,000	Rural Kansas communities were hit hard by the pandemic. Underpaid social workers, mental health professionals and health care workers were drawn to urban areas by higher salaries. All funds granted will be used to retain talented leadership at this CASA. Our executive director is paid 76% less than the average director of a CASA and/or other non profit director in Kansas. No benefits are provided. This leads to high turnover and instability of the organization. CASA's sole mission is to provide professional volunteers to advocate for the mental, emotional, social and financial needs identified in the children we serve. This is especially important as rural social workers have an ever increasing case load and are not able to give each child the time an attention that they need. Our trauma informed advocates are limited to two sibling groups. As such they are able to identify the mental, emotional, and social needs of the children caused by abuse and isolation during the pandemic. By retaining leadership and stopping high turnover rates, leadership will have more time to focus on connecting advocates with children for a higher quality of services helping them overcome trauma to become successful adults.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Technical Education and Innovation Center	Cloud County Community College	\$6,818,777	Cloud County Community College (CCCC) is building a Technical Education and Innovation Center to house academic programs of Renewable Energy, Nursing and Allied Health, and Agriculture and Industrial Technology. This project supports the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas by providing state-of-the-art access to quality education in high-wage, high-demand careers. It is "shovel ready" with a construction cost of \$12,518,777. CCCC has already secured \$5,700,000, nearly 50%, of the funding. CCCC's Center will support sustainability, serving as home to the Renewable Energy program, which includes Wind Energy, Solar Energy, and Drones. The Nursing and Allied Health department has graduated 1,200 nurses with a large majority practicing in rural Kansas. This department also offers high-demand career education for EMT, CNA, CMA, Home Health Aide, and IV Therapy. Lastly, CCCC's Agriculture and Industry Technology department offers welding and CDL training, both high-demand careers in Kansas. CCCC's Center will be a testament to Kansas' resilience and adheres to SPARK guiding principles as a one-time investment that will provide sustainable programs through equitable opportunities for those in rural Kansas.

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Virtual Career Center	Maven Wave Partners / Google	\$6,000,000	<p>The intended use is to implement a Virtual Career Center (VCC) Platform designed to bring a modern approach and new innovations to its constituents, specifically in helping people find jobs and foster a long-term systemic impact for Kansas and it's citizens</p> <p>As a direct response to the pandemic, especially as in-person operations were shut down, leaving many vulnerable to unemployment many state DOL/workforce agencies responded by realizing the need to modernize and virtualize their operations and move to an online platform to enable equitable opportunities and outcomes and deliver a better, more efficient experience for their citizens</p> <p>The VCC is built with modern flexible Google technologies such that integration with other systems, like financial aid, unemployment benefits, and more can be implemented. The VCC is not a "closed" software solution, but rather a set of technology assets that can be customized and integrated with other systems enabling flexibility within this investment strategy. The VCC includes robust reporting and dashboard capabilities for both Department stakeholders and Job Seekers</p> <p>Please note: our solution is modular and flexible with costs ranging between \$3M-\$6M depending on the components selected</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Vocation/ Trade School	Pleasanton Schools	\$450,000	Our programming will help supply trained and certified students who will go into the workforce.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Website and Digital Document Accessibility Certification	Envision Inc.	\$250,000	<p>The intended use of the funds is to 1) Deliver certified accessibility services available to 50 Kansas SMEs to help them verify their website and digital assets are compliant with existing accessibility requirements while improving their web searchability through more accessible websites. And 2) achieve significant improvement in the qualitative and quantitative accessibility scores for state agencies.</p> <p>Making Kansas's agency websites accessible gains goodwill and continues to minimize the risk of non-compliance. Proving digital accessibility services to Kansas SMEs in rural and disadvantaged communities provides a base of digitally savvy and business-enhanced companies – a positive and long-term impact on the economy.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Wilde Tool Company Employee Enrichment Initiative	Wilde Tool Company	\$250,000	<p>Wilde Tool Company is one of Hiawatha's larger employers, at roughly forty employees. Like other employers in the area, we have struggled to hire and retain employees, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. To stay competitive in the market and hopefully retain new employees, we would like to offer a slightly higher starting wage to potential employees.</p> <p>We truly view our current employees as our greatest asset, so we would also partially use these funds to develop and assist the employees that we already have. We feel that Wilde is a great place to work, and we want our employees to have that feeling as well. We strive to continue to be one of the area's larger employers, and provide stable, top-quality jobs to the community of Hiawatha.</p>
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Workforce - Immigration Talent Recruitment	Commerce	\$2,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Workforce - Native Kansans living elsewhere	Commerce	\$5,000,000	
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Workforce Development Training for Existing and Future Talent who are Blind or Low Vision	Envision Inc.	\$970,000	<p>The intended use of the funds is to increase workforce participation of Kansas residents who are blind or visually impaired by working with existing providers to align resources and make professional education and skills training accessible and available to the blind and low vision community. Sustainability will be achieved by optimizing the collaboration of public and private organizations to leverage available resources and bring about economic resiliency by improving the system.</p> <p>Generations of Kansans will be impacted by increased education and skill training of our residents who are blind or low vision. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) calculates that each year of postsecondary education results in per capita output increases between 4-7%. Additionally, "spillover" effects like increased innovation, research, and development – and the labor to support these activities – improves economic prosperity overall. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/the-well-being-of-nations_9789264189515-en#page3</p>

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Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Workforce development, including talent retention and recruitment of behavioral health professionals	Wheat State Healthcare, Inc.	\$400,000	Funding would be utilized for a workforce initiative focused around behavioral health professionals. The goal of this initiative would be to increase retention, recruitment, and business development for behavioral health providers through coordination of evidence-based trainings, and a targeted marketing campaign. Numerous studies have illustrated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on mental health. Testimony provided at the Legislature by social services providers have noted an increased demand for behavioral health services, including the need for inpatient beds, psychiatry, outpatient therapy, and substance use disorder treatment. However, without a targeted initiative to ensure that we have a workforce available to provide these services, we may limit our ability to bounce back as quickly from COVID-19 and the associated economic crisis. Research in the last few years has noted that poor mental health may cost businesses just as much money as physical illnesses. In order to recover from COVID-19, from an economic perspective, investing in our State's ability to ensure an adequate behavioral health provider network would produce a positive return on investment for Kansas and better outcomes for Kansans.
Economic Revitalization	Workforce	Workforce Recruitment and Retention Project	City of Dodge City	\$13,500,000	<p>Hennessy Hall was the Admin/Educational building on the former St Mary of the Plains College. SMPC closed in the early 90's and the City acquired and now maintains the campus grounds and structures. Hennessy is a four-story brick structure with over 130,000 sq. ft of floor space and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently it is home to governmental and non-profit organizations providing higher education and workforce development services serving diverse populations of the region including citizenship, migrant, elderly, youth and disabled.</p> <p>Ideally located within the region, the City's objective is to fully develop Hennessy to serve as a headquarters for cooperative partnerships providing increased higher education and workforce development opportunities. However, the infrastructure of Hennessy is obsolete and ineffective and only a portion of the building can be utilized.</p> <p>This project provides new HVAC systems, plumbing and electrical service along with water service line and improved parking so the building can be fully utilized to provide development of higher education and training opportunities for an under-served region of the State.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Lyon County Broadband Initiative	Lyon County	\$35,000,000	Lyon County, KS along with its four (4) broadband company partners, hereinafter referred to as the Partnership, propose to build a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network that will provide affordable and reliable data services, with minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps and scalable up to 1/1 Gbps that will be available to all residents, businesses, and anchor institutions within Lyon County, Kansas. The four partners are; Madison Telephone LLC dba MT Networks LLC, S&A Telephone Company, Inc., ValuNet LLC, and Wheat State Technologies. Each of the four partners already have a presence in Lyon County as a broadband provider and deliver broadband services to homes via deployed FTTP systems. The Partnership's proposed project area has the potential to provide high speed broadband access to approximately 2993 locations within Lyon County, KS.
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	KS Digital Drive - statewide digital in: KC Digital Drive		\$10,000,000	<p>We intend to use funds to spread KCDD's program deployment model across KS to scale up resources, engagement and efficacy for connectivity-related programs through a hub-and-spoke model expanding from Kansas City into rural and urban targets. KCDD has been successful in taking a systemic approach to improving the quality of life for people in the KC region by delivering programs on behalf of governments and community-based nonprofit organizations for the past 10 years, serving as a backbone organization providing expertise, innovation capacity, project delivery, program design, community engagement, and research and evaluation.</p> <p>We aim to prioritize sustainable programs through one-time funding to KCDD to coordinate/distribute funding and support across an ecosystem of public/private/nonprofit players in broadband, digital inclusion and innovation. We expect to leverage funds with additional monies from state/local philanthropy and other federal programs we manage. We believe a centralized system for statewide connectivity-based program innovation, deployment, scale, evaluation and transparency is vital to long-term systemic impact for Kansas, and is a strategy many of our peer organizations have taken (e.g. CO, IL, AZ, TX).</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Finney county Fiber Loop	Finney County	\$2,000,000	This will provide internet connectivity for large portions of Finney County that are under served or not served currently. This plan shares resources and installation efforts with a local ISP to provide internet to county buildings, as well as local business and homes. We have already completed the engineering of the project so we have information available on cost estimates to install fiber cables in Finney County to accommodate the proposed routes. With the importance of reliable internet access, it is very important that Finney County work with local ISP to connect not only County owned buildings, but also sharing of resources so that an ISP can complete the last mile installs to areas that have limited or no access currently.

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Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Studio 104: Bridging the Digital Divid Fellowship Hi Crest		\$45,000	<p>The intended use of the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the continued development of the Fellowship Hi-Crest Audiovisual podcast studio. This studio is outfitted with professional video, photo, podcast, and audio production equipment. We could hire contract engineers to work with students for 8 hours per week through this one-time grant of funds. The space would become a revenue generator for Fellowship Hi-Crest and a hub for students within the Hi-Crest neighborhood. The students would gain 1,250 hours of extensive training in the digital medium over the next three years. African-American and Hispanic students in Hi-Crest are slated to make between \$19,000-\$26,000 per year as adults. The Covid-19 pandemic decimated the neighborhood and put a strain on local schools and auxiliary youth programs. As more resources and jobs become digital, opportunities to gain relevant job skills in an increasingly digital market are essential for students to rise out of poverty and contribute to the local economy.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	1Gig expansion to unserved and und Cox Communicati		\$13,400,000	<p>Today it is more important than ever for families to have broadband in the home – no matter where they live. Cox is proud of our internet service offering and we are committed to connecting as many families as we can.</p> <p>In the last decade, Cox has invested more than \$15 billion in infrastructure buildout and upgrades to deliver video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. As a company, Cox has been a leader in fiber-to-the-home technology and is well versed in the project phasing and deadline management. We offer up to 1G speed to every home we serve. With the planned investment in technology and our infrastructure, in the coming years we will be offering residential customers internet speeds of up to 10G.</p> <p>At Cox, our philosophy is to make a difference in the communities where we live and serve. Cox is committed to Kansas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$35 million spent annually with Kansas contractors and vendors. • \$68 million paid annually in payroll taxes, franchise fees, and employee wages. • \$77 million spent in capital investments for our network in 2021. • \$887 thousand donated by Kansas employees to Cox Charities since 2015, benefiting local nonprofits and schools. • Donated \$2 million in 2021 to community organizations.
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	CRC CARES WIFI access and Compute Community Resour		\$300,000	<p>Not-for-profit agencies in Topeka are collaborating to connect members of our community to essential communication tools by establishing easily accessible computer and internet access throughout Topeka. This proposal is to create at least 5 computer/internet labs, housed at existing not-for-profit entities located in low to moderate income areas in our community. These computer/internet labs will be established in the following areas: Central Topeka, East Topeka, South Topeka, North Topeka, and the Oakland Community in Topeka.</p> <p>Discussions with Neighborhood Improvement Associations, City Leaders, Agencies providing direct assistance programming, Topeka 501 social workers, and residents within the neighborhoods noted above, have helped determine there is a lack of public WI-FI locations with access to computers in the community.</p> <p>By establishing labs in already existing social service organizations we are able to better meet connectivity needs of Kansas residents. This project will ensure that there is a safe and controlled environment for tutoring, applying for jobs, online classes, participation in continuing education course work which can all be accomplished through the creation of free public computer/Wi-Fi labs.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Campus Fiber - Final Run	Augusta Public Sch	\$100,000	<p>The intended use for these funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the completion of Augusta Public Schools Campus Fiber project. This project has been on hold for a number of years because of the challenges facing our COVID recovery and this district's budgetary constraints year after year dealing with the COVID pandemic. By having the fiber campus completed would ensure high speed connectivity to all 9 buildings in the school district and facilitate faster communications and connectivity for all staff, students, and stakeholders from any location and from any building within the Augusta school district. The completion of the campus fiber will meet SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for the Augusta school district and for the community of Augusta Kansas by ensuring a high speed connection from any point with in the boundaries of the local school system. Furthermore, the completion of the Campus Fiber project will allow for the upgrade to the ever demanding specifications of Wi-Fi 6 which is being released at the time of this submittal.</p>

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Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Delivering Textbook Affordability to I Emporia State Univ		\$350,000	<p>One-time funds would be used to purchase online infrastructure to make Emporia State University’s textbook affordability initiative more accessible to students. For the past two years, ESU has funded Course Resource Affordability Initiative Grants (CRAIG) to help faculty transition to Open Educational Resources (OER). ESU has invested \$70,000 in faculty grants over the past two years, resulting in over \$190,000 in student textbook savings. In addition, ESU’s library has invested in eBooks to support our Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Low Textbook Cost (LTC) programs. One-time funding would be used to purchase software to facilitate faculty creation of OER and more easily assimilate those texts into our Canvas learning management system, a hosting and indexing platform to easily store, recall, and track OER texts created by faculty, an investment in librarian training on these digital systems, and the purchase of full distribution licensing eBooks to support our ZTC and LTC efforts. One-time investment in these digital resources would adhere to SPARK guiding principles by prioritizing sustainable programs, fostering long-term affordability and equity initiatives for Kansas students, and improving accessibility of course materials.</p>
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Creating Health and Wellness Access Greater Wichita YM		\$3,000,000	<p>Funds requested will be used to address disparities in Kansas’ public health outcomes and shift our state’s healthcare focus from “sick care” to health promotion/prevention by offering the breadth of YMCA programs and services to rural and underserved Kansas communities via the YMCA360 (Y360) digital platform. Y360 is a transformative digital application designed to strengthen our state’s health resiliency by promoting activity and healthy lifestyle choices to Kansans of all ages, abilities, and geographic locations. This one-time investment will boost statewide awareness of and scale Y360 digital offerings and benefits, provide platform infrastructure, fund targeted market research to understand healthy living needs/barriers among Kansans, drive content adaptation, and build collaboration with individual communities lacking Y facilities to bring Y360 to residences, community centers, libraries, senior centers, etc. Y360 meets the SPARK guiding principles of a) promoting health equity by prioritizing underserved rural communities and b) fostering long-term systemic impact by increasing Kansans’ access to health promotion/prevention services that combat COVID’s impact and help fight other growing health pandemics.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Lansing Fiber Internet	RG FIBER	\$744,000	<p>RG FIBER proposes an underground all-fiber network within Lansing, KS.</p> <p>A Public/Private partnership was created as Lansing committed ARPA funds towards the construction of broadband infrastructure knowing that the cost will be expensive because of rock and the cost of materials. Many leaders support this Public/Private Partnership including Mayor Tony McNeil, City Council, and Matthew Schmitz, Community Economic Development Director while there is intent to work as a Dig Once Project.</p> <p>This Public/Private Partnership, and with the help of this grant, RG FIBER will be able to provide multi-gig fiber fiber with 99%+ reliability to a large service area within Lansing, KS.</p> <p>The build out would provide fast, reliable service for many years. RG FIBER network has the capability of providing faster service if needed without any added construction for future upgrades. 496 total homes and businesses will now have access to 1 Gig upload and download speeds. School age children, college students, and working-from-home professionals will have the ability to work and continue their education from the comfort of their homes, which has become not an issue of convenience, but of public safety because of the Covid pandemic.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Gardner - Track 0537.05	RG FIBER	\$1,038,236	<p>RG FIBER proposes an underground all-fiber network for Track 0537.05 within Gardner, KS. Gardner is the 3rd fastest growing city in the State of Kansas (https://www.homesnacks.com/fastest-growing-cities-in-kansas/).</p> <p>Many leaders support this project including Mayor Todd Winters and City Council President Mark Baldwin.</p> <p>This partnership, and with the help of this grant, and an RG FIBER investment will be able to provide multi-gig fiber with 99%+ reliability to a large service area within Gardner, KS.</p> <p>The build out would provide fast, reliable service for many years. The RG FIBER network has the capability of providing faster service if needed without any added construction for future upgrades. 1,438 total homes and businesses will now have access to 1 Gig upload and download speeds. School age children, college students, and working-from-home professionals will have the ability to work and continue their education from the comfort of their homes, which has become not an issue of convenience, but of public safety because of the Covid pandemic.</p>

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Connectivity	Infrastructure	Recommendations for Kansas Broadband	AT&T	\$500,000,000	In combination with the Capitol Projects Funds (CPF) and other federal infrastructure funding, SFRF presents Kansas with a historic opportunity to expand internet access and narrow the digital divide. Unlike the other funding sources, SFRF also offers the state the most flexibility in developing a broadband plan tailored to address the state's needs. As the SPARK Connectivity Advisory Panel develops its recommendations, we suggest the panel prioritize the following: 1) Funding public-private partnership models that realize the greatest taxpayer value at the least taxpayer risk; 2) Utilizing fair, open competitive processes to award funding; 3) Accommodating a range of proposals, including large-scale proposals that can get service to more consumer locations – both unserved and underserved – most efficiently and expeditiously; 4) Participation by providers with the expertise, financial capability and track record of successfully deploying retail broadband internet access services; 5) Future-proof deployments where possible by encouraging fiber deployments and faster speeds; and 6) Encouraging participating providers to address affordability and adoption, consistent with the federal requirements for the funds, in their proposals.
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Kansas Broadband Expansion Project	AT&T	\$375,000,000	The AT&T Fiber network is engineered to last long into the future. Network design has been based on FTTP-GPON technology capable of gigabit service. AT&T is also “future proofing” the fiber network by transitioning to FTTP-XGSPON architecture allowing for symmetrical multi-gig capabilities sustaining customer demand for speed increases. AT&T takes a multifaceted approach to addressing the issue of affordability of broadband services. That includes offering tiered pricing designed to provide customers with a variety of options. AT&T also offers specially designed programs for low-income households, and we actively participate in government sponsored subsidy programs. This approach has now allowed us to offer internet for at no cost when customers qualify for Access from AT&T and participate in the American Connectivity Program. AT&T takes its regulatory and contractual commitments seriously and has the expertise and experience to deliver. We remain flexible regarding the details of this project and commit to partnering with lawmakers and state leaders to define the scope and footprint in a manner that maximized the benefit of this historic investment.
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	TSC - Get Digital Equity Fund	City of Topeka	\$750,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to provide for affordable digital inclusion and participation for the community. This will help provide access to better healthcare and empower families. Funds in this application will provide members of the community, more specifically, low-to-moderate income families, digital literacy education opportunities. The development of digital literacy in the Topeka community will meet the SPARK guiding principle of ensuring equitable outcomes by addressing underserved LMI communities. Digital literacy education will help fill in the gap between those in the community who already have those skills and those who do not which has been exacerbated by the pandemic as more activities have had to be held virtually.
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Digital Inclusion for LMI Communities	City of Topeka	\$600,000	The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to support the education and access to electronic devices for senior citizens and low-to-middle-income (LMI) individuals in Topeka. The goal for this funding is to provide digital equity and inclusion efforts by providing LMI individuals with refurbished laptop and desktop computers. The Topeka Shawnee County Public Library will facilitate the digital training that these individuals will need. Currently, the program is only able to provide devices for LMI individuals who are 60 years and older. Assisting in funding computer devices for LMI individuals (regardless of age) will meet the SPARK guiding principle of considering equitable opportunities and outcomes by providing equitable digital access to LMI Topekans, who would not be able to have this digital access otherwise.
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Broadband - South Hutch	City of South Hutch	\$1,500,000	The intended use of these SPARK funds is to build out robust, high-quality broadband infrastructure in the City of South Hutchinson and eliminate the digital divide that plagues Kansas. Our economy is rapidly changing and presents limitless opportunities to those with broadband accessibility. However, communities and families that lack affordable and high-quality broadband will be unable to capitalize and maximize their potential. This is a one-time use of funds investment that will provide generational benefits and lead to transformational change. We are willing to leverage local funds and believe our private sector partner will contribute as well to maximize the impact of these state funds because it will provide a systemic beneficial impact for our city and residents. We believe it is vitally important that we ensure our lower socio-economic households are not left behind on this digital revolution that is changing how we live, work, and learn.

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Connectivity	Infrastructure	IRIK-Industrial Revolution & Innovation	Viaanix, Inc.	\$225,000,000	To create a long-term systemic impact for Kansans, Viaanix suggests that the State of Kansas establishes a state-wide LoRaWAN network as a first step in embracing the technologies associated with Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT). Kansas' ascent will be aided by the implementation of this long-range wide-area network in an increasingly competitive and constantly changing economic development environment. State-wide LoRaWAN deployment envisions elevating Kansas' competitive position by not operating in silos, addressing the need for coordinated action among departments and residents to support the state's four pillars of the Kansas Framework for Growth: talent, innovation, community, and policies. While the deployment of a LoRaWAN network certainly addresses connectivity, the three other SPARK areas and the state's key tradable sectors—Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace, Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation, Food and Agriculture, and Professional and Technical Services are likewise impacted. The digital backbone of Kansas will be enhanced, and it will aid in the realization of a "future proof" economy by 2031-2035, by laying the groundwork for a state-wide LoRaWAN network and scaling it for future IoT expansion.
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Broadband to Homes Vital Infrastructure	City of Minneola	\$90,000	<p>Minneola is developing infrastructure for a subdivision to support housing for an influx of new workers anticipated in the region, but other funding does not allow broadband. Currently, Minneola has service to existing housing through private providers. However, the new development which will retain and expand workforce and bring new construction by developers will not have fiber without this funding. There are cost efficiencies to funding this as the subdivision is developed.</p> <p>Three key elements of Minneola's economy have relied on broadband during COVID. The hospital/long term care, schools, and small businesses were able to continue services through the existing fiber available throughout the community. With it, residents are able to work from home, attend school, and access telehealth and mental health resources.</p> <p>The proposed service to a new housing development will provide multi-family housing for agricultural workers, ensuring access to high-speed broadband provide for more equitable opportunities for people with lower incomes, the elderly, and people of color. The long-term impact, coupled with infrastructure such as water and sewer will provide create continued sustainable economic growth for more than 50 years.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Sublette - Hwy 83	IdeaTek	\$1,598,299	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to 795 premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing each premise the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Scott City Feedlots	Ideatek	\$402,094	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to 2 businesses that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing each premise the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Whitewater	IdeaTek	\$454,672	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to 396 premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing each premise the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>

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Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Sedgwick County	Ideatek	\$1,850,785	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Airport Broadband	City of Meade	\$25,000	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK Committee is to help extend our broadband connection to the Meade Municipal Airport. Having broadband is so important in this age of technology. We need a cloud-based system to run our terminals to be able to provide fuel to planes and eventually for our AWOS system. This AWOS system is vital for our community as we have to have it to be able to provide life flights to our citizens. The extension of broadband connection to the airport will meet the SPARK guiding principles of fostering long-term systemic impact for Kansans through access to life saving flights & ensure equitable outcomes by addressing underserved communities. During the past two years our need for life flight transfers has increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We need to be able to continue to offer this life saving measure for a population that has been underserved in the availability of critical care treatments. This will help strengthen Kansas' resilience by showing that Kansas' rural communities have the broadband infrastructure that they desperately need.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Harvey County	Ideatek	\$162,740	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Broadband Internet City Wide	City of El Dorado, K	\$4,800,000	<p>The City of El Dorado is in desperate need of a broadband fiber infrastructure. The City has missed out on business development opportunities due to the lack of a comprehensive fiber network. Many of our current businesses need multiple levels internet connectivity to address customers, supply chain, etc. Residential customers in El Dorado which includes several depressed census tracts have one option available for broadband which is often very costly. The current options in El Dorado are very limited and there is a very apparent lack of competition factor when it comes to pricing. The City of El Dorado would like to use these funds to facilitate a full FTTP buildout within our City Limits.</p> <p>The City would envision a scalable fiber optic buildout which would be capable of delivering speeds of 1 GB to any address within the City Limits. The vision for this project would be an underground build that would allow for future development.</p>
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Adult Digital Literacy Skills: Improvin School of Library ar		\$100,000	<p>Intended funds are to support development of a Kansas, statewide program to provide accessible, basic digital literacy skills instruction to Kansas adults who want to strengthen and/or develop new skills to improve Internet connectivity and technology use necessary for educational attainment, healthcare, social services programming and benefits, and employment opportunities. This program will strengthen adults' and family roles in addressing learning loss of children and youth during the pandemic and will emphasize training in basic computer skills and knowing when and how to locate, retrieve, evaluate, and use reliable digital information available on the Internet.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - Mullinville	Ideatek	\$272,389	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Ford County Fiber	United Wireless Co	\$9,925,000	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need for robust internet connectivity throughout the country. As students and workers found themselves trying to connect remotely for school and work, the lack of connectivity was challenging and, in many cases, impossible to participate causing a lack of learning and productivity. As the pandemic progressed, many Kansans stuck at home took the opportunity to start home based businesses requiring an increasing amount of internet capacity to facilitate economic growth in rural Kansas.</p> <p>To meet the stated goal of the Treasury Department to “prioritize projects” in areas without “wireline 100/20 Mbps broadband service”, United proposes using funds to build last mile fiber connectivity to rural Ford County businesses and residences. Existing networks in the area are incapable of delivering consistent reliable speeds and meeting the future internet capacity demands. This fiber project will have the ability to deliver the bandwidth required now and will future proof the network for years to come.</p> <p>The project will connect all rural Ford County residences adjacent to United’s existing fiber network. Leveraging United’s existing fiber backbone throughout Ford County makes the project more cost effective.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Public Housing Connectivity, Broadband	Manhattan Housing Authority	\$700,000	<p>The Manhattan Housing Authority requests \$700K from ARPA or SFRF funding to install broadband infrastructure, devices & equipment to provide all Public Housing residents with reliable internet access. Digital literacy and workforce development will be secondary programs we can sustain after the initial infrastructure costs are secured.</p> <p>MHA Public Housing residents have requested for enhanced security cameras in our properties but we do not have adequate infrastructure to support modern security cameras. The Apartment Towers is 12 stories tall and will need additional cabling, networking and WiFi equipment, security equipment, and cameras.</p> <p>The Pottawatomie Court, Hudson Circle, Baehr Place, Flint Hills Place, are all public housing family sites where several hundred children reside. MHA would offer free access to internet, digital literacy, after-school computer access, and workforce development opportunities through the new broadband infrastructure accessible to all MHA Public Housing residents under this proposal.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Fixed wired and wireless 'last mile' network	PCs for People Kansas	\$60,000	<p>PCs for People Kansas City LLC plans to design, install and operate new, affordable internet networks across 6 low income communities in the Kansas City, KS area between January and December 2022, with complete IT customer service, and partnerships delivering digital skills training, in order to positively impact educational, employment, and social outcomes for the targeted households. PCs for People has developed capacity to implement its own small cell neighborhood internet service provider (NISP) platform, using 4G LTE technology. Ours is a more affordable and high-quality service than other low-cost wireless hotspots and mesh networks, and our relationships in low-income communities position PCs for People as a trusted source for offering this service to those most in need. Having already received private funding to install new wifi networks in 4 KCKHA properties, at an average cost of \$300 per household, this new funding seeks to support two additional properties—City View and St. Margarets apartments. The project includes outreach, enrollment, operation and service, as well as the data collection that will help us indicate, by the end of 2023, the impacts on education, employment, household income, and other benefits.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	City of Basehor Broadband Upgrade	City of Basehor	\$100,000	<p>The City of Basehor intends to use the requested funds to upgrade its broadband infrastructure to fiber optics. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the City into new ways of operating, including an increased reliance on IT infrastructure, such as broadband, to provide City services and public engagement opportunities. Upgrading to fiber-optic internet would assist the City in responding to the pandemic by providing a fast and reliable source of broadband internet. Additionally, this project aligns with the SPARK program’s guiding principles by leveraging local matching funds through a one-time use of funds to provide an increased level of service for Kansans who participate in government virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Connectivity	Access & Adoption	Project Second Chance: Digital Literacy	University of Kansas	\$1,062,443	
Connectivity	Infrastructure	IdeaTek - KanRen Network Build	Ideatek	\$10,985,182	<p>Kansas has made substantial progress in closing the digital divide. However, some rural areas across the state continue to suffer from slow or spotty broadband access. It is not economically feasible in these sparsely populated areas to build a business case that supports fiber to the home. Moreover, other solutions such as fixed wireless are not an option due to the terrain. This leaves these residents in an internet dead zone. Without funding opportunities such as this, these areas will continue to be overlooked due to the challenges they present.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has uncovered a significant need for reliable broadband service. Without a reliable connection, there are several residents in these areas who are not able to work from home, participate in remote learning or rely on telehealth appointments. This project will bring fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to premises that lack reliable 25/3 service levels, bringing the capacity for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service level.</p>

Advisory Panel	Primary Focus Area	Investment Idea Title	Submitting Org./Agency	Funding Request	Executive Summary
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Humboldt Fiber	City of Humboldt	\$500,000	<p>The City of Humboldt desperately needs fiber infrastructure. The City has already missed out on business development opportunities from industrial developers due to the lack of a comprehensive fiber network. The current provisions in Humboldt are sub-optimal and expensive, and the City would like to use grant funds to facilitate a full FTTP buildout within City limits.</p> <p>The City will provision for scalable, future ready fiber-optics capable of delivering speeds up to 1g for any address in City limits that wishes to subscribe. The build will be an underground build with strategically located handholes and splice points so that future development can easily be accommodated, and the current population can easily access the fiber.</p> <p>We anticipate an 18–24-month completion time-frame, with fiber-districts being lit as they are completed so the fiber may be utilized immediately upon availability in an area. The build will be strategically completed so that the areas of greatest need are developed first, delivering cost-savings and viability where they will have the greatest impact soonest.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Next Gen Omnichannel 311	Google Cloud / Spri	\$0	<p>The intended use for the funds requested in this submission to the SPARK committee is to modernize and scale the 311 Call and Resolution Center, providing residents with fast, centralized access to services while improving the customer service experience and increased personalization with emphasis on human-centered design and citizen engagement.</p> <p>With evolving technology, our platform will provide omnichannel interaction modes through text, email, call and even Whatsapp. This will allow the state to engage with citizens in multiple languages too. Added capability to perform sentiment analytics on Citizen feedback and open a support ticket for further issue resolution.</p> <p>The funding request is dependent upon size and scope of State's footprint.</p>
Connectivity	Infrastructure	Strengthen connection and security at Johnson County Pa		\$144,375	<p>The intended use for the funds requested is to expand fiber connections for government and public use and enhance public safety at Johnson County facilities and amenities. Okun Fieldhouse, owned and operated by JCPRD, is a sports facility located in the City of Shawnee's recreational corridor. The ADA-accessible building houses diverse year-round recreational programs for Johnson County residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. It is situated along the Mill Creek Streamway Trail that spans 17 miles from downtown Olathe to the Kansas River with a bikeshare hub and gathering space adjacent to its concession, restroom and public art mural site - making it a destination gathering space along the route and just one mile from the river. The facility shares a parking lot and sidewalks with a youth sports complex that attracts teams from the Midwest region. County partners also utilize the building, including the public health department for recent vaccination clinics. This project meets SPARK guiding principles of prioritizing sustainable investments through one-time use of funds and combining with local and agency funds to maximize use of funds, expanding connections and security for JCPRD and local agency partners.</p>