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Office of Recovery Newsletter | May 23, 2022

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This week's edition of the Office of Recovery Newsletter features the Kansas

Department of Education's Sunflower Summer Program, which provides free admission to over 80 Kansas attractions to help children stay engaged in learning throughout the summer months while spending quality time with family members and friends.

Also included is an article highlighting programs and resources that local governments can use alongside American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to continue the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Internet for All (IFA) Initiative consists of several different programs that are focused on building broadband infrastructure and making internet accessible and affordable for all Americans. Local governments can use the new Bloomberg Local Infrastructure Hub as a resource to help navigate and understand federal programs and learn how to apply for federal funding.

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

Program Spotlight



KSDE Summer Program Offers Free Admission to Kansas Attractions

This summer the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) wants families to get

out, explore something new and enjoy time together. Sunflower Summer is a program to help children stay engaged in learning throughout the summer months while spending quality time with family members and friends touring some of Kansas' greatest attractions for free. A portion of the funding being used for this program will be coming from federal COVID-19 relief dollars.

There are over 80 attractions to choose from across the state, including zoos, museums, historic landmarks, libraries and outdoor locations. Parents and guardians can visit sunflowersummer.org to download the Sunflower Summer mobile app to their phone or tablet device.

Kansas residents with students enrolled in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, are eligible to access 1 free ticket per child. The program is also applicable to students in the 18-21 programs. Parents and guardians can download the Sunflower Summer app **free** from either Google Play (Android) or Apple (IOS) app stores. To register your account, you simply open the app and follow the prompts. Then it's as simple as selecting your first attraction, and then tap and go. This [How To Guide](#) will help you get started.

Each Kansas student and their parents are provided one free visit to each of the participating attractions per year. Your Sunflower Summer "Passport" (in the app) will be stamped, and the ticket will no longer be accessible. Up to two adults may access a ticket voucher on the Sunflower Summer app, when accompanying Kansas students enrolled in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade on a visit to a Sunflower Summer participating attraction.

The Sunflower Summer program runs from May 28 through August 14. Funding for this program is limited, and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. More information and a frequently-asked-questions section can be found at www.sunflowersummer.org.

Funding for Sunflower Summer is provided through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #S425V210046. However, the content of this program does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Federal Programs & Resources





Funding Opportunities and Resources Available to Local Governments

Federal “Internet for All” Initiative Offers Funding Opportunities

As Kansas communities recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and begin the transition back to normal life, many local governments across Kansas are beginning to make plans on how to best use their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (LFRF) allocations. To maximize the effect of these funds, LFRF dollars can be leveraged alongside other state and federal programs.

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is launching the Internet for All initiative that includes several programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Local governments are eligible to apply for funding through the **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program**. This program provides \$1B total funding to build middle mile infrastructure to connect local networks to high-capacity national and regional networks to ensure reliable high-speed internet service for even the most remote communities. [Find more information on this program and how to apply here.](#)

The Internet for All initiative is also funding two other programs that could potentially bring broadband funding to the state to improve connectivity for Kansans:

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.5**

billion): This program funds projects that help expand high-speed internet access and use. It supports infrastructure deployment, mapping, and adoption. [Learn more about this program here.](#)

- **State Digital Equity Act programs (\$1.5 billion):** This funding will be invested in programs to heighten adoption and use of the internet, like digital literacy training, for those who need it most, including communities of color, rural communities, and older Americans. [Learn more about this program here.](#)

For more information on how to participate in the funding programs, please visit InternetForAll.gov.

Learn More About Applying for Federal Funding

Bloomberg Philanthropies recently announced a new resource for local governments to learn more about how to apply for federal funding. The [Local Infrastructure Hub: Support for U.S. Cities and Towns to Put Federal Funding to Work for Residents](#) is a national program to ensure that all cities and towns can access federal infrastructure funding to drive local COVID-19 recovery, improve communities and deliver results for residents.

The Local Infrastructure Hub aims to connect city leaders to experts to help bring clarity and direction to the complicated application process by addressing two primary barriers to accessing federal funding. First, the hub will help local leaders navigate and understand the large quantities of information from the federal government on the nearly 400 funding opportunities available. And second, it will help cities and towns develop competitive funding applications for federal grants.

The Local Infrastructure Hub officially launches on July 1, 2022. To receive updates on programs and support, [sign up here](#).

Updates to Services and Support





SAM.gov Registration Required to Receive ARPA Second Tranche

The Office of Recovery is preparing for the distribution of the second tranche of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (LFRF) payments from the American Rescue Plan Act to Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs) in Kansas. To receive funding, the US Treasury requires all NEUs to maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>).

If your city's registration is expiring before the end of July 2022, please update your account, or if you have not registered, please visit [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) and register for free as soon as possible. The General Service Administration has put out a tutorial on [SAM.gov Entity Registration and Entity Management](#) that may assist in guiding you through the process. If you have questions, you can review the FAQs located in the [SAM.gov Questions](#) area of the Federal Service Desk website or contact the service desk directly at 866-606-8220.

If you have any questions regarding the information above or the reporting process, please reach out using the [CONTACT US](#) section of the Office of Recovery website.

Contact the RO

The Office of Recovery is here to offer support and coordination. Questions and inquiries may be submitted via the [Contact Us](#) form. Please visit covid.ks.gov for up-to-date information and resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas residents, businesses, and communities.

Question/Request Form

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.

Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

On behalf of the Office of Recovery,

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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