



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission
 Serving Kansans Since 1972

June/July 2009
 www.ncrpc.org

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Upcoming Events

- Thursday, July 30, 2 p.m.**
 Executive Board Meeting
- Thursday, Aug. 27, 2 p.m.**
 Executive Board Meeting
- Fiscal Year 2010 CDBG Grant Application Deadlines**
 Aug. 31: Housing
 Sept. 30: Water/Sewer
 Oct. 30: Community Facilities

FEDERAL STIMULUS BILL ALLOCATIONS BEGIN TO BE AVAILABLE IN STATE, AREA

The much talked about American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 is beginning to come to fruition as details of various allocations to State agencies are becoming more available.

According to the website, www.recovery.gov, which contains an interactive map showing Federal agencies' intent to make recovery act funding available, Kansas has received a \$992 million Total Funding Notification Amount to date. The following table shows the funding announcements for Kansas available at printing time. Using the site as a tool, one can follow the Federal programs of interest as well as the progress and status of every state.

According to the site, "As awards are made and data about these transactions become available, we will be including detailed information about the recipients of these awards."

An alternative website, www.recovery.org, also contains an interactive map that shows specific active recovery project details broken down by county. Note that this site is operated by a private company and is not government-affiliated.

Program	Allocated
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	\$ 449,172,167
IDEA Part B Grants to States	\$ 106,871,769
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 71,575,227
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	\$ 70,543,873
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	\$ 56,441,771
State Energy Program	\$ 38,284,000
Clean Water SRF	\$ 35,374,200
Drinking Water SRF	\$ 19,500,000
Tax Credit Assistance Program	\$ 17,121,110
Public Housing Capital fund Stimulus (Formula)	\$ 16,528,902
Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program	\$ 12,660,141
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program Special Allocations	\$ 11,591,043
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program	\$ 11,349,968
CDBG Entitlement Grants	\$ 7,416,521
Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program	\$ 7,317,192
WIA Youth Activities	\$ 7,121,714
Health Center Integrated Services Development Initiative	\$ 5,707,935
WIA Dislocated Workers	\$ 5,203,888
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants	\$ 5,108,753
Educational Technology State Grants	\$ 4,531,802
IDEA Part B Preschool Grants	\$ 4,496,577
IDEA Part C Grants for Infants and Families	\$ 3,872,098
Employment Service / Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities	\$ 3,436,869
WIA Adult Program	\$ 2,702,158
LUST Trust Fund Program	\$ 2,153,000
State Clean Diesel Grant Program	\$ 1,730,000
Federal Work Study	\$ 1,668,797
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Recovery Act STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program	\$ 1,569,660
Impact Aid Construction	\$ 1,497,915
Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	\$ 849,759
State Administrative Matching Grants for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance	\$ 849,728
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	\$ 757,948

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2009 STATE TAX CREDIT UPDATE

The North Central Kansas Community Network (NCKCN) has state tax credits to place for the 2009 tax period. The \$285,714 allocation remains the same as that for the previous two years, but action taken by the Legislature at the close of the 2008-2009 session reduced the credit value by 10%. That means the value dropped from 75% to 67.5%. This same percentage reduction was applied to all but a handful of state tax credits, so our credits remain competitive.

Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the NCRPC office and ask for Doug McKinney, Deb Ohlde or John Cyr.

Funds raised through credit placement are used to underwrite programs or projects related to Leadership Development, Business Service Development, Technology Acquisition, and/or Business and Job Creation. Thus far NCKCN has raised \$1.8 Million and invested \$1.1 Million in such programs and projects, impacting all of the 19 counties included in the North Central Kansas Rural Development Tax Credit Program region as defined by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

FROM THE DIRECTOR: POPULAR MOVIE PROVIDES LESSON IN ACHIEVING GOALS

The short story and now popular movie entitled "Up" is about planning for a dream event and the dream is blocked and or made very challenging. The old objective seems less valuable once it is partly achieved. That is due in part to a new and more worthwhile challenge being posed and partners who are willing to help reach the new outcome. I will not spoil the fascinating ending, but I can simply state if we all experience opportunities, listen, help discern the issues at hand, then the effort may be achievable.

Solutions need to be identified and the effective means to resolution. Often temporary setbacks or short-term solutions are achieved prior to the bigger issue being addressed. Generally, the final result is worth the effort.

What comes to mind are the enormous efforts to



Doug McKinney is the NCRPC Executive Director.

comprehensively fund improvements in Salina, Solomon, Herington, Mankato, Jewell, Wilson and Lincoln during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

But of even greater accomplishment were the efforts of elected officials, townspeople, neighbors, volunteers and mutual aid providers who have helped several communities in the region including Chapman, Glen Elder, Jewell, Manhattan, Scottsville, Smolan and parts of other

counties. It was one year ago in which each was visited by super cell thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Celebrations and remembrances have occurred in May and June. Volunteers and others in support have been recognized and again appreciated for the assistance provided in repairing and rebuilding structures and lives. Chapman should have its water well back on in July. The schools there are under reconstruction. Homes have been repaired while others have been permanently removed. Jewell's water tower has been erected and is awaiting paint.

We hope for a productive wheat harvest and less storms this summer. But, if a disaster occurs there are many entities willing and able to assist including the NCRPC.

NCKTC STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR GIS WORK

Students in the GIS/GPS Program at the North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC) in Beloit have agreed to work with Mitchell County on several GIS projects in the coming year.

Clint Offutt, Lead Instructor and Department Chair of the GIS/GPS Program, which is a 2-year Associate's Degree Program, says they would like to take on more work across the region.

"Our plans are to include the community

work in the advanced GIS curriculum, set up work study for students during the school year, and possible summer internships," Offutt says. "The more work the better as it serves many purposes and there are several winning parties."

Offutt says some of the Mitchell County projects will include working with the Appraiser's Office helping out with the Parcel Management Program, working on a digital FEMA floodplain mapping project,

inventorying culverts for the Road and Bridge Department, and working on mapping E911 address points for cities within Mitchell County.

"We are able to offer services at lower prices than private contractors," Offutt says. "It also provides student learning experiences and possible future employees for counties."

For more information, contact Offutt by email at coffutt@ncktc.edu or by calling 785-738-9082.

NCRPC STAFF EXPANDS TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND, FUNDING FOR HOUSEHOLD WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The NCRPC welcomed three new staff members in May. All were hired to help meet the increased demand for the household weatherization program, which has experienced a significant increase in funding for the fiscal year.

Funding for the program comes from Department of Energy (DOE) and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

Nichole McDaniel joined the staff in May as a weatherization clerk. Her primary duties are to process and approve applications for the household weatherization program, which has income as its primary eligibility criteria. Nichole also assists in responding to questions from potential weatherization applicants.

Nichole has received degrees in Criminal Justice and Business Management



Nichole McDaniel through Brown Mackie College. She has a 13-year-old son, Chole, and keeps active throughout the year following him in his 3/4 midget racing events. She enjoys being outside and doing yard work. Nichole is also a juvenile intake assessment worker for the 12th Judicial Court System.

Devin Karraker and Cade McDonald were both hired as weatherization inspectors. They perform inspections for the weatherization program, which focuses on increasing energy



Devin Karraker efficiency of qualified residential housing. The NCRPC oversees the weatherization of housing in 33 Kansas counties.

Devin graduated from the Salina Area Technical College in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program. He was self-employed as a contractor in the Abilene area for 25 years. He also owns rental property in Abilene. Previously Devin has served as Mayor and on the City Council for the City of Abilene. His wife,



Cade McDonald Barbara, is a nurse. They have three children, Hannah, Kayleigh, and Hayden, and a granddaughter, Ryleigh.

Cade is a graduate of Fort Hays State University with a B.S. in Organizational Leadership. Prior to his employment at the NCRPC, Cade had been a contractor in the Smith Center area.

More information about the weatherization program is available by visiting our website at www.ncrpc.org/services/housing_weatherization.html.

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Native American Housing Block Grants (Formula)	\$	749,858
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	\$	748,733
Office of Justice Programs (OJP) OVC FY09 VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program	\$	685,000
Adoption Assistance	\$	650,649
ARRA - Aging Congregate Nutrition Services	\$	579,749
Foster Care-Title IV-E	\$	562,830
Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program	\$	557,551
Water Quality Planning (604b)	\$	357,300
Office of Justice Programs (OJP) OVC FY09 VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program	\$	346,402
Services for Older Individuals who are Blind	\$	321,368
ARRA - Aging Home-Delivered Nutrition Services	\$	285,415
Independent Living State Grants	\$	242,913
Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$	242,041
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	\$	189,962
Native American Employment and Training	\$	13,452
Total	\$	991,539,708

Some small businesses may also benefit from the Stimulus Bill.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced some fee eliminations in the 7(a) Loan Program and the 504 Development Company Program. The SBA is also now authorized to guarantee up to 90 percent of 7(a) loans excluding SBA Express. Finally, beginning June 15, the new SBA America's Recovery Capital (ARC) loans of up to \$35,000 are available to established, viable, for-profit small businesses that need short

-term help to make their principal and interest payments on existing qualifying debt. ARC loans are interest-free to the borrower and 100 percent guaranteed by SBA.

For additional information about the SBA changes, contact Four Rivers Development Inc. Manager, Debra Peters, at 785-738-2210. For additional information about other programs, contact the NCRPC main office at 785-738-2218.

Look for more status updates and project award announcements related to ARRA funding in the future.

NEW VETERINARY HOSPITAL OPENS NEAR CONCORDIA

A new, state-of-the-art Veterinary hospital just north of the City of Concordia celebrated its grand opening this Spring.

Prior to construction of the new facility, Dr. Randall Hobrock and his wife, Shaela, had rented a storefront facility in downtown Concordia since October 2006.

Randall is a 2002 graduate of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Shaela serves as office manager and has a degree in Health Information Management from the University of Kansas.

The services that were able to be offered in the downtown facility were limited primarily to small animal Veterinary care and large animal/equine retail product sales due to space and location constraints. Large animal/equine care was all done off site.

The new facility is just over 5,000 square feet and includes space for a small



The new Tallgrass Veterinary Hospital is located north of the City of Concordia along U.S. Highway 81.

animal hospital/office area and a large animal hospital. Through the construction of the new building, haul-in capabilities for equine and large animals have been added. This allows for greater efficiency of the Veterinarian on duty and higher client satisfaction. In addition, the facility offers the ability to hospitalize and treat large animals on the premises, has acreage for outdoor pens and pasture, and has ample room for product storage.

In addition, the small animal capacity has been

increased with the new facility. The addition of large dog runs and many more small dog and cat cages will increase the capacity of hospitalization.

As a result of the increase in size of the facility and the number of services offered, a new Veterinary Assistant has been hired. A part-time associate Veterinarian, Dr. Christie Locher, also has been hired. Locher works at the practice three days per week.

"The time and effort put into demographic study and location selection has

paid off," Hobrock says. "So far, we have been able to exceed our financial projections and add an Associate Veterinarian and support staff much sooner than previously expected."

This project was made possible through investment by the owners, the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund, NetWork Kansas, and Central National Bank.

For more about the financing programs used, contact Four Rivers Development Inc. Manager, Debra Peters, at 785-738-2210 or by email at dpeters@nckcn.com.

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