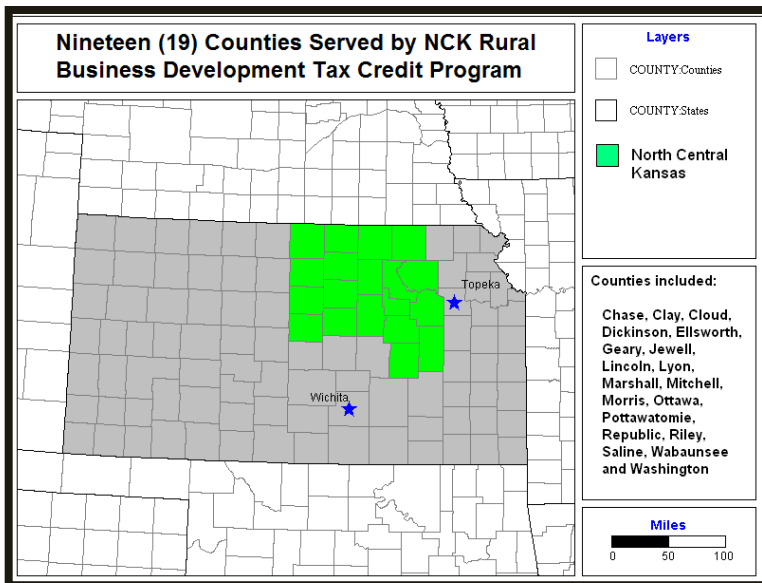




North Central Kansas Rural Tax Credit Initiative . . . 2009 Investment Progress Review

The Rural Business Development Tax Credit (RBDTC) program was created by the Kansas Legislature in its passage of the Kansas Economic Growth Act in 2004. This Act stipulated state tax credits were to be given to each of seven (7) regions as a means to raise funds for rural business development. North Central Kansas was

one of the seven regions identified with the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), formed under K.S.A. 12-744 et seq., and the North Central Kansas Community Network Co. (NCKCN), a 501(c)3 corporation, given the responsibility to oversee the program. Since 2005 the tandem has successfully raised over \$1.8 Million through placement of these credits.



NCK Program Purpose

The primary goal set for the NCK RBDTC program is to improve the economic environment of North Central Kansas by 1) supporting businesses that offer wages equal to or better than the regional average; 2)

supporting businesses that offer change; 3) underwriting programs or projects that promise to elevate the capabilities and capacities of an entrepreneur; and 4) encouraging the development or delivery of quality leadership programs. Project examples by category follow.



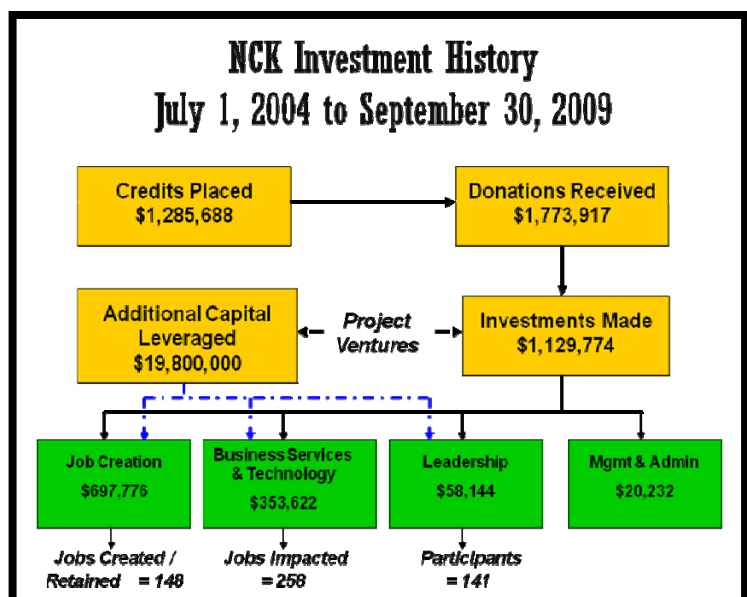
Leadership

Leadership exists in both individual and organizational form, so programs are needed that enhance and support the specialized needs of each. We have thus sought out opportunities to invest in workshops like those offered for organizations by BoardSource, Inc.

in Washington, D.C. Through them we initially sponsored four sessions entitled:

- *Executive Director / Board of Directors Partnership*
- *“Strategic Thinking” within a Culture of Inquiry*
- *Importance of Ethics and Transparency in the Operation of a Non-Profit*
- *Continuous Board Learning and Revitalization.*

We continue to seek other such opportunities that can benefit for or non-profit organizations.



As for individuals, we understand the importance of helping area leaders expand their knowledge so better decisions can be made. Examples of just how the NCK program has sought to assist in this area follow.

- Sponsored minority business leader in Saline County who wished to acquire specialized business training for purposes of engaging and supporting their local minority business community.
- Sponsored speakers at various local community and economic development functions.
- Sponsored a wind workshop at Cloud County Community College which introduced their program to the region plus introduced the region to the Meridian Wind Farm ownership.



Business Services and Technology Acquisition

Rural isolation and idea stagnation are issues that must be addressed if our rural economy is expected to grow and be competitive. We therefore seek to engage those who harbor innovative ideas or specialized services that can aid local communities and entrepreneurs. Examples paid by NCK:

Business Services, including:

- NCK regional business cluster analysis by the Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI) at KSU.
- Feasibility analysis on improved processing procedures benefiting Washington County dairies.
- Feasibility analysis focused on redesign of downtown Wamego and its industrial park.
- Marketing / advertising program, including website, for Flint Hills Tourism Coalition.
- Farmer's market publication impacting Jewell, Republic, Cloud and Washington counties.

Technology Acquisition, including:

- Construction of fiber optic cable connecting two (2) Minneapolis industrial parks with local cable company.
- Sponsorship of Geographic Information System (GIS) course, including equipment, at North Central Kansas Technical College.
- Underwriting wind resource analysis for all nineteen (19) North Central Kansas counties.



Job Creation

We are looking for businesses that have promise and a real potential for growth. We will not consider those which other lenders have turned down due to questionable credit history or poor business acumen unless extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise.

Equity / Loan investments

- In facility improvements at Kansas Entrepreneurship Center (KEC) in support of existing and prospective businesses.
- In expanding Ottawa / Saline county private enterprise involving new product line just coming out of research and development.
- In small ethanol facility in Republic County.
- In Knowledge-Based Economic Development (KBED) program which recruits businesses to NCK like the recently announced Megastarter, a South African firm, who now plans to relocate operations in Riley County.

Commitment

The NCRPC/NCKCN team is committed to making this program equally accessible to all within the North Central Kansas region, although fund distribution may not be equitable at all times throughout the region.

*Additional information
can be attained by
contacting our office.*

*NCRPC
109 N. Mill St
PO Box 565
Beloit, KS 67420
(785) 738-2218*

*Or by E-mailing
jcyr@nckcn.com
dcohlde@nckcn.com
dmckinney@nckcn.com*