



NCRPC NEWS

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www.ncrpc.org

Home Ownership Program Launches

A new program that seeks to make home ownership more affordable is now available to home buyers purchasing a home in Cloud and Mitchell counties.

The two-county pilot project of the NCK Home Ownership Program will assist current and future residents by reducing the barriers of down payments and closing costs. The program offers a combination of a 0% down payment assistance loan of up to 10% of the purchase price (\$10,000 limit) and closing cost grant of up to 2.5% of the purchase price (\$2,500 limit) when purchasing an existing home in Cloud or Mitchell County. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

An award from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, Kansas, is being used to assist in the creation of the loan and grant pool. The NCRPC will provide program administration led by Debra Peters, Program Manager.

“This initiative would not have been possible without assistance from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Cloud and Mitchell County banks, CloudCorp Executive Director Ashley Hutchinson, and Solomon Valley Economic Development Director Heather Hartman,” Peters said.

Increasing quality of life for residents through home ownership and reducing the number of homes on the market are two project goals. According to Hartman, the launch of the NCK Home Ownership Program



in Mitchell County gives her organization another tool to help employers. “We are always searching for ways to help our employers retain quality employees and home ownership is another piece of the puzzle,” Hartman said.

Hutchinson expects the program will have many benefits in the two counties where the pilot is being launched—and regionally if the program meets expectations and is able to expand.

“The Home Ownership Program is an additional recruitment tool to attract young professionals to North Central Kansas, complimenting the existing Rural Opportunity Zones,” Hutchinson said. “More home ownership means more kids in schools, a broadening of the tax base, and healthier, happier families.”

This pilot project will test the demand for such a program. Ultimately the goal is to expand the program to other counties in the NCRPC service area that also fall within the Dane G. Hansen Foundation service area. Another pilot home ownership program was launched in Marysville in February to test demand for a similar program in the remaining NCRPC service area counties. For more information, contact Debra Peters at 785-738-2218 or dpeters@nckcn.com or visit www.ncrpc.org/services/housing/#homeownership. ■

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ABOUT US

Our Mission

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

Our Vision

By 2024, communities in rural Kansas will favor choices that embrace innovation, increase prosperity and demonstrate resilience.

Contact Us

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Regional Food System Assessment Continues this Summer

The North Central Kansas Food Council (NCKFC) will continue the next phase of its regional food system assessment this summer. The emphasis will be community engagement through surveying, outreach, and focus groups.

The first phase of the regional food system assessment focused on quantitative data. This summer's phase will engage local growers and producers, members of civic groups, government entities and others to ensure a comprehensive look at what is happening with local foods in the region and the current food system needs of each county. Ultimately the NCKFC plans to use the information from the summer's outreach to help plan an implementation strategy for each county and the region.

According to NCRPC Assistant Director Emily Benedick, guidelines for selling produce commercially and the expense of licensing can be a challenge for small local producers growing specialty crops for a living.

"The NCKFC wants to help increase support for local growers," Benedick said. "We hope that through the research conducted through the regional food assessment we will be able to collect the necessary data and trends of the region to help connect producers not



only to each other to form local collaborations, but to also connect producers to interested consumers as a revenue stream."

The NCKFC will begin surveying in June. The survey will help determine local food trends in consumption and availability of health food choices. It will be available online and through paper copies in public offices around the region. Focus groups will begin this summer and continue through the fall.

Each county also has a County Advisory Council that will be instrumental in the regional food system assessment. County Advisory Councils are still being formed in some counties. If you are interested in getting involved, contact NCRPC Director Doug McKinney by emailing dmckinney@nckcn.com or NCRPC Assistant Director Emily Benedick by emailing ebenedick@nckcn.com or call the office at 785-738-2218.



The NCKFC was developed in 2017 as an initiative of the NCRPC and Live Well Saline County and is assisted by

Advancing Rural Prosperity, Inc. (ARPI) through its joint partnership with the NCRPC to advance food system development in North Central Kansas.

The council is once again collaborating with Leon Atwell of ARPI and consultant Kolia Souza, who is affiliated with the Center for Engagement at Kansas State University, to complete this phase of the regional food system assessment.

A new member to the NCKFC team this summer will be Emily Reno, who will join the NCRPC through the Dane G. Hansen Foundation & K-State Research and Extension Community Internship Program. Reno will assist with surveying and focus groups.

Watch for more information about the survey beginning in June. To learn more about the NCKFC, like them on [Facebook](#) or visit www.ncrpc.org/nckfoodcouncil. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Thursday, May 24, 2018

NCRPC Executive Board Meeting
Beloit Office, 2 p.m.

Thursday, July 26, 2018

NCRPC Executive Board Meeting
Emergency Services Building, Miltonvale, KS
2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

"Looking Beyond Hansen for Funding"
Zoom Webinar, 6:30 p.m.
Register by June 1. Email nsigle@ksu.edu.

June 25 – 26, 2018

[National Rural Grocery Store Summit](#)
Manhattan, KS

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

[Community Service Tax Credit](#) Program
(CSP) Application Deadline

Kansas Interagency Advisory Committee (KIAC) Meetings

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday May through
July in Topeka. The 2nd Tuesday in
August will be in Hays.

FY 2019 [CDBG](#) Funding Deadlines

Housing - Aug. 31, 2018
Water and Sewer - Sept. 28, 2018
Community Facilities - Nov. 1, 2018
Commercial Rehabilitation -
Open from Jan. 2-Dec. 7, 2018
Economic Development -
Open from Jan. 2-Dec. 7, 2018

Find more on the web »

Events: www.ncrpc.org/news/events
Funding sources and deadlines:
www.ncrpc.org/funding

Two Fill Lincoln County Board Seat

The NCRPC Executive Board of Directors recently welcomed two new members who will share the Lincoln County Board seat in 2018—Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Finch and Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation Executive Director Kelly Larson.

Finch works for a farming operation in Lincoln County. Previously he operated a construction business. Terry retired after serving 22 years on the First Rural Fire Department and 25 years on the Lincoln County Rescue Squad. He is a member of the Lincoln County EMS. He has been an active volunteer in the community, previously served on the Finch Theatre board, and serves on the



Terry Finch

board of the Central Kansas Mental Health Center, Salina.

Larson joined the Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation in 2014. Previously she worked for Treanor Architects in Topeka and then spent 11 years working in Michigan—first as manager of the Boyne City Main Street program and then as the Michigan Main Street program’s Design Specialist working in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. She graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor’s of Interior Architecture. Kelly also serves on the boards of the Kansas Preservation Alliance and the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance. ■



Kelly Larson

NEWS BRIEFS

Finney Joins NCRPC Staff

The NCRPC is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Kim Finney as administrative assistant. In this role she assists with accounts receivable and accounts payable for NCRPC and its affiliate, NCKCN. Kim takes over the position from Keegan Bailey who has transitioned into working full time in the housing department.



Kim Finney

Kim is from Beloit and received an associate degree in liberal arts from Washburn. She and her husband, John, have three children. She previously worked at Finn-Kool, Inc. in Beloit as office manager. In her spare time Kim enjoys photography, woodworking, and spending time outdoors. ■

Funding Sources Webinar

Looking for funding sources for a project? Learn some tips by participating in a one-hour Zoom webinar on Wednesday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. The webinar, “Looking Beyond Hansen for Funding,” will be presented by Carol Sloper, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation Grants Coordinator.

To register, email Nadine Sigle at nsigle@ksu.edu by June 1. The Zoom link will be emailed upon registration. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis. ■

Executive Board Takes Annual Field Trip



Members of the NCRPC Executive Board continued its annual field trip tradition with a trip to Lincoln County on April 26. The group had lunch and a short business meeting at the Finch Theatre in downtown Lincoln before adjourning for a tour of US Tower.



Business Offers E-Waste, Information Technology Services

REV-E3, located in Jewell, was created with the vision of reducing electronic waste (E-waste) in rural areas. It recently marked completion of its first year in business.

While E-waste continues to be a primary focus, the business has expanded its services to include broader information technology services—including data destruction, equipment sales, refurbishing, and repair. Lee McMillan and Tony Salcido are owners. The business has another full-time employee.

“We assist clients through the life of their electronics from helping to purchase new, to repairing as issues arise and finally to recycling end of life products,” McMillan said.

The business helps keep E-waste from households and businesses out



of landfills and dispose of it safely. According to McMillan, REV-E3 refurbishes what it can before tearing items down for recycling—essentially extending the life of the electronics.

While many landfills accept E-waste, some are limited on how much and what types they can accept. McMillan suggests checking with your local landfill on its E-waste policies.

The company has recently started an initiative to partner with cities and counties to offer community cleanup/E-waste drives. In the past year the business has also started to work with E-waste coalitions in which multiple counties participate.

“Working with the E-waste coalitions is great for us and it also saves them the expense of having to haul items away,” McMillan said.

REV-E3 was recently awarded funds through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment Solid Waste Grant Program to purchase trailers and equipment that will allow the business to double the amount of E-waste it can collect by having larger storage capacity. NCRPC Community Development Representative Nichole McDaniel assisted the business with the KDHE application.

“The grant award will allow us to expand our service area and better utilize our time, equipment and resources,” McMillan said.

For more information about the business, visit www.rev-e3.com. ■