

# NCRPC NEWS

QUARTER 3 2022 NEWSLETTER

North Central Regional  
Planning Commission 

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YEARS

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## Mural Movement Grows in Clay Center

What began as a local Rotary project to install one mural in 2020 quickly became an entire movement in one North Central Kansas community.

A Mural Movement of Clay Center just saw the completion of its 25th mural in July 2022. Clay Center resident and Community Bank President Brett Hubka was president of the Rotary Club when the project began.

"Each Rotary Club president gets to do a project during their presidential year. It could be as simple as picking up trash to as complex as an entire playground. A mural was actually not my first idea," Hubka said.

"K-State Architecture, Planning and Design students had come at some point to do some plans for the downtown and a mural was included in those plans. For whatever reason it never got done," Hubka said. "I presented the idea to the club for a mural and just for fun in my PowerPoint included other buildings/locations where murals could go."

When the idea took off, Brett reached out to six others in the community with an interest in growing the movement. That seven-person mural committee continues today.

Murals primarily are located in Clay Center, but murals have also been installed in nearby Longford and Green and plans are underway for a mural in Morganville.

While the movement has received some grant funding through the District Rotary and the Kansas Creative



A Mural Movement of Clay Center committee members are shown with the latest mural. Pictured left to right are Dave Borgerding, Brett Hubka, Tracy Lebo, Artists Christian & Jessica Stanley, Michelle Gillard, Maria Pfizenmaier, Shannon Stark, and Jacob Lohrmeyer. (Courtesy Photo)

Arts Industries Commission, Hubka estimates 90 percent of funding has come from local individuals, businesses and alumni. To date they have received about \$250,000 and donations from 23 different states.

"We've definitely reached a different phase in the project," Hubka said. "We are shifting to a greater focus on promotion instead of installing more murals."

Hubka offers advice for communities considering a major project of their own.

"For any community project, teaming up with a civic organization is important," Hubka said. "For us two other big keys to success were a great committee and a generous community. We could not do this without either one."

To view an interactive map of all the murals or to learn more, visit a Mural Movement Experience (<https://qrco.de/bc3VAy>).

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## ABOUT US

Our primary service area includes 12 counties and 83 cities in North Central Kansas.

## OUR MISSION

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

## CONTACT US

North Central Regional  
Planning Commission  
109 N. Mill, PO Box 565  
Beloit, KS 67420 | 785-738-2218

 [facebook.com/ncrpcbelloit](https://facebook.com/ncrpcbelloit)

Learn more about the NCRPC at:  
[www.ncrpc.org](http://www.ncrpc.org)

If you have a story idea or would like to update your address, email us at: [communications@ncrpc.org](mailto:communications@ncrpc.org).



## NCRPC Banquet Set for November 10

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a 50th Anniversary Banquet on Thursday, November 10 in Beloit, Kansas.

The featured speaker will be Doug Griffiths, a community strategist and noted author of "13 Ways to Kill Your Community."

The banquet will be at the Down Under Reception Hall located at 121 West South Street in Beloit. Registration and a brief social gathering will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. with presentations and the keynote address immediately following. The cost is \$20 per person. Advance reservations are required and are due by October 25.

The NCRPC also hosts the event on behalf of its affiliate, North Central Kansas Community Network, Co. (NCKCN). We also wish to recognize the support of sponsors Cunningham Telephone & Cable and Kyle Railroad.

To learn more about the event or to register, visit [www.ncrpc.org/2022banquet/](http://www.ncrpc.org/2022banquet/).

## Staff Introductions, Transitions Announced

We are pleased to announce the hiring of two new employees and other recent staff transitions.

Deb Ohlde returned to the NCRPC in July as Strategic Development Advisor. She brings many years of experience in strategic planning, small group facilitation as well as proposal writing/project management in the public and non-profit sectors. Deb first joined the NCRPC in 1994 and served in a variety of roles culminating in Assistant Director, through 2016. She stayed connected to community development while operating her own consulting company, NEW Heartland Freelance. Most recently she was Director of Grower Services for Kansas Corn before rejoining the NCRPC. Deb is a graduate of Kansas State University with a BS in Agricultural Economics and a Master's in Public Administration. She has completed the Economic Development Finance Professional certification through the National Development Council and the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas. She is a certified Ice House Facilitator. While Deb will work throughout the



Deb Ohlde



Chelsea Smith

region as needed, her primary counties will be Marshall, Washington, Republic, Jewell, Cloud and Clay.

Chelsea Smith began work in September as Administrative Assistant. In this role she provides support to many of the NCRPC programs and handles accounts receivable and provides support to NCKCN, the 501(c)3 Internet Service Provider operated by the NCRPC. Chelsea previously worked in customer service for 20 years—most recently in e-commerce and web data management. She is a Wichita area native and moved to Beloit in 2014. Chelsea enjoys spending time with her daughters, racing season with her husband who is a dirt circle track driver, and doing graphic design.



Bri Beck



Kendra Ryser

Other recent position changes include the naming of Bri Beck as Director of Community Development and Kendra Ryser as Weatherization Director. Beck has been with the organization since 2020 as a Community Development Representative. Ryser joined the NCRPC in 2019 as Weatherization Assistant and most recently served as the Interim Weatherization Director.

### EVENTS & MORE

NCRPC 50th Anniversary Banquet  
Thursday, November 10, 2022  
Beloit, KS  
5:15 p.m. | Registration and social  
6 p.m. | Dinner followed by program

NCRPC Executive Board Meeting  
Thursday, December 1, 2022  
2 p.m. | Beloit Office

Find more on the web »  
Events: [www.ncrpc.org/news/events](http://www.ncrpc.org/news/events)  
Funding sources and deadlines:  
[www.ncrpc.org/funding](http://www.ncrpc.org/funding)

# Changes Announced for Upcoming CDBG Funding Rounds

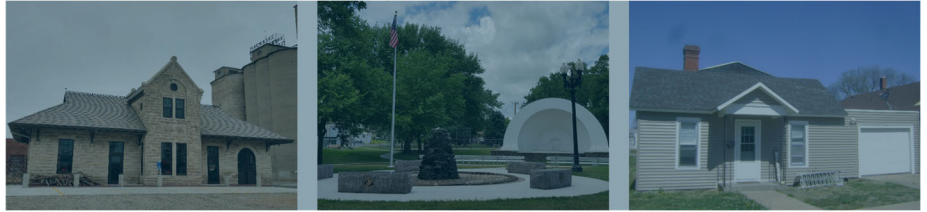
By Bri Beck, Director of Community Development

Changes in the timing and focus of eligible projects were made to the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program annual competition grants this year. The CDBG program is administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC).

Details for FY 2023 projects were recently released at the Application Workshop. Unless otherwise stated below application deadlines have been moved from their traditional fall dates to February 1, 2023.

Traditional funding categories for CDBG annual competition grants were housing, community facilities, and water/sewer. The focus of those categories has been expanded. Key changes to note include the following:

- The CDBG Housing grant has moved from an annual competition round to an open round. Applications will be open from January 2, 2023 through December 1, 2023.
- Annual competition Water/Sewer Infrastructure grants will only be awarded to communities with KDHE consent orders. These communities must submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to KDC by November 18, 2022. A draft PER is due with the RFP. Kansas Interagency Advisory



Committee (KIAC) meetings will be held the 1st & 2nd weeks in December 2022. KDC will determine if your project is eligible to submit a full application. Please note, CDBG funds will only be used to address the issues surrounding your consent order.

- The emphasis has changed to funding Regional Water Planning Grants. CDBG requires two or more entities to be involved to be considered regional. Applications will be open from January 2, 2023 through December 1, 2023. LMI requirements do not apply. Please note, KDHE requires three or more entities to be involved to be considered regional.
- The Community Facilities grant will now focus on three targeted categories: Non-Profit Childcare and Education Facilities; Community Centers, Libraries & Parks; and Sidewalks & Trails.

- The Youth Training category is intended to be partnered with the JAG program and assist high school students with tuition, books, supplies, and training. This can be used as gap funding with other programs, but there can be no duplication of benefits.
- The Architectural Barrier Removal grant is intended to assist with accessibility issues upon entering a for-profit business.

To be eligible for CDBG funds, a project must meet at least one of the following federally mandated criteria: benefits low- and/or moderate-income individuals; removes or prevents slum or blighted conditions; or eliminates an urgent need created by a disaster when local funds are unavailable.

For more information about the CDBG program, visit [www.kansascommerce.gov/cdbg](http://www.kansascommerce.gov/cdbg) or contact the NCRPC Community Development staff.

## Feedback Needed for Project Priorities Survey

The NCRPC has launched a Regional BIL Project Priorities survey. The purpose is to assess needs in the region so the results can be used to bundle projects together for state and federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant opportunities. If you have specific projects that are high priority for your community, having them included in the survey will give the region an edge when grant rounds are announced because they are usually a very short turn around.

To join the conversation and learn more about potential Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant opportunities for the region, visit our BIL Resources page at [www.ncrpc.org/bilresources/](http://www.ncrpc.org/bilresources/).

We invite you to scan the code to complete the short Regional BIL Project Priorities survey and share with others who may have interest. The survey ends October 17.



## Murals, *From page 1*

Congratulations to the following organizations located in North Central Kansas that were recently awarded funding through the Office of Rural Prosperity's Rural Mural and Public Art grant program:

- Clay Center Community Improvement Foundation
- Community Foundation of Dickinson County, Inc.
- Ellsworth County Economic Development Corporation
- Mitchell County Strong, Inc.
- Wilson Tourism Hub, Inc.



## North Central Regional Planning Commission

109 N. Mill | PO Box 565  
Beloit, KS 67420 | [www.ncrpc.org](http://www.ncrpc.org)

# North Central Kansas Regional Relocation Program Launches

A new program that seeks to attract new residents to move to North Central Kansas is now available in Cloud, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic and Saline Counties.

The pilot project known as the North Central Kansas Regional Relocation Program seeks to make home ownership more affordable for those relocating to the region by reducing the barriers of down payments and closing costs. It offers a combination of a 0% down payment assistance loan of \$10,000 and closing cost grant of \$2,500 when purchasing a home of \$50,000 or greater. Eligible home purchase types include existing homes, existing homes with planned/financed upgrades totaling \$50,000 or greater, manufactured homes including lot and infrastructure, or new construction. Funds are limited



and available on a first come, first served basis. The program officially launched August 15, 2022.

An award from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, Kansas, assisted in funding the program, along with a donation from NCK Housing Opportunities, Inc. The North Central Regional Planning Commission is administering the program. NCK Housing Opportunities, Inc. is an affiliate of the North Central Regional Planning Commission.

Program eligibility includes relocating to an eligible county in North Central Kansas within the past 18 months prior to the request. Additionally, the primary bank loan must be provided by a bank having a physical location in the North Central Regional Planning Commission 12-county service area.

“We are pleased to bring this program to North Central Kansas,” Program Manager Debra Peters said. “It offers new residents up to 18 months to experience all the region has to offer before staking roots here.”

Results of the pilot program will be used to develop a permanent regional relocation program in 2024.

For more information about the program, contact your local bank or realtor or visit [www.ncrpc.org/nckregionalrelocationincentive](http://www.ncrpc.org/nckregionalrelocationincentive).