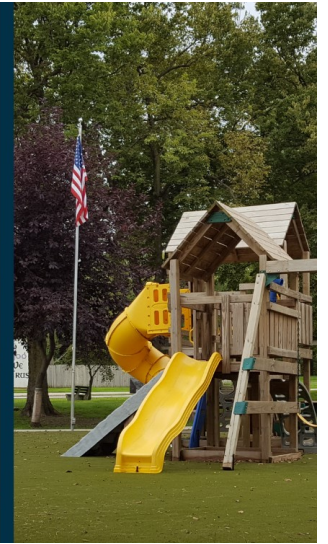
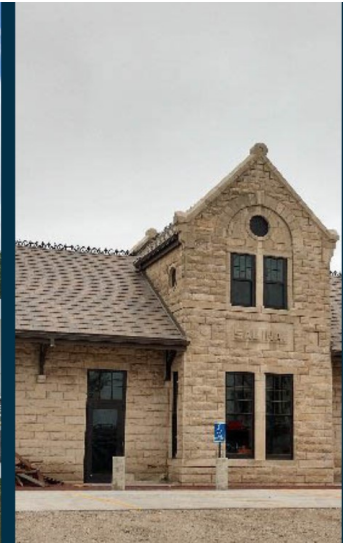




**North Central Regional  
Planning Commission**  
*Serving Kansans Since 1972*

CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS  
1972-2022



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

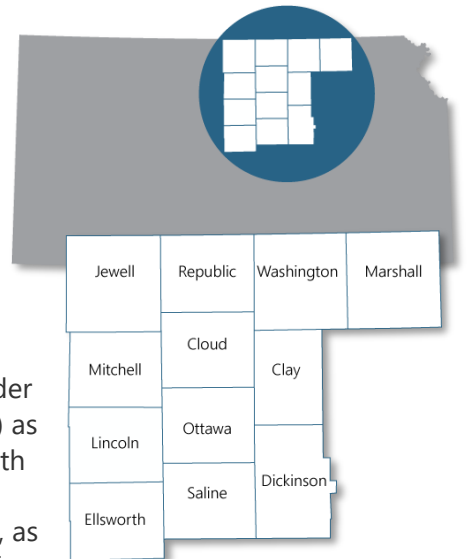
### ABOUT US

This year the North Central Regional Planning Commission celebrated its 50th year. As we reflect on this milestone, this report contains some of the history, highlights, and accomplishments of the NCRPC and North Central Kansas over the years.

The NCRPC was first formed in 1972 under K.S.A. 12-716 et seq. (now K.S.A. 12-744) as a multi-county planning organization with the authority to assist member governmental units as a planning board, as project planning staff and as a channel for federal or state program delivery to the local level. The NCRPC is also designated as an Economic Development District by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

The NCRPC has evolved into a comprehensive community development and planning group with services expanding to meet the changing needs of the region. Organized with eight counties, today NCRPC's primary service area includes 12 counties and 83 member cities. Services are also extended to non-profit organizations and businesses in the primary service area and throughout a larger portion of Kansas through the Weatherization Assistance Program and serving as fiscal agent for regional Homeland Security Councils. An affiliate, the North Central Kansas Community Network, Inc. (NCKCN) is co-located with and staffed by the NCRPC.

**THANK YOU** to our partners, members and the many individuals who have served on various boards and committees of the NCRPC and NCKCN through the years. Our region has made progress by working together. We look forward to continuing to collaborate for future successes in North Central Kansas and beyond.



# PROGRAM IMPACT

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: HELPING COMMUNITIES PROSPER



NCRPC has assisted organizations and communities with numerous projects that were awarded private or public funds equating to millions of dollars in project investments in the region. Since 2005 alone, over 300 projects have been awarded to cities and counties with NCRPC assistance – including water & sewer, community facilities, economic development, and commercial rehabilitation.

## BUSINESS FINANCE SOLUTIONS



The NCRPC Business Finance Program seeks to enhance both job creation and job preservation in the region by assisting in obtaining loan funding to either start, improve, expand or buy a viable business in the NCRPC's core 12-county service area. In addition, we offer two business loan programs that allow the NCRPC to take an active role in assisting in the financing of viable business projects in the region. Since 1983, the NCRPC Business Finance Program assisted with direct loans and/or in obtaining specialized financing through its loan packaging services resulting in approvals being obtained on 467 loans totaling \$93.7 million that impacted 2,313 jobs.

## HOUSEHOLD WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM



Since 1979, more than 13,600 homes have received energy efficiency improvements through the Weatherization Assistance Program administered by the NCRPC. The service area began with 8 counties and has expanded multiple times over the years to include 41 counties in north central and northwestern Kansas.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

Here is a look back at some major milestones of the organization.

Began administering the Weatherization Assistance Program with eight original counties. In 2022, the total service area of the NCRPC Weatherization Program is 41 counties.

Four Rivers Development, Inc. (FORDI) was created as a non-profit organization to help with private business finance. In 2009, FORDI was dissolved and all business finance services are offered through NCRPC.

1972

NCRPC formed as a multi-county planning organization with eight original counties. Today 12 counties are included in the primary service area.

1979

Began administering the Weatherization Assistance Program with eight original counties. In 2022, the total service area of the NCRPC Weatherization Program is 41 counties.

1980

Recognized by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an authorized Economic Development District (EDD).

1984

Four Rivers Development, Inc. (FORDI) was created as a non-profit organization to help with private business finance. In 2009, FORDI was dissolved and all business finance services are offered through NCRPC.

1991

A revolving loan fund was created with EDA funds and local match. In 2013, the RLF was expanded to include all 12 counties in the primary service area.

## STRENGTHENING HOUSING



Since 1979, NCRPC has administered 84 housing rehabilitation projects in the region representing an investment of nearly \$26 million. NCRPC also provides a variety of inspection services for governmental entities and private property owners—totaling more than 175 inspections in just the last five years.

Since 2018, home ownership programs in the region have combined to assist in the purchase of 128 homes through down payment and closing cost assistance. The total value of the houses purchased was more than \$14.2 million. This year the NCRPC also launched a Moderate Income Housing Rehabilitation and Demolition Pilot program in six Kansas counties through a partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

## HOMELAND SECURITY: SUPPORTING SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES



The NCRPC serves as fiscal agent for six of the Regional Homeland Security Councils in Kansas. Project investments address the planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise (POETE) needs to help build local and regional response capabilities and encourage citizen safety and preparedness.

## NCKCN: CONNECTING RURAL KANSAS



For more than 25 years, NCKCN has partnered with Cunningham Communications based in Glen Elder, Kansas, to deliver quality Internet access and services to thousands of customers across North Central Kansas. In the '90s, NCKCN and Cunningham Communications first provided dialup internet at 14.4 kbps—and today provide speeds in excess of 1,000,000 kbps!

In 2015, NCKCN and Cunningham Communications began partnering to set up NCK-WiFi hotspots across the region. Today, there are 21 active hotspots throughout 9 communities. Cunningham Communications has made significant investments in upgrades for the area through a number of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) projects and is an important continuing partner to NCKCN and the region.

North Central Kansas Community Network, Inc. (NCKCN) was created as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization to primarily assist with the new need for local access Internet within the region.

1995

Selected as the administrative agent for the Kansas Rural Business Tax Credit Program in the region. The credits existed until 2012 when the legislation was allowed to expire.

2004

Sponsored the first Rural Voices Youth Contest for high school seniors to engage youth in discussion about the region. The contest continues annually.

2006

Staff support of the North Central Kansas Public Health Initiative began. In 2022 the coordinating role was passed to the Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation in furtherance of its goals and objectives.

2003

Selected as fiscal agent for the North Central and Northeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Councils. Today NCRPC serves as fiscal agent for six regional Homeland Security Councils in Kansas.

2006

**Continued  
on page 4**



**Continued from page 3**

Began the first pilot Home Ownership Program. Today, additional housing initiatives continue to be explored and added — mostly through partnerships with local banks, businesses and charitable foundations.



**2015**  
NCK WiFi Hotspot Technology was introduced through a partnership between NCKCN and Cunningham Telephone & Cable. The network continues to expand.

**2018**

**Present**  
NCRPC continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the region. A current staff of 20 are supported by various partners and with leadership from the Executive Board of 15 members and various committees.

## CONTACT US

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