



2023 QUARTER 1 NEWSLETTER

NCRPC NEWS

An update from the North Central Regional Planning Commission

Community Connection Event April 12

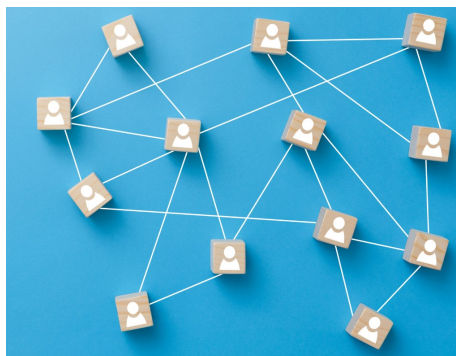
Funding Opportunities, Collaboration Focus of Zoom Session

A virtual NCRPC Community Connection event set for April 12 will give stakeholders in the region another opportunity to hear about the latest in grant funding opportunities.

Two in-person events took place in Beloit and Ellsworth earlier in March.

"We had great feedback from previous Community Connection event participants and we wanted to make that information available to others in the region who were not able to attend," said NCRPC Strategic Development Advisor Deb Ohlde.

In addition to discussing funding options, participants will learn how NCRPC can partner with local communities and organizations to help them achieve goals. The NCRPC provides assistance to a variety of



sectors including cities, counties, non-profits, rural water districts, schools, small businesses and entrepreneurs. Anyone is invited to participate.

The Zoom will begin at noon on April 12 and will last approximately 90 minutes. Go to www.ncrpc.org/communityconnection/ for more information or to register.

Results Positive for Home Ownership Pilot Program in Washington County

Financial incentives offered through the Washington County Home Ownership Pilot Program assisted in the purchase of 10 homes in the county from June to December 2022.

The program provided home buyers with down payment and closing cost assistance. The total value of the 10 homes purchased was just over \$1.9 million, with \$125,000 coming from the pilot program.

Grant funds for the program were provided through a contribution from the Patterson Family Foundation. Loan

funds were provided by the North Central Kansas Community Network, Co. (NCKCN)-Four Rivers Business Loan Pool. North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) administered the program. NCKCN is an affiliate of the NCRPC.

"We were grateful to have the generous support of the Patterson Family Foundation helping to make this program possible," said NCRPC Home Ownership Program Manager

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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

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



Rural Community Foundation Match Grants Announced

Community foundations located and serving in Kansas or Western Missouri counties with fewer than 50,000 residents have a limited time to apply for the Rural Community Foundation Match Program. The program is a partnership between the Patterson Family Foundation and the Kansas Association of Community Foundations.

Funds may be used as match funds for any 2023 match event so that the impact of local donors' gifts can be amplified. Awards of up to \$70,000 per qualifying community foundation applicant will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible organizations may apply between now and May 5, 2023. To learn more, visit pattersonfamilyfoundation.org/grant/community-foundations.

EVENTS & MORE

Executive Board Meetings
Thursday, March 30, 2023
Thursday, April 27, 2023
Thursday, May 25, 2023
No June Meeting

Find more on the web:
Events:

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

Peters Recognized for Service to Regional Homeland Security Councils as Fiscal Agent

NCRPC staff member Lisa Peters was presented the Outstanding Service Award for 2022 by the Kansas Emergency Management Association at the end of last year. Lisa is NCRPC Assistant Director and serves as Homeland Security Coordinator. The NCRPC is contracted to provide fiscal agent services to six of the Regional Homeland Security Councils in Kansas. This award recognizes exemplary service to the Homeland Security Program and the counties and communities it serves.

Homeland Security Program project investments address the planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to help build local and regional response capabilities and encourage citizen safety and preparedness. Cybersecurity has increasingly become a focus for projects and became a major point of emphasis in 2022 for Peters and the Regional Homeland Security Councils she helps to administer.

"Unfortunately, the threat, frequency, and cost of cyber attacks for county and local public safety organizations grows every year,"



Kansas Emergency Management Association President Kathleen Fabrizius (left) presented NCRPC staff member Lisa Peters (right) with the Outstanding Service Award for 2022. (Courtesy Photo)

Peters said. "A percentage of all of our projects are now earmarked to address cybersecurity issues. There was a learning curve as regional councils determined how best to approach the challenges, but projects are now underway with the goal of improving cybersecurity resiliency of the involved counties."

The State and Local Cybersecurity projects are funded by grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Free Virtual Training Courses Now Available

Topics Cover Remote Work, Rural Grocery Stores, Nonprofits

NCRPC is now hosting free, virtual training courses covering a wide range of topics. Courses available on the training website include a remote work series and a comprehensive rural grocery training series. In addition, some recorded nonprofit board development trainings that were offered in 2021 and 2022 are also archived on the site.

The training site is hosted by the NCRPC. These courses were made possible, in part, through a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration CARES



Act Recovery Assistance grant awarded to the NCRPC.

Learn more and check out what is available by visiting the site at training.ncrpc.org.

Reminder: Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) from SAM.gov Needed for Many Grants

Many State and Federal awards require entities to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned by the Federal System for Award Management website ([SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)).

"The State has been rolling out new funding opportunities that have a short application window. All applicants are required to have a UEI# at the time of application," said NCRPC Community Development Director Bri Beck. "If you think your organization will ever pursue State and/or Federal funding you should register for a UEI# as soon as possible. While the process to register for a UEI# is typically simple it can take a while to receive."

The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric ID. The Federal government transitioned from using the DUNS Number to the UEI in 2022. If you already have your UEI#, make sure you are also fully registered in SAM and, that once you are registered, you do not let your account go inactive. Registration at the official SAM website is free. Do not be confused by look-alike websites offering to register on your behalf.



Recent changes have been made to enhance system security and deter fraud. SAM.gov has partnered with Login.gov to implement multi-factor authentication for registered SAM.gov users. When users go to SAM.gov and log in, they will be asked to create a Login.gov account. During initial Login.gov registration, users will be asked to enter an email address. Be sure to use your existing SAM email address to create the account. Access to a working phone number (mobile or landline) is also needed to register as Login.gov will send a security code.

For more information, contact the NCRPC or visit our website at www.ncrpc.org/uei-sam-gov-registration-assistance.

NCRPC Awarded SMART Grant

The NCRPC was recently notified that an application to the SMART program has been funded. A total of 59 projects were selected for funding from 392 applications nationwide.

This award from the U.S. Department of Transportation funds a pilot program focused on drone use to inspect transportation assets with data being integrated in a prototype GIS-based platform.

"We are very excited about this award and the chance to grow GIS capacity and help our counties and cities better monitor assets in the region," said Deb Ohlde, Strategic Development Advisor at the NCRPC. "Although this first 18-month project is a pilot and has a limited number of participating counties, we see great opportunity to grow the project to our entire region in the future."

More details on the project are expected within the next month.

Home Ownership, *From page 1*

Keegan Bailey. "Strengthening rural housing is a key to success for our communities."

Survey results of home buyers who accessed the program indicate positive local impacts.

"Employment was listed as the greatest reason for moving at 87%," Bailey said. "We were also pleased to see a high percentage of young home buyers with 73% of home buyers under the age of 30."

Other notable outcomes include 93% of home buyers reported the program was a factor in their decision to purchase a home at this time, 67% bought their first home, and 67%

graduated from a high school in one of the counties in the NCRPC service area — including Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline and Washington.

Similar pilot programs have been completed in Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, and Saline counties and the City of Marysville. Future plans include the expansion of pilot home ownership programs to each of the remaining counties in the NCRPC 12-county service area, pending the



availability of funding. Results of these pilot programs will be used to develop a permanent regional relocation program. To learn more, visit www.ncrpc.org/services/homeownership.



North Central Regional Planning Commission

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New Clinic in Beloit Offers Health and Wellness Services

Loan Programs Assist Start-up Business

Starting a new medical clinic in rural Kansas was a project that owner Alan Curtis had thought about for some time. That dream became a reality with the opening of Astra Healthcare & Wellness, LLC located in downtown Beloit, Kansas, in January.

The clinic offers a comprehensive range of primary care services to patients including routine wellness exams, urgent care, and assisted medical weight loss. It also provides specialized services in aesthetic procedures including botulinum toxin injections, facials, and medical skin peels. A medical grade skincare line is also available.

Alan Curtis is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). He most recently worked as a Surgical Nurse Practitioner at Mitchell County Hospital. Prior to becoming licensed as



Astra Healthcare & Wellness, LLC, located at 116 E. Main Street, Beloit, Kansas, recently opened. (Courtesy Photo)

an APRN, Curtis worked for more than 15 years as an ICU nurse in larger cities including Lincoln, Nebraska;

Las Vegas, Nevada; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Denver, Colorado. Raised on a farm near Smith Center, Kansas, a desire to return to his rural roots are what led him to move to Beloit in 2019.

This start-up business project was made possible through assistance from the NCK Business Down Payment Assistance Loan Program, Mitchell County E-Community Loan Program, bank financing, and investment by the owner. As a result of the project, two full-time positions were created including the owner and another full-time licensed medical professional.

For more information about the NCRPC Business Finance program, contact Debra Peters at 785-738-2218 or visit www.ncrpc.org/services/business. To learn more about the business, visit www.astrahw.net.