



North Central Regional Planning Commission

Serving Kansans Since 1972

Our mission is to advance rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.



12 COUNTIES
83 CITIES



133,198
PEOPLE IN REGION
ACS 2023 5-Year Estimates



9,207
SQUARE MILES

2025 IMPACT REPORT

Organization Highlights

- Continued to build relationships with new public and private funding sources.
- Hosted the North Central Kansas Regional Excellence Initiative in September, in partnership with K-State and the Kansas Department of Commerce. The event brought together 42 attendees representing industry, higher education, economic development, community foundations, government agencies, and regional planning.
- Administered four active projects in the region with investment from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- Served as fiscal sponsor for the Kansas Housing Cooperative Loan Program, resulting in 44 homes developed and \$16.5M added to the local tax base through \$1.68M in state and foundation investment.
- Received 39 project intake form submissions from communities and individuals seeking assistance with project development.
- Sponsored the Rural Voices Youth Contest for high school seniors for the 20th year.

Director's Note

The North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) Board and Staff strongly believe that we achieve more when we work together. Regional collaboration drives success fueled by our passion for our rural Kansas lifestyle. Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with the highlights of the last year. Thank you for your continued partnership! We look forward to ongoing success in 2026 and beyond.

~ Deb Ohlde, Executive Director



Around the Region



Program Impacts



BUSINESS FINANCE

- Assisted 8 projects totaling \$2.3M with direct loans and/or in obtaining financing through loan packaging services. The projects are expected to retain 20 jobs and create 4 in the region.
- Continued to administer the Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). It has disbursed \$1.6M in loan capital to 23 businesses, leveraging \$4.3M in additional funding, with 84 jobs retained and 13 created.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Supported cities, counties, and private entities in applying for, securing, and managing public and private funding for local improvement projects. In 2025, more than \$11 million in grants and loans were awarded to support community development initiatives across the region. A total of 32 funding applications were submitted, representing all 12 counties in the region.
- Closed out 3 CDBG-CVR (COVID Resiliency Program) grants, representing nearly \$250,000 in CDBG investment to support businesses in those counties.



HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

- Served as fiscal Agent for 6 Regional Homeland Security Councils, supporting project planning, training, exercises and equipment investments across 102 Kansas counties.
- Managed 120 currently active projects statewide (22 projects in the North Central Region: Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, Ottawa, Republic, Saline, Smith; 98 in other regions across Kansas).



HOUSING

- Collaborated with stakeholders at all levels to address regional housing challenges. Key highlights include completion of one CDBG Housing Rehabilitation project and launch of another, provided a variety of inspection services for governmental entities and private property owners, and hosted training for 10 contractors in lead-safe work practices to help address the contractor shortage.
- Continued the NCRPC Housing Initiative in partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, supporting 250+ rehabs and 174 demolitions in 24 counties over three years (now in year four).
- Awarded funds for Demo to Dirt Program, which includes 11 counties in the region (currently underway).



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Administered the program in 41 Kansas counties. Weatherized 81 homes, (benefiting 185 residents), with over \$1.5M invested in energy efficiency and health and safety upgrades in homes.



NCKCN (NCRPC AFFILIATE)

- Kept rural households, businesses, and communities connected, providing Internet access to thousands across North Central Kansas, through a partnership with Cunningham Fiber.



A Tribute

We remember Kendra Ryser, our colleague and friend, who made a big impact on our organization and the many lives she touched. Joining our team in 2019 and serving as Weatherization Director for the past three years, Kendra exemplified kindness, professionalism, and dedication in her work with clients and colleagues. Her loss in June was deeply felt by all who knew her.

Thank you

Thanks to our members and the many volunteers who serve on our boards and committees. Our team looks forward to partnering with your community or organization in the coming year.