

K-State 105

Economic growth
for all 105 Kansas counties

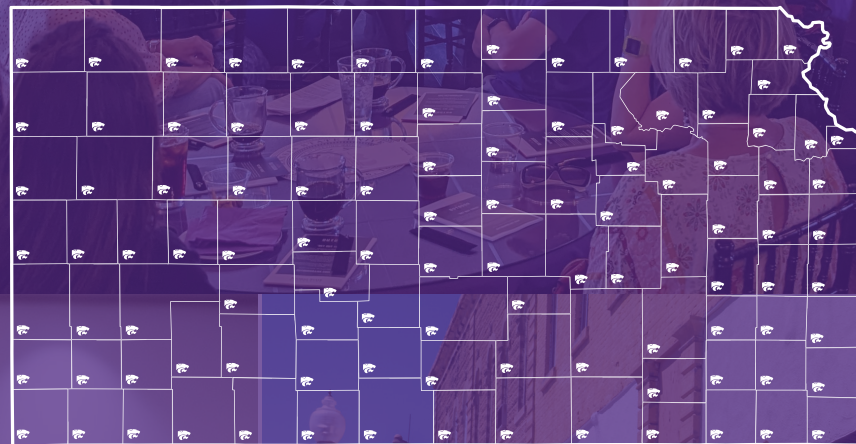
K-STATE 105 FISCAL YEAR 2024 REPORT

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

As the nation's first operational land-grant university, **Kansas State University has always been in every Kansas county** through our K-State Research and Extension network.

But as a next-generation land-grant university, **we're embracing innovative ways to serve, engage and connect** with the people who call the Sunflower State home.

We call it **K-State 105.**



About the cover: *K-State 105 partners selected Courtland in Republic County as the host site for the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference in June 2026.*
Photo credit: *Josey Hammer, 314 Graphic Design & Media*

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k-state.edu/105



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Across the Sunflower State, K-State 105 serves as Kansas State University's commitment to driving economic growth and community engagement across all 105 counties. This initiative is rooted in our land-grant mission and bridges university resources with the needs of Kansans — right where they live and work.

Our first year has been transformative. With a \$5 million investment from the state of Kansas, K-State 105 has cultivated a living network of partners and brought together K-State Research and Extension, state agencies, nonprofits, higher education institutions and local communities. Together, we've strengthened workforce development, supported small businesses and created pathways for economic opportunity and innovation.

These pages reflect the measurable outcomes and personal stories of the progress that define our work in the first year. From creating and retaining more than 408 jobs to fostering innovation through the creation and expansion of more than 415 businesses, the impact of K-State 105 extends to every corner of the state. Our partnerships are doing more than making a difference — they are setting a new standard for how higher education collaborates with Kansas communities to drive real results.

To our partners, stakeholders and the people of Kansas — thank you for believing in the power of collaboration and shared purpose. Together, we are not just shaping the future of Kansas; we are writing its next chapter.

Jessica Gnad
Director of K-State 105

THE K-STATE 105 TEAM



Jessica Gnad
Director



Jennifer Tidball
Communications director



Nidia López
Program coordinator



Greg Erickson
Data analyst

Several Kansas State University units and leaders help guide the work of K-State 105.

Office of the President

Marshall Stewart, *executive vice president for external engagement and chief of staff*
Grant Hill, *deputy chief of staff*

Office of Engagement

Tim Steffensmeier, *assistant vice president and director for engagement and outreach*

K-State Research and Extension

Gregg Hadley, *assistant vice president and director for extension*
Deborah Kohl, *state specialist and program leader coordinator for community vitality*

Technology Development Institute

Jeff Tucker, *executive director*

Division of Communications and Marketing

Office of Data, Assessment and Institutional Research

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A university model for statewide economic success

K-State 105 is building a statewide ecosystem – a network of partners who are committed to advancing the economic prosperity of Kansas. We're doing together what we can't do alone.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

47

K-STATE UNITS

are involved in K-State 105 work across the state

Several K-State 105 units serve as foundational partners of K-State 105:

K-State Research and Extension
Office of Engagement
Technology Development Institute

A HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

K-State 105 is forging connections and helping to create access to expertise in higher education institutions. Many higher education partners have been involved in K-State 105 projects.

18

HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

are involved in K-State 105 projects across Kansas

- 6**
KANSAS
UNIVERSITIES
- 5**
KANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- 2**
KANSAS
TECHNICAL COLLEGES
- 2**
OTHER KANSAS HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
- 3**
OUT-OF-STATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

How we are helping Kansas

K-State 105 partners are building on our collective strengths and capacities. We are dedicated to helping Kansans through work in the following areas.

1 Business and entrepreneurship support	2 Technical assistance and workforce development	3 Community engagement	4 Educational expertise and research
By creating connections and leveraging our networks and expertise, K-State 105 partners are helping establish or expand new businesses and supporting new entrepreneurial ideas.	K-State 105 partners provide technical assistance and workforce development resources for businesses, entrepreneurs, communities and municipalities.	K-State 105 partners engage with Kansans in their home communities to co-create solutions and address areas that affect economic prosperity.	K-State 105 makes the research, resources and expertise of higher education accessible to all Kansans. K-State 105 illustrates how higher education can be a catalyst for economic prosperity.

Turn to **page 8** to read more about K-State 105 work in these four areas. →

A PARTNERSHIP IN PROGRESS: BY THE NUMBERS

225+

PARTNERS

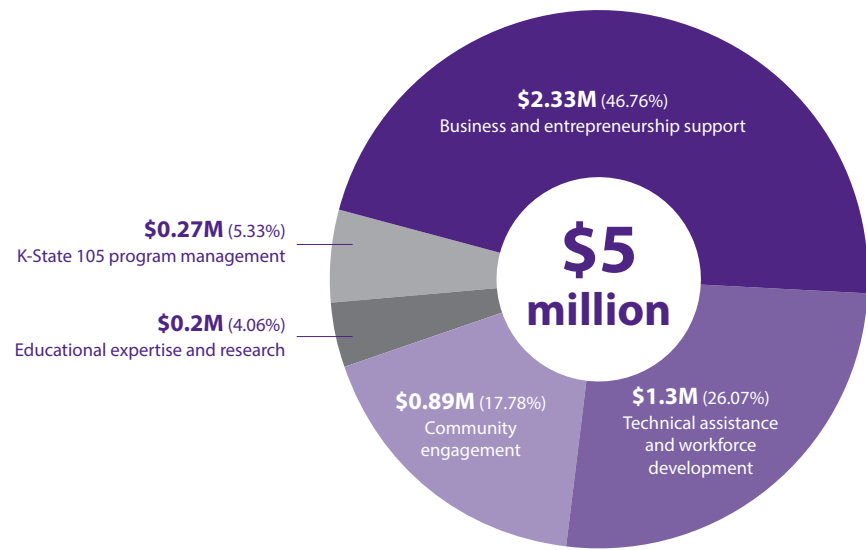
are involved in K-State 105 projects across the state

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERS



9 OUT OF 10 K-STATE 105 DOLLARS have been invested in Kansas communities

FISCAL YEAR 2024 FUNDING



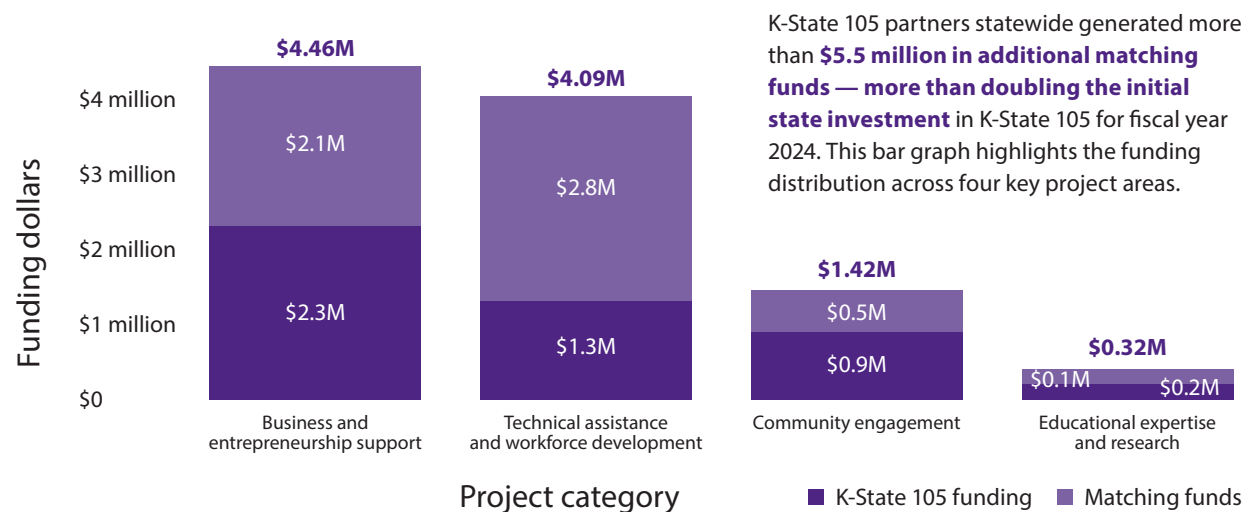
\$5 MILLION in fiscal year 2024 funding

\$5.5+ MILLION in additional matching funds

\$10.5 MILLION total invested in economic growth for Kansas communities in fiscal year 2024

MORE THAN 94% of K-State 105 funding has supported economic growth for communities in Kansas

MATCHING FUNDS FOR K-STATE 105 PROJECTS



K-State 105 partners statewide generated more than **\$5.5 million in additional matching funds — more than doubling the initial state investment** in K-State 105 for fiscal year 2024. This bar graph highlights the funding distribution across four key project areas.

Success in our first year

K-State 105 is a university model for statewide economic success. Our work is guided by a set of meaningful metrics that are consistent with factors known to facilitate economic growth.

Take a closer look at our fiscal year 2024 progress, which covers July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Through collaborative work with our partners, we achieved great success in a short amount of time.

1

Jobs created or retained

- 408+ TOTAL JOBS** created or retained because of K-State 105 funding
- 82+ JOBS** created because of K-State 105 funding
- 326+ JOBS** retained because of K-State 105 funding

2

Capital and equity investment attracted and leveraged, private and public

- \$5.5+ MILLION** in additional matching funds generated by K-State 105 partners and invested in Kansas communities
- \$5.7+ MILLION** in loans or equity provided by K-State 105 partners
- \$9.4+ MILLION** in estimated financial impact by K-State 105 partners

3

Businesses established or expanded

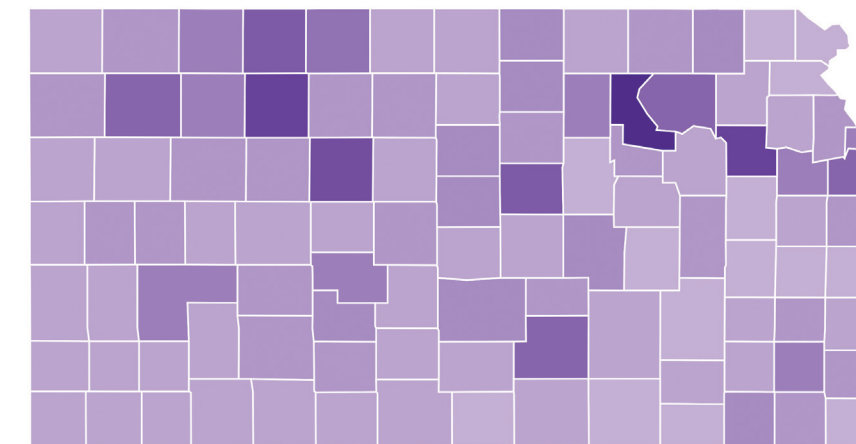
- 415+ TOTAL BUSINESSES** established or expanded because of K-State 105 funding
- 130+ BUSINESSES** established because of K-State 105 funding
- 285+ BUSINESSES** expanded because of K-State 105 funding

4

Businesses, entrepreneurs and communities/municipalities receiving funding or technical assistance

- 105 COUNTIES** have been involved in K-State 105 work
- 546 KANSAS EMPLOYEES** acquired new skills or received training because of K-State 105 funding
- 33 COMMUNITIES/MUNICIPALITIES** received technical assistance
- 39+ BUSINESSES ASSISTED** that are veteran-, women- or minority-owned
- 179 EVENTS** held in communities across Kansas
- 3,007 PEOPLE** attended events across Kansas

K-STATE 105 PROJECTS BY COUNTY



The work of K-State 105 has engaged with all 105 counties of Kansas. This map shows the amount of work in each county.

Fiscal year 2024 data is based on the surveys that were completed by K-State 105 partners.



LEARN MORE
Explore our interactive dashboard.
k-state.edu/105/projects

Business and entrepreneurship support

By creating connections and leveraging our networks and expertise, K-State 105 partners are helping establish or expand new businesses and supporting new entrepreneurial ideas.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

85
COUNTIES INVOLVED

in business and entrepreneurship support projects

35
COUNTIES

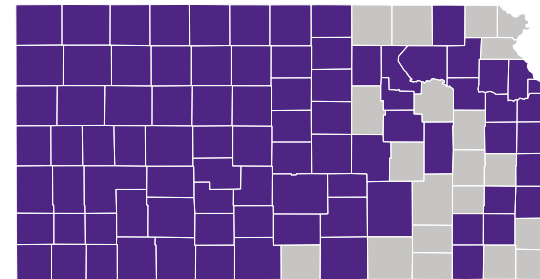
with entrepreneurs involved in NXTUS programs

13
PROJECTS INVOLVED

in business and entrepreneurship support

116
KANSAS BUSINESSES

involved in K-State Technology Development Institute small business consulting/advising



The total K-State 105 investment in this category is **\$2.33 million**.

K-State 105 partners statewide generated more than **\$2.1 million** in additional matching funds for business and entrepreneurship support.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

Entrepreneurship training, start-up support, economic development planning, small business consulting, financial products, loan and equity programs



LEARN MORE

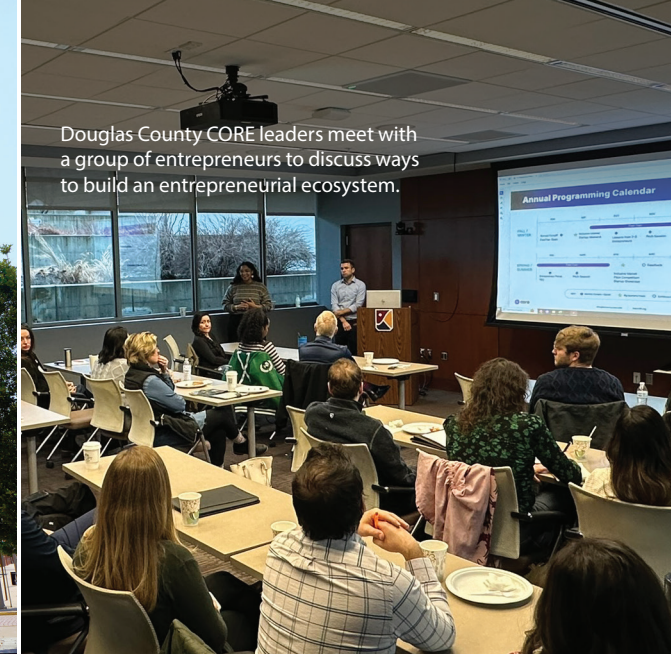
Explore our interactive dashboard.
k-state.edu/105/projects

KEY PROJECTS IN THIS AREA

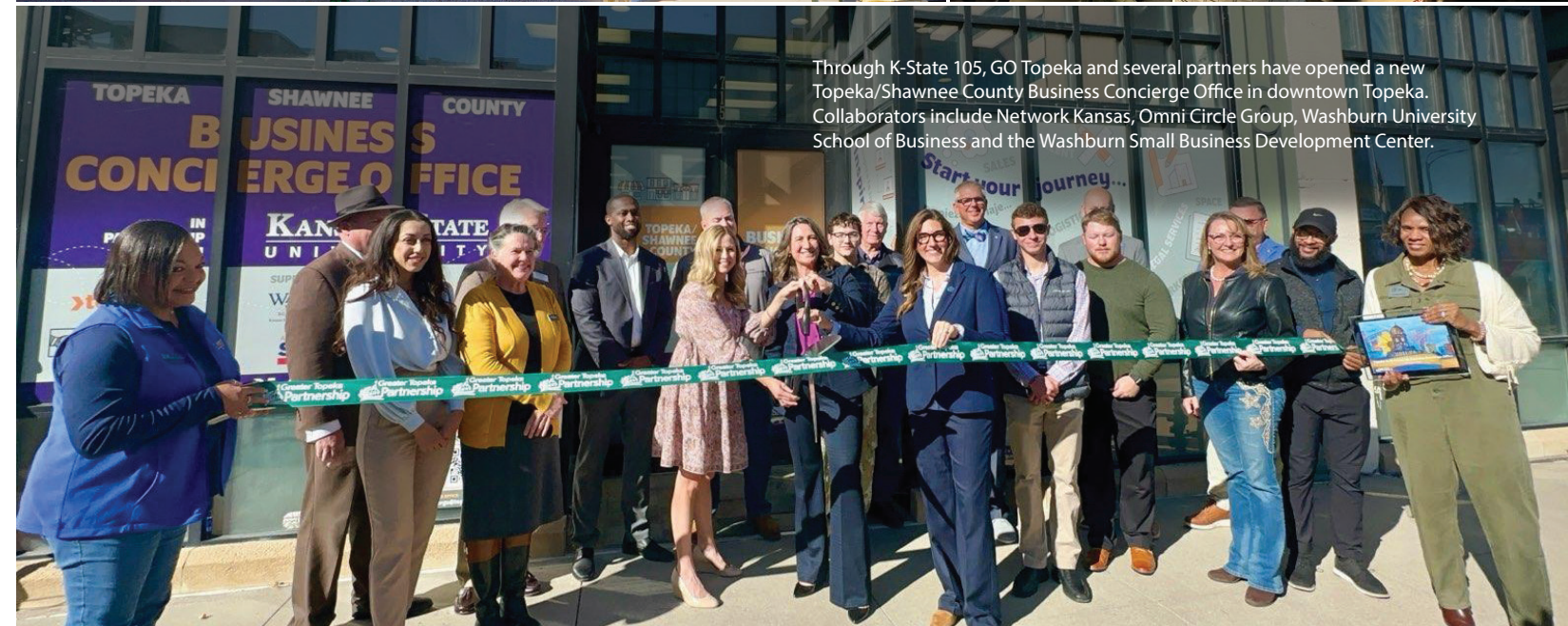
- K-State 105 Entrepreneurial Blueprint Initiative
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference
- Expanding small business development in western Kansas
- E-Navigator partnership with StartUp Hutch
- Entrepreneurial ecosystem expansion with Douglas County CORE
- GO Topeka and Plug and Play program collaboration
- Network Kansas partnership work
- K-State Technology Development Institute small business consulting/advising
- Topeka/Shawnee County Business Concierge Office
- Microfactory growth initiative and catalyzing economic development in northwest Kansas
- Northwest Kansas rural entrepreneurship development cohort
- Wildcat Consulting
- NXTUS partnership work



Partners selected Kingman in Kingman County as the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference location in June 2025.



Douglas County CORE leaders meet with a group of entrepreneurs to discuss ways to build an entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Through K-State 105, GO Topeka and several partners have opened a new Topeka/Shawnee County Business Concierge Office in downtown Topeka. Collaborators include Network Kansas, Omni Circle Group, Washburn University School of Business and the Washburn Small Business Development Center.



K-State 105 funding has helped support the NXTUS Enterprise Engagement Series and the Customer Traction Cohort.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

"K-State 105 helps growth-minded entrepreneurs — the superheroes driving economic vibrancy for our state — tap into NXTUS's unique programs that focus and accelerate their work building tomorrow's great companies. **The partnership between K-State 105 and NXTUS is broadening economic opportunity, driving innovation and growth, and helping scrappy Kansas job-creators serve and uplift their communities.** Nearly 40 counties into this work together, and we're not stopping until every corner of the state is covered!"



MARY BETH JARVIS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NXTUS

Technical assistance and workforce development

K-State 105 partners provide technical assistance and workforce development resources for businesses, entrepreneurs, communities and municipalities.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

35
COUNTIES INVOLVED

in technical assistance and workforce development projects

12
LOCATIONS SCANNED

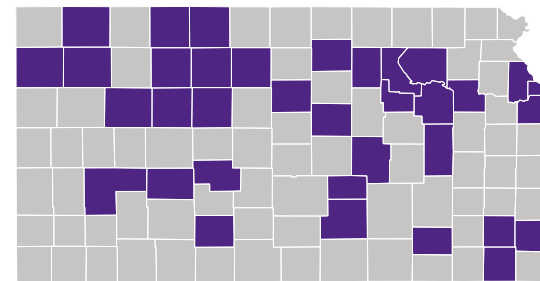
as part of the K-State Technology Development Institute Rural Redevelopment Scanning Initiative

10
PROJECTS INVOLVED

in technical assistance and workforce development

20
KANSAS BUSINESSES

involved in K-State Technology Development Institute innovation funding and technical assistance program



The total K-State 105 investment in this category is **\$1.3 million**.

K-State 105 partners statewide generated **\$2.8 million** in additional matching funds for technical assistance and workforce development.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

Prototype development, digital twin creation, licensing and registration, tech validation, workforce training, microcredential programs



LEARN MORE

Explore our interactive dashboard.
k-state.edu/105/projects

KEY PROJECTS IN THIS AREA

- Rural Redevelopment Scanning Initiative
- Innovation funding and technical assistance
- Northwest Kansas business, technical and housing assistance
- GO Topeka technical assistance and validation support
- Workforce development for careers in construction and design
- American Honey Institute: Workforce training and microcredential
- Workforce training for physician assistant students in women's health
- K-State Technology Development Institute product/technology development educational program series
- K-State Technology Development Institute student internship program
- Technology-Based Economic Development assistance



Kansas City area high school students attend a manufacturing career exploration workshop at the K-State Technology Development Institute.



Several partners are developing the American Honey Institute, which offers workforce training and microcredentials for beekeeping.



The K-State Technology Development Institute is creating digital twins of underutilized buildings across Kansas. This aids in developing plans and cost estimates to put the buildings back into use.



The K-State Technology Development Institute has created an innovation technical assistance program to help offset some of the early-stage cost for companies.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

"Vortex Coatings is a family-owned small business operating in Salina. Vortex operates within an international market space and faces multinational competitors. As a result, the resources required to remain competitive are challenging. Therefore, when the K-State Technology Development Institute and K-State 105 shared their capabilities, the Vortex team was thoroughly impressed. In a few months both TDI and K-State 105 have proven to be invaluable. **With their help Vortex has solved problems and developed products that would have taken years to do otherwise.**"



PETER BROWNING, GENERAL MANAGER, VORTEX COATINGS

Community engagement

K-State 105 partners engage with Kansans in their home communities to co-create solutions and address areas that affect economic prosperity.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

105
COUNTIES INVOLVED

in community facilitation work

12
PARTNERS INVOLVED

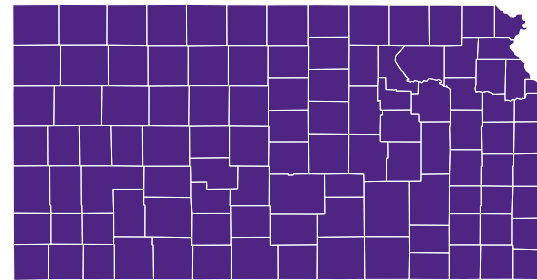
in the Rural Ag Health Community Health Worker project

9
PROJECTS INVOLVED

in community engagement

54
PRIVATE WELLS

in Kansas have been tested as part of the Know Your Water project



The total K-State 105 investment in this category is **\$887,500**.

K-State 105 partners statewide generated more than **\$536,600** in additional matching funds for community engagement.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

Community facilitation services, community assessments, community health collaborations, broadband connectivity work, water resources, K-State Research and Extension work

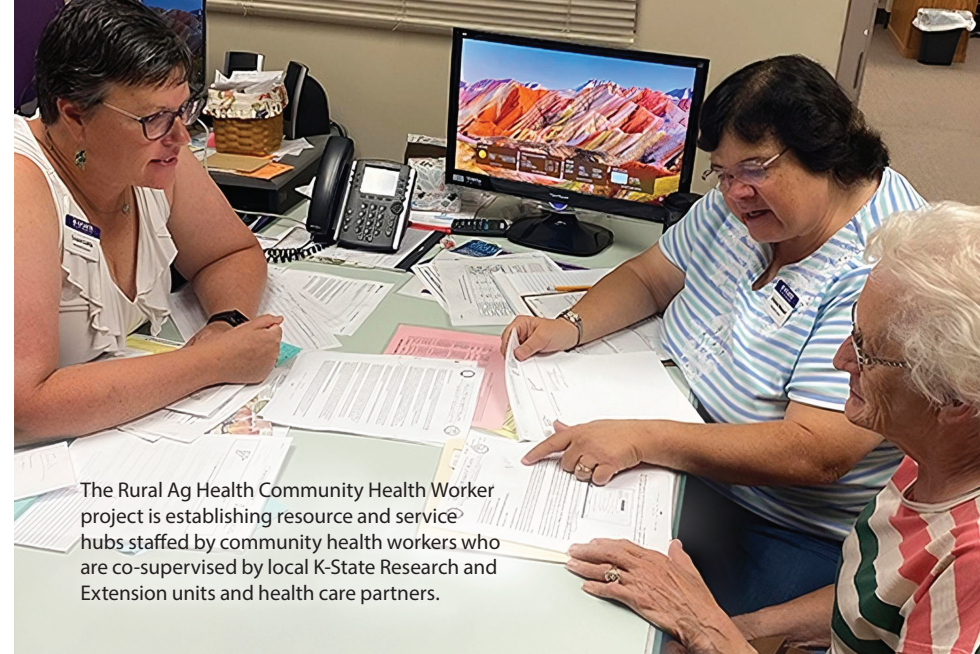


LEARN MORE

Explore our interactive dashboard.
k-state.edu/105/projects

KEY PROJECTS IN THIS AREA

- Rural Ag Health Community Health Worker project
- Digital Ambassador program
- Know Your Water project
- Community facilitators
- Asset mapping
- Food, agriculture and health care integration in northwest Kansas
- Food as Medicine and Community Health Program
- Digital health clinic and translational research hub
- K-State Research and Extension eCommunity strategic planning



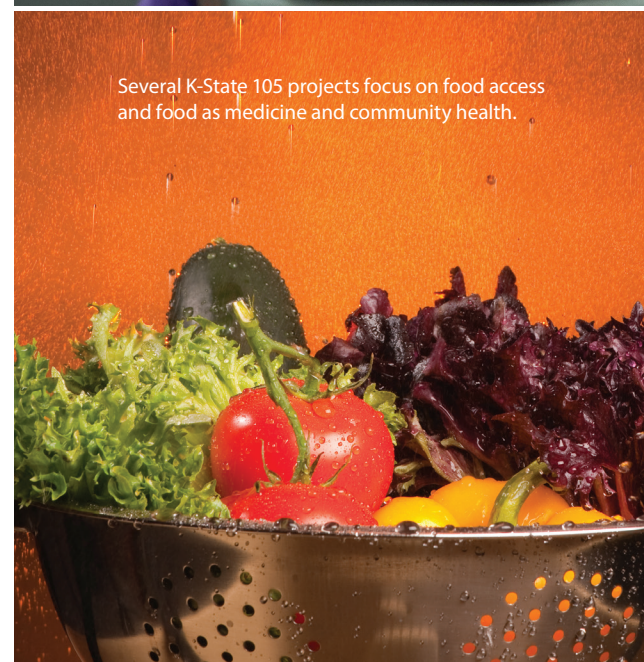
The Rural Ag Health Community Health Worker project is establishing resource and service hubs staffed by community health workers who are co-supervised by local K-State Research and Extension units and health care partners.



Through the Know Your Water project, community leaders are partnering with Fort Hays State University faculty and students to raise awareness of water resource resilience through private well testing.



The community facilitator project led by K-State Research and Extension is helping with community development needs across the state.



Several K-State 105 projects focus on food access and food as medicine and community health.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

"K-State 105 and its community facilitation team were invaluable as the state embarked on its first 'local consult' process for water issues in the state, engaging Kansans across the state in often tough conversations about water policy, funding and more. **The K-State team's expert and innovative facilitation skills were essential in helping participants feel empowered to share honest, meaningful feedback in water discussions.** We truly could not have done this effort without them!"



VIJAY RAMASAMY
SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR WATER
KANSAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Educational expertise and research

K-State 105 makes the research, resources and expertise of higher education accessible to all Kansans. K-State 105 illustrates how higher education can be a catalyst for economic prosperity.

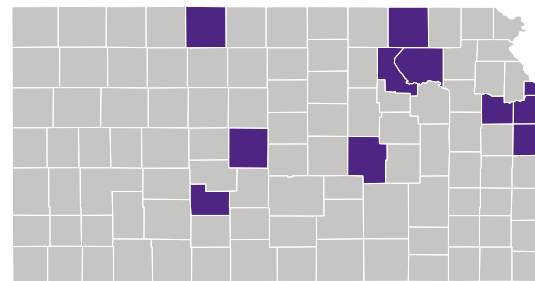
OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

11
COUNTIES INVOLVED

in educational expertise and research projects

6
KANSAS UNIVERSITIES

involved in K-State 105 projects



7
PROJECTS INVOLVED

in educational expertise and research

30,000+
DATA LAYERS

accessible through All Things Kansas

The total K-State 105 investment in this category is **\$202,800**.
K-State 105 partners statewide generated more than **\$119,000** in additional matching funds for educational expertise and research.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

Higher education network, enhancing housing infrastructure, child care access, educational workshops and training, research, expertise, providing essential knowledge and skills to Kansans



LEARN MORE

Explore our interactive dashboard.
k-state.edu/105/projects

KEY PROJECTS IN THIS AREA

- All Things Kansas
- The University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative work
- Housing prototypes and solutions for revitalizing communities
- Affordable housing solutions: Building a net-zero carbon microhome
- Improving environmental systems for early care and education facilities
- Strengthening nonprofit board capacity through leadership development
- Ecosystem Services Market Consortium



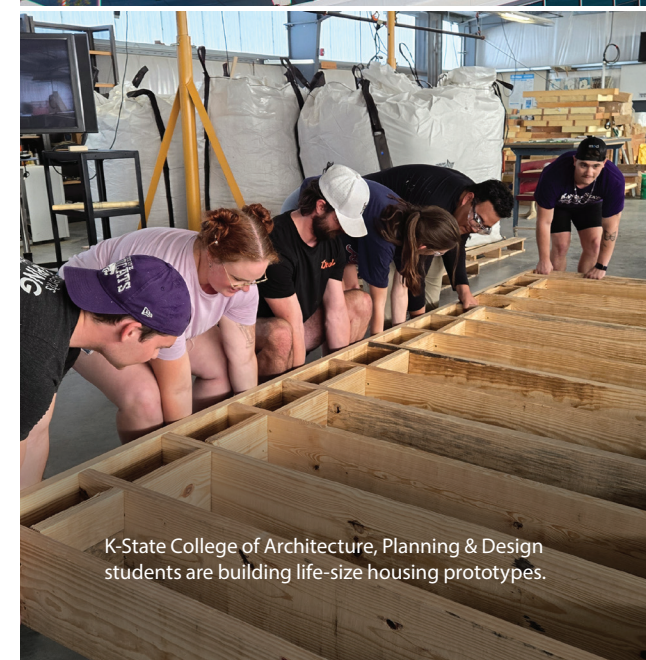
The K-State 105 team demonstrates All Things Kansas, which is an interactive tool for data-driven mapping and reports.



K-State students in the Net Positive Studio have worked on affordable and net-zero energy homes.



Kansas State University and The University of Kansas Health System are working together to support health care in rural Kansas communities.



K-State College of Architecture, Planning & Design students are building life-size housing prototypes.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

“Midway through the K-State 105 project, we’re already seeing a positive impact on Phillips County Health Systems and our community. **This partnership has fostered collaboration and communication with our local community members, while providing essential resources and data to guide our efforts.**



Although it’s still a work in progress, we’re setting priorities for the future of health care in Phillips County and we’re excited about the future we’re building together.”

TARA OVERMILLER, CEO, PHILLIPS COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEMS

ALL THINGS KANSAS

Your guide to understanding all 105 counties of the Sunflower State



All Things Kansas is a K-State 105 project and an interactive tool for mapping, reports and insights. Access more than 30,000 data layers and 120 data sources.

And the best part? It's all free. Because that's what a next-generation land-grant university does.

We call it K-State 105.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

K-State 105 | 1960 Kimball Ave., Suite 145 | Manhattan, Kansas 66502

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