



SPARK Grants Information

The application portal for both *Economic Development* and *Connectivity* (Broadband) grants being made by the SPARK Task Force (CARES Act) will open this **Thursday, August 13 at 4 PM at [kansascommerce.gov](https://www.kansascommerce.gov)**. This includes **Small Business Working Capital Grants** which are grants to small businesses and nonprofits that have incurred losses of more than 25% of revenues during COVID.

Other categories include: Local Food Systems Grants, PPE Procurement Grants, PPE Manufacturing Grants, Connectivity Emergency Response Grant, COVID-19 Bioscience Product Development Acceleration Grants, Connectivity Emergency Response Grants, Broadband Partnership Adoption Grants, IT, Cybersecurity & IT Project Management Certification Training Grants, and Kansas Tech College Advanced Manufacturing Grants.

Questions: backtobusiness@ks.gov

Important Dates

- August 13 at 4 p.m. – The portal opens at [kansascommerce.gov](https://www.kansascommerce.gov)
- August 19 at 12 p.m. – Applications will be accepted starting at this time

Small Business Working Capital Grants

Overview:

- Kansas businesses with fewer than 500 employees are eligible to apply
- Funds can be used to pay working capital expenses, such as payroll, rent, mortgage insurance, utilities, inventory and more
- Grants will be awarded on a rolling bases until funds are depleted

Eligibility Requirements:

- For-profit or not-for-profit business owned and/or operated in the state of Kansas
- Must have 500 or fewer employees
- Must have been in operation since July 1, 2019
- Must be in good standing with the Kansas Secretary of State
- Must be able to demonstrate a loss of at least 25% of gross revenues from January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020, as compared to July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
- Businesses must plan to use all awarded funds exclusively for working capital expenses and be able to articulate how the funds will be used
- Businesses must have received less than \$350,000 in combined COVID-19-related assistance through the CARES Act (Phase 1 county dollars, PPP loans, EIDL loans, CDBD-CD grants)

Award Amounts & Notification:

- Maximum grant amounts will vary by sector and are available on the kansascommerce.gov portal
- Businesses aren't guaranteed the full amount of the award requested
- Award determinations will be made on a number of factors including number of employees, extent of business loss, etc.
- Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds have been depleted
- A formal grant agreement will be required prior to any funds being awarded

Local Food Systems Grants

Overview:

- Securing Local Food Systems grants will support meat processors, food processors, producers, food banks, grocery, etc.
- Grant applications will be made for capacity-related improvement since March 1, 2020 through December 15, 2020
- Businesses may request grant awards of \$2,500 up to \$100,000, and award amounts will be determined by the applicant's size and scope of project.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Direct to consumer producer/grower/vendor who employs fewer than 20 FTEs per location. Both existing facilities and new facilities that will soon be in operation are eligible to apply
- Federally inspected and state inspected and "custom only" exempt slaughter and processing facilities who employ fewer than 200 full-time employees per location are eligible to apply. Both existing facilities and new facilities that will soon be in operation are eligible to apply
- Food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens
- Registered farmer's markets (or intend to register by December 1, 2020)
- Retail outlets such as grocery stores and local distribution channels
- Must be a for-profit or not-for-profit business owned and/or operated in the state of Kansas

PPE Procurement Grants

Overview:

- This program includes grants for businesses' COVID-19 responses, including:
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Implementation of workplace redesigns
 - Additional signage
 - New technology solutions for distance working
 - Other items to comply with COVID-19 public health guidelines on safely returning to work

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a for-profit or not-for-profit business owned and/or operated in the state of Kansas
- Must have 500 or fewer employees
- Must have been in operation since July 1, 2019
- Must be in good standing with the Kansas Secretary of State

Award Amounts:

- Based on company's total FTE
- \$100 per FTE with a maximum grant amount of \$10,000 per company
- A formal grant agreement will be required prior to any funds being awarded

PPE Manufacturing Grants

Overview:

- The purpose of PPE Manufacturing grants is to provide grant funding to manufacturers, non-profits, and other entities to reimburse certain costs to manufacture critically needed PPE

Eligibility Requirements:

- For-profit or not-for-profit business owned and/or operated in the state of Kansas and produce PPE at a Kansas facility
- Business must have 500 or fewer employees
- Applicant must be:
 - an existing manufacturer that has either retooled or is planning to retool its facility or otherwise modify its manufacturing operation to produce at least one type of PPE in these guidelines; or
 - an existing or new manufacturer with a new line established for producing at least one type of PPE identified in these guidelines; or
 - a non-profit corporation that has undertaken or will undertake activities to manufacture at least one type of PPE identified in these guidelines
- Must be in good standing with the Kansas Secretary of State

COVID-19 Bioscience Product Development Acceleration Grants

Overview:

- Will accelerate commercialization and go-to-market strategies, allowing these Kansas companies to quickly deploy novel technology by optimizing value and reducing risk through informed decision making
- Will improve COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation efforts while supporting innovative bioscience companies
- Private sector support in developing a pathway to product commercialization and accelerated market entry for approved projects

- Selection of for-profit, Kansas businesses developing therapeutic, diagnostic and medical counter measure technology directly applicable to COVID-19
- Provides eligible Kansas universities support to build research and diagnostic capacity through the investment in equipment and related facility upgrades

Eligibility Requirements:

- Private sector bioscience businesses
- Kansas Universities

Connectivity Emergency Response Grants

Overview:

- Created to address the increased need for internet connectivity in Kansas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- To improve connectivity to unserved and underserved areas of Kansas to address the needs of telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote business services
- Maximum grant award amount for any project will be \$10 million

Eligibility Requirements:

- Internet Service Providers, as well as Kansas cities, counties, non-profit organizations and non-governmental entities
- Must demonstrate need for connectivity in the proposed project area as well as their ability to carry out timely execution of the proposed project (including technical and financial capacity)
- Projects must serve geographies with a significant number of premises lacking access to terrestrial-based, minimally adequate internet connectivity (residential \geq 25/3Mbps)
- Matching funds required

Broadband Partnership Adoption Grants

Overview:

- Intended to provide support for low-income households by partnering with ISPs to assure connectivity for remote learning, remote work and accessing telehealth/telemedicine services to as many Kansans as possible
- Service providers may submit proposals for program support and specify how the funds will mitigate the adverse impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic

Eligible Requirements:

- Internet Service Providers with service offerings in Kansas capable of immediately determining low-income household eligibility for the program
- Offering should include access to at least 25/3 Mbps. Consideration given where 10/1 Mbps maximum is available
- Funding support available only through December 30, 2020

IT, Cybersecurity & IT Project Management Certification Training Grants

Overview:

- To mitigate job losses in Kansas as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, an education provider is sought to deliver a rapid-response program that will provide training, certificate testing and job placement assistance in the areas of IT, cybersecurity and IT project management

Eligibility Requirements:

- An organization or cohort of organizations that can deliver a training program that can meet the following criteria:
 - Training of 1,000 individuals in Kansas impacted by the public health emergency
 - Provide training for the following certifications and/or programs:
 - Entry-level IT certificate
 - Entry-level IT infrastructure certificate
 - Entry-level cybersecurity certificate
 - IT project management certificate
 - Provide certification exams
 - Provide job placement assistance demonstrating over 80% placement in IT related roles within six months of earning certificate

Kansas Tech College Advanced Manufacturing Grants

Overview:

- To support the needs of the advanced manufacturing industry in Kansas
- Focus on reskilling/upskilling individuals affected by COVID-19 to meet economic sector needs in high-demand, high-wage occupations

Eligibility Requirements:

- Kansas technical colleges can apply for a one-time grant of up to \$500,000 to purchase equipment to upgrade or expand instructional offerings related to IT and advanced manufacturing/industry 4.0