

**First Friday
Lessons Learned - Housing
November 3, 2023**

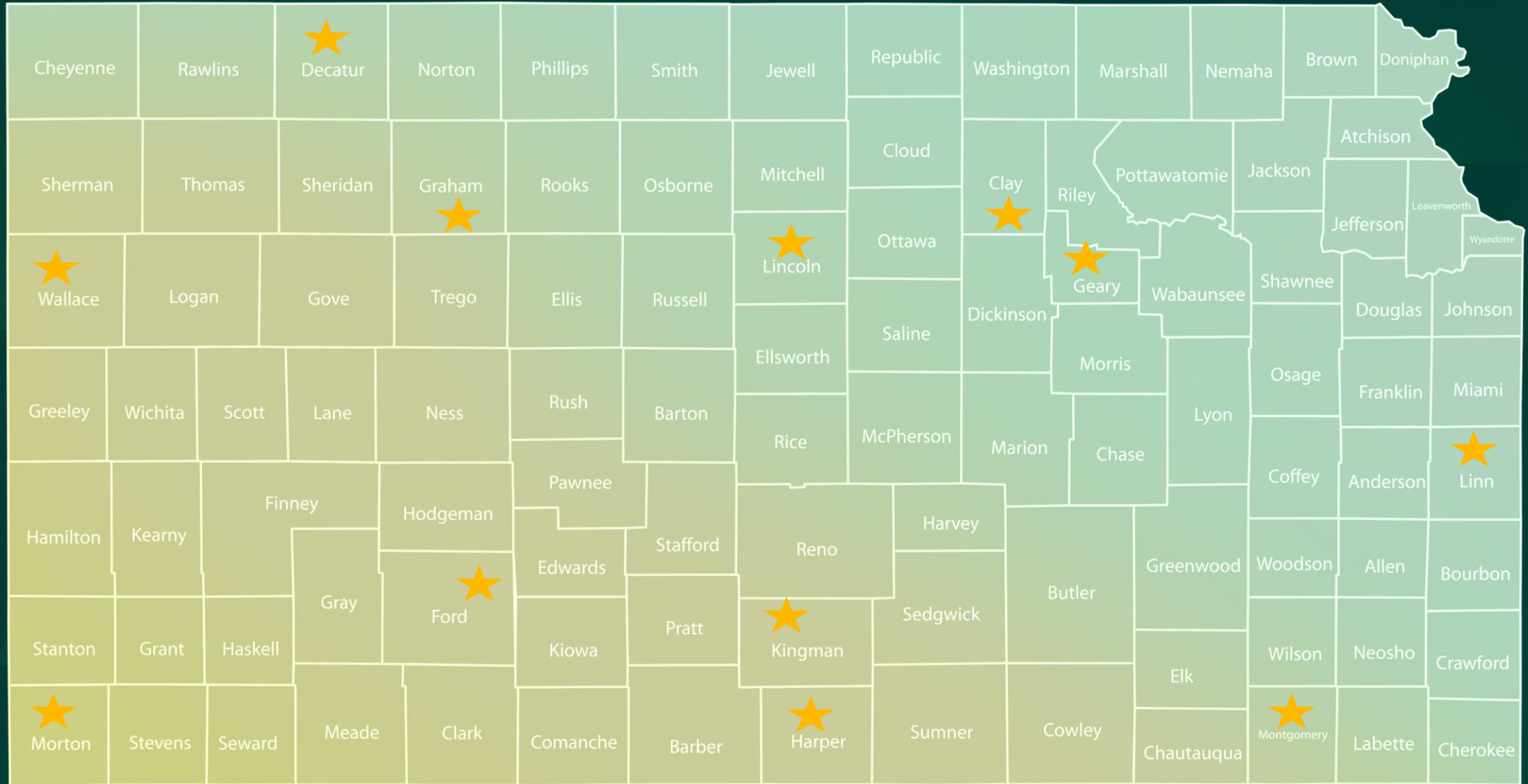
OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY



Moderators

Trisha Purdon & Kerri Falletti

#RuralByChoice Champions



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Cheryl Adelhardt
Cities of
Harper & Anthony



Darcy Wilson
Linn County



Lissa Sexson
Wallace County

Harper County Housing- Cheryl Adelhardt



Project Overview and previous work:

- The cities of Anthony, Attica, Harper, and Harper County have joined forces to work on multiple project efforts in Harper County.
- Priority was to complete a Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) for each community.
- Strategy focused on providing a united effort to set priorities and realistic goals.

What partners did you involve in the project to address housing?

- Large employers
- Harper & Anthony school districts
- County & City Governments
- Financial institutions
- Community service groups

How was housing determined as a priority issue?

The statistics provided a clear picture – from community surveys, town hall meetings, and business surveys. Economic development is dependent on quality, affordable housing to hire, retain, and grow.

Harper County Housing- Cheryl Adelhardt



Unexpected surprises through the process?

The reality of the statistics helped educate not only the committee, but also the community. That educational process promoted the advantage of collaboration. Each community had the same basic needs, but then identified their unique strengths.

What outcomes have you developed to this point of the Champion project?

- Mini-grant incentives
- Possibility of Land banks
- Researching a Community housing specialist position
- Housing Assessment Tool Completed

Linn County Housing- Darcy Wilson



Project Overview and previous work:

In an effort to increase the quality of affordable housing stock in Linn County, we have implemented:

- Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP)
- Completed our Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) as part of the State's updated process.
- These programs will also promote improving residential & commercial properties as well.

What partners did you involve in the project to address housing?

- Our Housing Committee
- The Community
- Major Business's within the County

How was housing determined as a priority issue?

- Completing the Housing Assessment Tool. Through that process and with its results we now have a good foundation on where to start and what to focus on first.

Linn County Housing- Darcy Wilson

Did you uncover any unexpected surprises through the process?

Yes, the number of dilapidated homes in the county. It may appear there are vacant homes, but it is because they are unlivable. Revitalization is mandatory for parts of Linn County to survive.



What outcomes have you developed to this point of the Champion project?

- Neighborhood Revitalization Program
- Completing the HAT has given us a great foundation.
- With this information we will be focusing on applying for the 3rd round of the MIH.
- Creation of new Housing Incentive Programs: Empty Nester, Long Term Vacancy, Paint Linn County

Wallace County Community Development-Lissa Sexson



Project Overview and previous work:

Establish and explore community development and the opportunities that can come from that office. The Rural Champion will evaluate what structure community development should take in Wallace County, and avenues for long-term funding, but also pressing issues such as increasing available housing and diversifying and growing our economic base.

What partners did you involve in the project to address housing?

- County Commissioners
- Local Housing Advisory Committee (Reps from City, Schools, Biz)
- Local Investor/Developer

How was housing determined as a priority issue?

- Wallace County = 1,500ppl. Housing is a limit to growth, or even sustaining current population
- Housing is a topic in every community conversation, whether at the school, with employers, childcare, recruitment, etc.

Wallace County Community Development-Lissa Sexson



Did you uncover any unexpected surprises through the process?

- Who owns vacant homes in Wallace County?
- Developing Public/Private relationships -- learning/educating how Public Funds might incentivize/assist Private Projects.
- You can have all the ideas/ambition, but in the end, you must have someone or some entity that will step forward and invest.

What outcomes have you developed to this point of the Champion project?

Four Housing Incentive Programs:

- Demolition Assistance
- Empty Nester/Downsizing
- Long Term Vacancy
- Paint Wallace County

Funding Partners:

- Dane G. Hansen Foundation
- County Community Foundation
- Wallace County Commissioners

Business Programs:

- Store Front & Signage Incentive
- Workforce Recruitment Incentive

Funding Partners:

- Dane G. Hansen Foundation
- County Community Foundation
- Office of Rural Prosperity
- NWKS Innovation Center

Panel Discussion

How has addressing adequate, affordable housing positively impacted your work?

How would more affordable housing benefit communities in rural areas?

What were the primary **challenges** you faced with this project?

What is the first step you would recommend to a community wanting to start addressing housing?

What other best practices would you share with other rural communities?

#RuralByChoice Champions



QUESTIONS?

Resources Shared

Housing 11-3-2023

Housing Assessment Tool <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/housing/hat/>
Contact: Liz Heron, Kansas Dept of Commerce, elizabeth.heron@ks.gov

Housing Developer Database: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/housing-resources-developer-database/>

Kansas Housing Resource Corporation
2021 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment

<https://kshousingcorp.org/kansas-statewide-housing-needs-assessment-2021/>

First Friday e-Call Archive: <https://ksre-learn.com/entrepreneurship>
Search for "Housing" Many great lessons from communities like you.

Announcements:

- Juan Cancino, NetWork Kansas:
NetWork Kansas and Verizon are bringing something special to all small business owners. Verizon Small Business Digital Ready is a free resource for learning basic business skills, the latest digital technology and more. This link will take them to the free registration page. Furthermore, Verizon in partnership with LISC has allocated \$1M in grant funding to small businesses all over the U.S. through 2023 (grants are up to 10k). Applications open on October 11, 2023, and close on December 20, 2023.
- **Trail Talk Tuesdays.** Session 2 of 6: Tuesday, November 14, from noon-1 pm. The Registration link is in the chat. This is a series of six webinars on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and will feature a panel of experts taking you through all the aspects of building a trail. On Tuesday, we'll be talking about "Let's Get Started!" To register: <https://ksre-learn.com/trail-talk>
- **K-State Research and Extension Grant workshops** continue this fall. In December, we'll host an evening session with the next day session in February 2024. To Register: <https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics>

For more information contact: KSRECV@ksu.edu