What can we do for you?

» Provide a history of projects, contacts, and networking. This information is good for local agents to report local community development/improvement statistics, projects, and where you can get involved and begin marketing your programming

» Offer ideas to engage your Community Development PDCs.

What do we do for communities?

We provide support – local programs are grassroots; self-starters, and maintainers. Our program supports local efforts by providing technical support, resource education, and opportunities through our partners: K-State Research and Extension, the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas Masons, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

Success Story

After Belleville completed the First Impressions Program, they recognized a need for a group to lead the community forward. Community PRIDE formed for that purpose and just in time to solve a serious issue: with the departure of the Chamber and Mainstreet Director, the annual Ag Fest was going to be dropped. With just a little over three weeks to make it happen, the PRIDE committee planned a successful and well-attended event.

— John Forshee, River Valley District Director

Kansas PRIDE's Impact

In 2016-2017, 79 communities:

» Were involved in 761 projects at the local level
» Created 224 local collaborative partnerships
» Reported that 269 projects engaged youth
» Donated 57,895 hours of volunteerism. This conservatively calculates to a dollar value of more than $1,274,848
» Raised more than $773,862 for reinvestments in their communities

2017 Week of PRIDE Numbers are:

» 103 volunteers
» 760 hours spent on projects
» $7498.55 raised
» 179 youth involved
» 94 committee members involved
» 2 4-H groups

Kansas PRIDE Program

Master Community Facilitator Training Coming in 2018…

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Coming in 2018, K-State Research and Extension will roll out a Master Community Facilitator Curriculum and training targeted to community teams of volunteers and designed to be led by a K-State Research and Extension local unit agent. The concept of the flipped classroom will be used for the training in that participants learn at home and then come together to practice their newly acquired skills before going out into the “real world.”
Kansas PRIDE Program

Vibrant Communities with a Positive Future

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Why you should be interested in Community Vitality...

» Successfully organize and implement projects in your community.

» Get training and assistance for improvement projects, leadership, entrepreneurship, customer service, facilitation, and volunteer organizations.

» Access to community assessments, such as the First Impressions Program, to help identify goals for community volunteers, such as local Kansas PRIDE program groups.

» Support from regional, state, and national resources.

» Quantifiable measurements of successes.

» Evaluations and assistance with on-site strategic planning by community development professionals.

» Recognition of achievements of community improvement efforts.

The map below details some of the community vitality work by agents and community vitality specialists across the state during 2017. The key outlines specific programs and projects.
Community Capacity Building

K-State Research and Extension delivers technical assistance and evidence-based programs to assist citizens wanting to help their communities survive and prosper.

Entrepreneurship

The programs provide resources for economic growth and assist youth/young adults to develop skills to successfully start and operate businesses that maintain community vitality and economic growth.

Shawnee County Research and Extension offered the Llamas to Lodging workshop. Participants learned about resources to start or grow an agricultural-based business. Of the 37 participants, 20 indicated they were more likely to start or grow a new agricultural business; 22 said their knowledge of starting a business improved; and 23 agreed that their network of support, resources, and mentors increased.

Riley County Research and Extension partnered with the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and Network Kansas to offer the area’s first Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Representing three high schools, as well as home-schooled youth, 14 youth participated. One winner expanded her business and earned a new client because of the competition. A Manhattan High School teacher has incorporated the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge as part of her class curriculum.

First Impressions

The First Impressions program shows a community the good things happening in town and opportunities for improvement as seen through the eyes of first-time visitors. This insight brings the community together to focus on improvement projects and highlights popular events and amenities.

Belleville and Clay Center in the River Valley District participated in the First Impressions Program.

Belleville identified four major areas of focus to address. Committees were developed to work on beautification, health and wellness, signage, and a web presence. Community members also organized a Kansas PRIDE community group to provide leadership in these areas.

Clay Center did a downtown assessment with Kansas State University. The community formed Clay Center Action Now (C-CAN) to move forward with some of the ideas. With extension’s involvement, First Impressions was completed to provide more than just a downtown perspective. Signage and a web presence were indicated as priorities. C-CAN is now in the early stages of implementation.

The Gold Standard of Customer Relations

This program teaches business owners to deliver exceptional customer service. Participants learn to treat their customers and employees like they would like to be treated.

Delivering exceptional customer service takes more than the basics. This program teaches customer relation skills to business owners and employees, which results in the building of positive relationships between the business and its current and potential customers.
Leadership Training and Organization

K-State Research and Extension assists in leadership organization and helps people create a vision across traditional geographical, sociological, and political boundaries.

Board Leadership Series
You are serving on a board … now what?

Vibrant communities need community boards with members who have the tools and knowledge to run their respective boards effectively.

What will you learn?

» Roles and responsibilities of board members
» Understanding fellow board members and conflict resolution
» Fundraising and fiscal responsibilities
» Legal and ethical issues and strategic planning.

What is the impact?

» Before the training, 24 percent of the participants did not feel prepared to serve as an effective board member. After the training, 98 percent felt prepared to serve as an effective board member
» Before the training one fourth of participants did not think they could help their organization move forward with a strategic planning process. Following the training, 100 percent agreed they could help move the process forward!

Grant Writing Workshop
Partnering with Funders to Achieve Community Goals

“If we work toward our mission, maintain a focus of which we are deeply passionate, and do what we do best, we do indeed set ourselves in the best possible position to have resources flow our way. In today’s time, that means reaching for external funding.” – Former KSRE Associate Director Dr. Daryl Buchholz

Our goal is to help communities get the tools and resources they need to create vibrant, sustainable communities.

What will you learn?

» Sources of data for community needs
» Elements of a great grant proposal
» Where to find grants

What is the outcome?

» 95% found increased confidence in writing a grant
» 97% discovered new sources of data
» 67% developed new search methods to finding grants
» 97% would recommend to others

Success Story

In a six-month follow-up participants reported using strategic planning; preparing better agendas; running more effective meetings; being more tolerant of different age groups and their work styles; improved listening and observation skills before making decisions; increased visibility of Cooperative Extension; and stronger partnerships with community partners.

— Sheryl Carson, Thomas County Extension Agent
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