



Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

Spring 2008

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What Makes a PRIDE Community More Competitive for Grant Funding?

In mid 2007, I sent an e-mail to PRIDE communities asking them to let me know if they were applying for any of the grant notices sent out or posted through PRIDE e-mails, the Web site, or the newsletter. While this was an informal way of tracking grant activity, the results surprised me. I learned of 24 grant awards to PRIDE communities in the previous 12 months from external award sources, in addition to the 29 awards through Kansas PRIDE Inc.

Although some of these communities received more than one award, this is still an incredible number of communities that were successful in receiving grants or cash awards. I believe that there are several reasons PRIDE communities are more competitive for grant funding than other communities.

First, when a community PRIDE group organizes, it should represent the entire community. This means that PRIDE efforts involve the schools, business owners, city government, service agencies, and the ministerial alliance representatives. Thus, *PRIDE is a powerful representation of community interests and resources.*

Second, when these individuals and organizations come together, their community improvement efforts are based on the common good. The identified project efforts are based on some method of public idea gathering and priority setting; they are a reflection of the priorities of the community, not just individual or organizational priorities. *PRIDE projects are based on the common good.*

Award-Winning PRIDE Communities

Congratulations to the following PRIDE communities that recently garnered awards.

Onaga, Stockton, and Wilson received Community Development Block Grants through the Kansas Department of Commerce to improve their community water systems.

Florence and Wilson earned Small Community Improvement Program (SCIP) funds through the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Melvorn and Grinnell received funds from the Sunflower Foundation grant projects for trail creation.

Glasco and Wilson selected for the top 100 Make It Your Own projects nationally through the Case Foundation. More information on those projects can be found at <http://miyo.casefoundation.org/>

Third, in established PRIDE communities, the PRIDE team is the “go-to” group. Knowing that a group is established and has a reputation of follow-through makes them an attractive investment for a funding agency. *PRIDE communities have developed a reputation for getting things done and have a strong track record of success.*

Fourth, because of established networks and experience with projects, PRIDE volunteers know who to call – and are not afraid to make that call! Projects from a local PRIDE committee nearly always

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involve a large group of volunteers and donors who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. This is important both for ensuring the completion of the projects, but also because of the broad ownership and care for the result of the project. *PRIDE groups know how to mobilize people and resources.*

Fifth, when a supporting entity helps the community with resources for improvement, PRIDE groups don't hesitate to show their gratitude and share their complements with



Melvorn's trail building event.

others! As a rule, funding entities don't mind being complimented or having good things said about them. PRIDE groups are willing to tell their story any way they can. *PRIDE communities are not bashful about sharing their appreciation.*

I am sure that there are other reasons PRIDE communities are an excellent investment for sponsors and funding entities, but overall, unselfish people working the PRIDE community improvement process is a recipe for success!

Dan Kahl, Extension PRIDE Coordinator

Florence and Wilson Receive Awards Through Small Community Improvement Program Fund

Six months after unveiling the new Small Communities Improvement Program (SCIP), the Kansas Department of Commerce announced six communities as the program's first grant recipients. Two of the grant recipients, Florence and Wilson, are Kansas PRIDE communities.

The program provides funds of up to \$125,000 per applicant for projects that improve the quality of life in small communities with populations of 5,000 or fewer.

The Kansas Department of Commerce will be assisting Florence in its efforts to revitalize its Veterans Park. The community and its PRIDE committee will be providing labor and equipment worth \$56,000.

"This is a truly exciting day for the department, these six deserving communities and all of rural Kansas," said Secretary of Commerce David Kerr. "The Small Communities Improvement Program was created especially for our smallest communities, those communities that sometimes struggle to secure other funding sources. This is just another tool we can use to encourage rural community development in Kansas."

SCIP allows communities to apply for funds for projects and determine which parts of the

project they can complete on their own. The community acts as the general contractor, organizing local labor and equipment and coordinating work done by a subcontractor. The SCIP provides direction, technical assistance, guidance, and support to make it happen. Self-help and volunteerism must produce savings of at least 40 percent of the project's market-place price.

The Wilson community will be offering volunteer labor, materials and land acquisition in the amount of \$118,000 for the modernization of a new park.

"We are excited to build a new city park that will convert a blighted part of town into a place for our children to play," said Wilson PRIDE President David Criswell. "The new park will give us inspiration to continue working together to make our community more vibrant."

For more information about the Small Community Improvement Program, contact Joe Monaco, Public Information Officer with the Kansas Department of Commerce, at (785) 296-3760 or jmonaco@kansascommerce.com.

J. R. Robl — Department of Commerce



The Wilson community breaks ground on March 7 for a new city park.



Florence's PRIDE committee gathers for the post-award meeting on February 13.

Our Community ... A More Colorful Place

The K-State Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources and PRIDE are cooperating in a effort to bring color to Kansas communities. The *Our Community ... A More Colorful Place* program helps communities develop a sense of pride through planting flowers. A colorful community is a more appealing place to visit, work, shop, and live. Our goal: *More people ... Planting more flowers ... In more places!*

Think about your community in December. Much anticipation and energy is directed to decorating with holiday lights. It becomes a source of pride and enjoyment, and people are drawn to look at the bright displays. City governments, businesses, and homeowners all participate in this annual ritual. Even though the decorations only stay up for a month or so, a good deal of time, money, and resources are devoted to making our community festive.

What about the rest of the year?

Displays of annual flowers help keep our communities beautiful in the spring, summer, and fall. Bright flower displays in public spaces, storefronts, and front yards improve a community's appearance and quality of life. Planting flowers creates local pride and is a way for everyone to take part in positive community development.

Resources for public spaces

A coordinated display of flowers in a community's public areas can make a community a real destination. Take advantage of the spaces by the city hall, public parks, the library, and main street by planting eye-catching displays. Soon the city will be known for its beautiful flowers, giving it a favorable reputation and the potential to increase its economic revenue. The flowers become a source of community pride and increase the quality of life.



Lucas residents enjoying an attractive community green space.

There are a variety of ways to begin making your community a more colorful place. Bring up the idea at city meetings and discuss the program with local government officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and civic groups. Call on community volunteers to pitch in for a "Planting Day," and get neighborhood and children's groups involved. This is just the sort of community betterment project with which PRIDE helps local governments and volunteers.

When the program is promoted as a community-wide project, it may be possible to get help from local nurseries or gardening groups. Extra business or publicity for them gives more incentive to get involved. A number of Kansas towns have demonstrated that when a city starts planting flowers in public spaces, there is quickly a ballooning affect — soon businesses and homeowners

follow suit! Try to partner with businesses to put flowers by their storefronts — if the plants are coordinated it will result in a stunning display of color.

You will have to budget some resources for watering and care of the flowers, so be sure to have a game plan before the plants go in the ground. The *Prairie Star* list will provide names of flowers that have proven their ability in the K-State Research trials to have great vigor and spectacular bloom in Kansas. *Prairie Star Flowers* (www.prairiestarflowers.com) are included on a list of K-State recommended flower varieties that are outstanding performers in Kansas soils and climate.

Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office, which can provide information on the planting and care of your flowers.



Flower planting make public spaces more attractive.

Resources for businesses

One way for businesses to gain popularity in the community is by planting beautiful flower

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displays. People are more apt to linger and have a positive impression when they are surrounded by color. When the whole community gets involved in planting flowers, your town becomes known for it – and that means more traffic for your business!

It's easy to start small. Container gardens are a great way to ease into flower displays and they give you opportunities to experiment with combining plant colors and textures. Even small flower beds can have a huge impact when they're planted with K-State recommended Prairie Star flowers. These plants have been selected on their ability to keep blooming when faced with Kansas weather and lazy gardener care.

Are you located in a high density or "Main Street" area? Why not band together with other businesses and pre-order flowers from a grower? This makes it easy to coordinate colors for a more impressive effect and ensures that your plant choices are available.

Talk with city offices about their participation. Soon homeowners will follow suit and begin decorating their front yards with flowers. Displays can also vary with the seasons. Popular in the fall, pumpkins and mums add some great late-season color. Evergreens paired creatively with colorful branches and decorations make a beautiful winter display. Planting flowers is highly contagious, and making your community a more colorful place will benefit everyone.

PRIDE Day Conference 2008

Make plans now for your PRIDE members to attend the PRIDE Day Conference and recognition luncheon. The conference will be at the Sedgwick County Extension Office, 7001 W 21st Street N. in Wichita on Saturday, October 11, 2008. The day will be filled with learning, sharing, and celebration. Registration information will be in the mail and on the Web site by the end of July.

Resources for homeowners

We decorate our front yards with lights for the December holidays, why not with flowers for spring, summer, and fall?



Flowers make a park bench an attractive resting spot in Greeley.

Our front yards – what our neighbors and the community see as they walk down our sidewalks or drive down our streets – are public spaces. The *Our Community ... A More Colorful Place* program recognizes that front yards of homeowners play a big role in the overall appearance of a community. Individuals can make a difference toward making their town a better place by planting colorful annual flower displays.

Wondering how to start?

For planting suggestions, visit the Prairie Star Web site to see a list of flowers that are proven to perform well and show the most color in Kansas conditions under negligent gardener care. While big displays are great, many homeowners opt to start small. Experiment! Maybe beautiful container gardens will add some pizzazz to your doorstep, or a small display of annuals by the mailbox can be the beginning of flower beds to come. Think about color spots; giant flower beds are not necessary!

The more people you can get involved, the more likely the success of your program. Don't hesitate to talk with city government and businesses about the *Our Community ... A More Colorful Place* idea. Organizations ranging from Master Gardeners to Girl Scouts have been involved in community flower-planting efforts throughout the state.

Alan Stevens - K-State Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

I make progress by having people around who are smarter than I am – and listening to them. And I assume that everyone is smarter about something than I am

~ Henry J. Kaiser

Community Resource Act (CRA) Grant Applications are Due by October 15, 2008

The Community Resource Act Program is designed to help organizations develop education programs for their community.

UFM is the model that is used by many communities to develop their programs. UFM Community Learning Center was started in 1968 in Manhattan by a group of K-State students and faculty. Based on the philosophy that everyone can learn and everyone can teach, UFM provides opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development.

This program provides state mini-grants and technical support for a unique approach to community development and joint learning. The program is designed to meet the educational, recreational, social, and cultural needs of a community.

Eligible organizations are local nonprofit organizations, institutions, service agencies, or groups

primarily concerned with the general welfare of the community that are organized to establish and operate community-resource programs and community-education programs.

The Community Resource Act (CRA) Program is administered by Kansas State University, Division of Continuing Education, through UFM Community Learning Center. As an outreach program of UFM and the Division of Continuing Education, CRA strives to promote life-long learning throughout the state of Kansas.

For more information about UFM and the CRA Program, call (785) 539-8763 or e-mail Charlene Brownson at cmb@ksu.edu or visit the Web site www.tryufm.org

*Charlene Brownson — Community Outreach
Coordinator*

It's Never Bin Easier ... to Recycle!

The Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program supports local community recycling programs by providing bins to selected grant recipients for the collection of beverage container recyclables in public settings. Grants will be provided to a limited number of applicants who can demonstrate how their proposals will lead to sustainable recycling opportunities. The grant program is open to government, civic, school, non-profit groups and for-profit companies. Applications are available only online.

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is a national nonprofit advocacy group with members who span all aspects of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling in North America. Founded in 1978 as an IRS tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, NRC's objective is to eliminate waste and promote sustainable economies through advancing sound management practices for raw materials in North America.

In addition to hosting an Annual Congress & Expo each year, NRC works with its members and partners to sponsor programs and stakeholder forums that provide tools and nurture solutions for the recycling industry. Breaking new ground in how Americans think about waste, the Coalition is a strong, clear voice for recycling. To find out

more about the National Recycling Coalition, visit www.nrc-recycle.org

The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest non-alcoholic beverage company. The Company markets four of the world's top five sparkling beverage brands, including Coca-Cola®, recognized as the world's most valuable brand, Diet Coke®, Fanta®, and Sprite®, as well as a wide range of other beverages, including diet and light soft drinks, waters, juices and juice drinks, teas, coffees, and sports drinks. Through the world's largest beverage distribution system, consumers in more than 200 countries enjoy the company's beverages at a rate exceeding 1.3 billion servings each day.

The Coca-Cola Company and its bottling partners are striving to eliminate waste and promote recycling as responsible stewards of our business and the environment. From the design of Coca-Cola's packaging to the collaborative partnerships with organizations such as the National Recycling Coalition, we are working to find smart, creative ways to help conserve the world's natural resources. To find out more see our Environmental Report at www.thecoca-colacompany.com

*Submitted by Sherry Davis — HEHC Project
Coordinator*

Leonardville Shows Community PRIDE

Leonardville is a small rural PRIDE Community in Riley County. The community may be small, but it stays busy. We plan community meals that provide a time for the community to come together. Those meals include soup luncheons, pancake feeds, and mountain oyster feeds. Attendance averages approximately 100 people. We have started bingo during the feeds. We give away turkeys for prizes at Thanksgiving and hams at Easter.

At Christmas, the PRIDE committee put together Santa bags for Santa's visit, and approximately 50 children were present. Additional bags were given out by a local teacher who works with military families.

Leonardville works on community cleanup — household hazardous waste and tire collection. The community has painted the Leonardville Library

and is now working on getting a large "Welcome to Leonardville" sign; landscape work in the community building yard has also been done.

Last year was Leonardville's 125th Anniversary, and a 3-day celebration event was planned with entertainment for all three days, a community watermelon feed, a carnival, a community Sunday church service, a community potluck lunch and all of the normal Hullabaloo events during Saturday. It took many volunteer hours to accomplish the event. For the last 2 years, PRIDE has held a New Year's party for the community with approximately 100 people in attendance. What a great way to begin a new year with PRIDE.

Lynne Berry — Leonardville PRIDE

Rossville Builds Rain Gardens

Early in the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities (HEHC) process in Rossville, citizens established several "visions" for their community's future: a health economy, involved citizens, high educational achievements, and a healthy environment. They researched and explored their local assets and natural resources: wildlife; native plants; water, social, cultural, and historic resources; and their city's infrastructure.

At a public meeting last August they put it all together and identified several key goals and projects that would bring Rossville into the future. Their HEHC teams also identified a project to help protect water quality — a community rain garden!

City planners and homeowners across the country are planting rain gardens in strategic locations to "clean" rainwater and promote absorption of storm water to recharge water supplies and decrease local flooding.

In addition, Rossville is working with its local watershed restoration and protection strategy group for additional funding for educational signage for their rain garden, along with an educational brochure that shows the benefits of rain gardens and how easy they are for homeowners to build to help protect water quality. In addition, Rossville is planning a community ground-breaking celebration after Earth Day on April 27, 2008 to share more water quality information with the community.

Rossville's demonstration project will show how rain gardens are used to capture contaminants and absorb water from parking lots, yards, and streets. Two graduate students from K-State are working with their planning team to design their rain garden. They hope to have their rain garden completed soon, so watch for more news and pictures from Rossville's HEHC team about this project!

Sherry Davis — HEHC Project Coordinator

Keep Kansas Clean So Our PRIDE Can Be Seen

Do you have your Spring Cleanup planned? Kansas PRIDE would like to challenge each community to have a clean-up event during March, April, and May 2008.

Community projects might include cleaning up flower beds, a park, entrance to your community,



Community members lend a hand in Grinnell's community cleanup.

or business area. Each community should review the packet of information you received. It is important that you let the PRIDE office know about the planned clean-up event.

Connie Hoch — Extension PRIDE Associate

Recognition is a Key Part of a Success

It is the time of year to participate in community recognition through the state PRIDE program! Kansas PRIDE Inc. offers recognition opportunities: for local Youth for their Service and Leadership; to recognize STAR projects that have had a favorable impact on your community; and to recognize outstanding community involvement success through the Community of Excellence Award. If you have not already submitted your award nominations, here are three good reasons to do so!

1) Showing Appreciation for Others:

- A nomination for recognition shows that you value the work of others.
- A nomination for recognition brings visibility to your organizations efforts.
- A nomination for recognition can serve as a motivator for both the nominee and the group.

2) Telling Your Story:

- A nomination for recognition allows you to practice telling your community story to people from outside your community.
- A nomination for recognition allows you to talk about your success within your community! (No negativity! This is a very positive approach.)

- A nomination for recognition, and receiving recognition, help build support for your community's efforts! Success builds success – and being recognized for great work only adds to the credibility of your local organization!

3) Community Process Evaluation

- Participating in the Community of Excellence evaluation allows you to reflect on, and improve, your own community-building organization and process.
- Participating in the Community of Excellence evaluation is an opportunity to learn from community development professionals.
- Participating in the Community of Excellence evaluation allows you the chance to show off your success to the entire State of Kansas!

It isn't difficult to see why the recognition opportunities through PRIDE are an important part of the community improvement process! If you have not already submitted your forms, they can be located at www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu under the link called "forms."

Dan Kahl, Extension PRIDE Coordinator

Ask the Experts – Dilapidated Housing

Does your community have a problem with a dilapidated house? That one house that makes the entire block appear rundown because the house is uninhabitable?

If you want to hear more about what your community's alternatives are and what resources are available to help with its removal, join a teleconference on Tuesday, May 20 at 2 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

The experts that will be answering your questions include Linda Hunsicker, Kansas Department of Commerce; Tim Rogers, Housing Director USDA Rural Development; and Noelle St. Clair, Community Programs Specialist, FHL Bank, Topeka.



Rundown housing creates a nuisance in some communities.

Each one of our experts will briefly discuss programs that are available and will spend the remainder of the time answering questions. The call will be toll free, and you can be a participant by dialing (877) 278-8686 and using the participant PIN 715212.

This is a new method to get information out to PRIDE communities. New topics will be addressed each quarter. If you have topics that you would like to suggest please e-mail choch@ksu.edu or call (785) 532-5840. Join us and learn from the convenience of your home or office.

Connie Hoch – Extension PRIDE Associate

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PRIDE Calendar

- April 15 Community of Excellence Request Due
2008 PRIDE Application and Resolution of Support Due
Third Quarter Report Due
- April 29-30 Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Application Workshops
- May 1 STAR Award application due
Youth Award due
- May 20 Ask the Experts – Dilapidated Housing Teleconference
- June 10-12 Community of Excellence Evaluations
- July 15 Fourth Quarter Report Due
- July 18 PRIDE, Inc. Board Meeting
- Oct 10 PRIDE, Inc. Board Meeting – Wichita
- Oct 11 PRIDE Day - Wichita



All educational programs and materials are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability.

The Kansas Department of Commerce, K-State Research and Extension, and private-sector companies and associations partner together to make the PRIDE program successful.

For assistance contact the PRIDE staff: Jeanne Stinson at (785) 296-3485;
Dan Kahl or Connie Hoch at (785) 532-5840