Your Communities Choice—Understanding the Current PRIDE Program Options

As we finish the first program year under a new PRIDE Program enrollment structure, there continues to be many questions about enrollment. The current PRIDE program has three enrollment options. Your PRIDE community chooses the option that best fits your situation.

As we all know, community development does not happen in one day. Some PRIDE groups have a specific project focus, while others are working across their community to plan and implement more comprehensive community improvement strategies. The PRIDE program can be utilized to support community improvement efforts at all levels.

To participate in Kansas PRIDE, your community must enroll in the program. To enroll, a PRIDE Community will annually submit a PRIDE Enrollment Form and the city government Resolution of Support to the Kansas PRIDE office. These forms will be due December 15, 2012. A community will designate one of the following enrollment options on this form. Please review the following options as you make plans to enroll in PRIDE for the 2012 program year.

**Option 1 - Enroll as a PRIDE Community**

Enrollment as a PRIDE Community means you have (or are establishing) an organization for community improvement. This PRIDE organization is partnered with the local government, and has a defined, on-going plan of work. PRIDE programs who might want to choose this option are:

- Newly formed PRIDE Communities that enroll during the current PRIDE program year
- PRIDE Communities in their first few years that were formed to meet a specific need and are completing that project before doing a community wide assessment process
- Any PRIDE Community that is operating from a work plan that was developed several years prior but continues to support the current scope of work based on their desired outcomes

**Option 2 - Enroll as a PRIDE STAR Community**

A PRIDE STAR Community is a community that already has an effective organization, and your PRIDE group is taking a leadership or active supporting role in helping the community identify and work toward community improvement goals. To enroll as a STAR Community the community must:

- Be in the process of conducting a community assessment to determine the current needs of the community OR
- Have recently conducted a community assessment to determine the needs of the community
Have, or are developing, a vision and mission statement
- Engage the entire community to establish goals
- Plan projects that are based off the assessment and are advancing the community toward their set goals

To enroll in this option in 2012, PRIDE STAR Communities will be ask to submit a Community Self-Assessment to document the above noted requirements.

**Enroll as a Community of Excellence**

A PRIDE Community of Excellence designation is a recognition from Kansas PRIDE for a community PRIDE program that has demonstrated an exemplary community development process through engaging their community in planned improvement.

In 2012, communities that are eligible to be designated as a Community of Excellence must:

- Have been designated a Community of Excellence in 2009 OR
- Have been enrolled as a STAR Community (option 2) in 2011 and submitted the Essay of Application for Community of Excellence to Kansas PRIDE, Inc. and received an official notice of approval as a Community of Excellence.

Eligible communities who enroll as a Community of Excellence are eligible to submit a proposal for the Partners in PRIDE grant funds. Partners in PRIDE funds are made available by Kansas PRIDE, Inc. to support community projects that are based on a comprehensive community planning process and provide for community sustainability. These are competitive funds and must be matched at the local level. Proposals are accepted for these funds twice a year.

In preparation for the 2012 enrollment year, the PRIDE office will be sending out information to each community that designates what option they enrolled in for 2011 and what needs to be done if they wish to enroll in another option in the future.

For more information on the process, do not hesitate to contact the PRIDE office at PRIDE@ksu.edu or by phone at (785) 532-5840.

If you desire personal assistance with any of the steps in this process, please contact Trudy Rice, PRIDE Program Associate, at trice@ksu.edu or (785) 766-3996.

**Community Partner Feature**

Every PRIDE volunteer organization knows that successful community change requires the support of collaborators. Sometimes it is an outstanding volunteer, group, business or organization - that without their support - the community efforts could not happen. The PRIDE community partner awards recognize those outstanding supporters of community improvement.

Larned PRIDE nominated Angie Murray for the Community Partner of the Year Award. Angie became aware of the PRIDE Organization while she was President of the Pawnee County Extension Council. She was very impressed with the projects completed by other communities and asked, "Why don't we have PRIDE..."
communities in Pawnee County?" After hearing about the program, Larned became an active PRIDE community with Angie Murray being a creative force within the Larned PRIDE group.

Angie's commitment to community started with the Community Garden project. The garden had a very successful first year with Angie contacting many to help get the garden planted. Angie connected with many in the community through her emails and PRIDE Facebook site. Her enthusiasm was contagious and many joined to help with the garden, orchard and market.

Angie is a number cruncher and after writing grants for the orchard, garden and community market, she began building a budget to fund trees, plants, equipment and market events. The Community Market days were very successful due to the events that were held in conjunction with the market. Often Angie was at the market selling produce as well as manning the event that day.

Angie has been central to PRIDE projects, including finding roller skates for community skating. The first family skate night was a tremendous success as 150 people skated or watched family skate. Angie was also involved in finding Wii's for the Senior Center and for securing the Small Community Improvement Program funding from the Department of Commerce.

Angie was raised in Pawnee County, was active in the 4-H program as a youth and currently is the accountant for High Plains Farm Credit. She and her husband Jason have 3 sons, Cameron, Christian and Creighton. The entire family has helped with each of the PRIDE projects, but Angie's energy and creativity never seems to end, so she is fully deserving of this award.

For information on other 2011 Community Partner awardees, click here.

Alton Invites You to Their Summer Jubilee

Alton Summer Jubilee, Saturday, August 27

- Parade begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Fun all day with games, live music by 5 local groups and food and drinks
- BBQ at 6 p.m.
- Benefit auction (for PRIDE community projects) - tennis court at 7 p.m.
- Play "The Old Kodgers" - tennis court at 7:30 p.m.
- Street Dance sponsored by RFD#3 at 9 p.m.

Any questions call (785) 984-2341 or e-mail dcarswell@ruraltel.net

Sponsored by Alton PRIDE

Dates to Remember:

- Quarterly Reports Due October 25, 2011
- 2012 Enrollment and Resolution Forms due December 15, 2011
- Day of PRIDE (location to be determined) on June 2, 2012