

**Kansas Department of Commerce
TEFFI Development and Expansion Fund Testimony
Rachel Willis, Director of Legislative Affairs
Joint Committee on Fiduciary Financial Institutions Oversight
November 7th, 10:45am
Room 582 N**

In 2021, the Technology-enabled Fiduciary Financial Institutions Act established the Technology-enabled Fiduciary Financial Institutions Development and Expansion Fund, which is administered by the Department of Commerce. It requires expenditures from the fund to be for economic development projects in the economic development growth zones in state and for promoting and facilitating the development and growth of trust banks, fidfin activities, and custodial services in Kansas and to locate trust bank office space in an economic growth zone.

After receiving funding, Commerce developed an application for a grant program called SEED – Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED). The purpose of the grant is to support the economic revitalization of Kansas communities under 5,000 population through investments in quality-of-life initiatives. The first application was released to the public in August 2022 and award announcements were made in December 2022.

During the first round, Commerce received 109 applications with a total funding request of \$4.7M. With \$2.7M available for funding, 61 applications were awarded. Below is a list of the 2022 SEED grantees.

County	Organization	Category(s)	Requested Amount
Anderson	Anderson County Development Agency	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$43,860
Rawlins	Atwood Public Library	Library	\$25,054
Republic	Belleville Chamber and Main Street	Food Retail	\$49,125
Russell	Bunker Hill Lions Club	Community Vibrancy	\$34,388
Chase	Chase County Chamber of Commerce	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$26,661

Cheyenne	Cheyenne Community Development Corporation	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Montgomery	City of Cherryvale	Library	\$46,875
Labette	City of Edna	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Greenwood	City of Eureka	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Wilson	City of Fredonia	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Harvey	City of Halstead	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Jewell	City of Jewell	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$37,040
Kingman	City of Kingman	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$48,179
Kearny	City of Lakin	Childcare	\$39,300
Smith	City of Lebanon	Food Retail	\$49,125
Osborne	City of Osborne Economic Development	Childcare, Food Retail, Library	\$46,712
Pawnee	City of Rozel - Park Committee	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Chautauqua	City of Sedan	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Wallace	City of Wallace	Community Vibrancy	\$32,397
Coffey	Coffey County Library	Library	\$49,125
Doniphan	Doniphan County Economic Development	Childcare, Library	\$49,125
Edwards	Edwards County Economic Development Corporation	Childcare, Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Elk	Elk County Community Foundation	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125

Marshall	Friends of the Vermillion Community, Inc.	Community Vibrancy	\$37,974
Gove	Gove County Economic Development	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Food Retail	\$47,289
Clay	Grow Clay County	Community Vibrancy, Food Retail, Library	\$46,571
Greeley	Growing the Vision	Food Retail, Library	\$48,383
Hamilton	Hamilton County	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Harper	Harper County Community Foundation	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Kiowa	Haviland Heritage Foundation	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Stevens	Heritage Christian Academy	Childcare	\$49,125
Brown	Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$25,049
Jackson	Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce	Community Vibrancy, Food Retail, Library	\$49,125
Lincoln	Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Food Retail, Library	\$49,125
Linn	Linn County Library District 1	Library	\$49,125
Morris	Little Huskies Childcare Center	Childcare	\$24,563
Logan	Logan County Community Foundation	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Food Retail, Library	\$28,701
Barber	Medicine Lodge Day Care Inc.	Childcare	\$49,125

Mitchell	Mitchell County	Childcare	\$49,125
Ness	Ness City Chamber of Commerce	Food Retail	\$49,125
Wabaunsee	Office of Economic Development, Wabaunsee	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Ottawa	Ottawa County Community Development Foundation	Childcare, Library	\$49,125
Marion	Peabody Township Library	Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Phillips	Phillipsburg Child Care Center	Childcare	\$42,408
Rice	Rice County Community Foundation	Childcare	\$49,125
Nemaha	Rural Development Association of Northeast Kansas	Community Vibrancy, Food Retail, Library	\$48,030
Rush	Rush County Economic Development	Food Retail	\$49,125
Sheridan	Sheridan County	Childcare, Library, Senior Programming	\$49,125
Sherman	Sherman County Community Development Corporation	Childcare, Community Vibrancy, Library	\$49,125
Stafford	Stafford County Economic Development	Food Retail, Library	\$49,125
Stanton	Stanton County Community Foundation	Community Vibrancy	\$36,480
Sumner	Sumner County Economic Development	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Neosho	Thayer FRC City Library	Library	\$35,687

Cloud	The City of Clyde	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Meade	The Community Enhancement Foundation of Plains	Food Retail	\$14,738
Bourbon	The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team, Inc.	Community Vibrancy	\$33,882
Allen	Thrive Allen County	Food Retail, Library	\$49,125
Trego	WaKeeney Travel & Tourism	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Cherokee	Weir & Galena Public Library	Library, Senior Programming	\$32,118
Ellsworth	Wilson Czech Opera House Corporation	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125
Woodson	Woodson Co. Revitalization Alliance/Revitalize YC	Community Vibrancy	\$49,125

The second round of SEED funding was announced, and an informational webinar was hosted on August 28th, 2023. The application deadline was October 27th, and Commerce received 68 applications requesting a total of \$1.6M. The total amount of available funding this round is \$270,000.

The 2023 SEED grant eligibility requirements include:

- Projects must be in areas with a population of not more than 5,000 people located in the original 78 economic development zones.
- Applicants must be county or municipal governments, economic development organizations, local chamber of commerce, library system, tribal organizations or 501(c)3/501(c)6 non-profit organizations.
- 10 percent match with a minimum request amount of \$10,000 and a maximum award amount of \$25,000.
- Projects must fit into one of the following categories: community vibrancy, childcare and senior programming, libraries or food retail.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months.
- Applicants who have not received a BASE, HEAL or SEED grant will receive bonus points.
- Funds must be used for tangible projects. Funds cannot be used for strategic planning, consultant reviews, community conversations or related activities.
- The funding cannot be used to support one-time programming such as speaker fees, event fees or salaries.

Commerce is completing eligibility reviews and then will conduct merit reviews. During those reviews, the project description, project scope, budget and timeline, as well as pictures and any optional materials or information that was provided by the applicant, will be examined and scored. Award announcements for the second round will be made in December.