

Identifying additional business resources for YOU!

Our members often lament a lack of time, money, energy and/or manpower. We continue to try and find different ways to help businesses cope with these areas of need. I've talked in the past about the importance of having different stake holders in an oversight role to ensure our program continues to move forward. The OTHER thing that having input from agencies like Kansas Main Street does is to expose us to new and different sources of funding and help to give you additional resources. Because Emporia is a rural community, one of those resources available is the USDA. Below is a condensed version of what's available.



Job growth and quality of life funding is available.- USDA

Rural development offices are assisting with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds to help stimulate rural communities. These programs are fairly vast, but you can find more information about programs on-line at www.recovery.gov.

Community and Utility Grants/Loans- Community facilities, economic impact zones, empowerment zones and disaster assistance areas can all be impacted by Community and Utility Programs within the USDA. For more information on these programs, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

Business and Industry Programs- Loans, grants and combinations of the two are available for qualifying businesses. Loan guarantees are also available to help mitigate risk within local lending institutions. If you are adding personnel, need to expand or are trying to upgrade your energy efficiency, one of these programs might be right for you. In fiscal year 2009 Kansas Rural Development dispersed a total of \$680,886,198. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds (ARRA) for Kansas equaled \$172,881,194. Could your business or organization benefit from USDA assistance? Contact Emporia Main Street or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks to find out more.

Who can apply?- It really depends on the program, but businesses, lenders, local government agencies, non-profits, cooperatives and some individuals can apply depending on the program used. The area office for our region (area 3) is located in Iola, Kansas. Contact Emporia Main Street or give the Area 3 office a call at 620-365-2901.

Entrepreneurs are the backbone of this nation and this state. 85% of the jobs in Kansas exist in entities with twenty or less employees. If we are going to grow in a sustainable fashion, it will be through good old fashioned hard work and ingenuity. However, we want to make sure the workers and the idea people in the new Kansas economy have the resources necessary to succeed. We have several more business development opportunities we will showcase in upcoming versions of our Emporia Main Street e-newsletter. Watch for upcoming editions, and click below for past versions!

[For past editions of the Emporia Main Street E-News, check out our E-News archives by clicking HERE.](#)

Back to home page: www.emporiainmainstreet.com