



2025 Fund for Reno County Grants

Community Catalyst: \$13,759

Projects that improve community engagement, communication, confidence and pride.

- City of Haven, \$2,100: Through its own Love Where You Live initiative, the City of Haven will host interactive events, such as a speed connecting gathering and a guided bike tour, so participants may share ideas and feedback on improving local amenities and programs. These insights will drive future initiatives, ensuring Haven remains a safe, welcoming and vibrant place to live and work.
- City of Haven, \$2,500: The proposal is for a digital sign to communicate to Haven citizens the programs and activities happening within the city from various municipal entities.
- Hutchinson NAACP Youth, \$1,700: This project aims to enhance the Hutchinson NAACP Youth's ability to actively participate in community outreach, which would foster greater community involvement and strengthen the organization's mission of advocating for equality and positive change. Funding will supplement the costs of educational materials and marketing/engagement tools for outreach efforts, as well as supplies necessary for engagement activities.
- Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, \$2,500: This project entails purchasing signage as a demonstration project to promote and improve vacant spaces in Downtown Hutchinson. During the implementation stage of the Downtown Master Plan, the signage will visually improve windows in vacant buildings by covering the interior storage and dressing up the Downtown neighborhood in a demonstration block area.
- Hutchinson Wesleyan Church, \$2,500: Funds will provide necessary startup costs for a monthly free community dinner at the Hutchinson Public Library with the aim of building community and developing relationships across Creekside, Midtown, Grace Arbor and College Grove neighborhoods. The Big Table seeks to use its community dinner-based model to provide meals and foster a sense of belonging for those in need.

- Sylvania Helping Hands, \$2,459: In the spring of 2024, a few citizens started a community garden with five raised beds to benefit the Sylvania community. Produce was harvested and placed in the city office and library for residents. Funding will allow the Sylvania Helping Hands organization to increase the size of the community garden.

Community and Economic Development: \$147,027

Projects and plans that strengthen the community and local economy by building a diverse and resilient workforce, activating central business districts or Downtowns, supporting existing businesses, attracting new ones, and encouraging entrepreneurs; also, projects that strengthen the quality of place in Reno County through placemaking in public spaces and improving housing quality and accessibility.

- Buhler Public Library: \$8,000: The library will use the grant to help fund an interactive wall mural and updated building awning.
- City of Hutchinson: \$19,000: Funding will help foster community pride through murals, light pole banners and business-led projects.
- City of Plevna: \$1,500: The grant will replace a piece of playground equipment destroyed by a tornado.
- Food Bank of Reno County, Inc.: \$27,320: Grant funds will support communications and development as the food bank expands to a new facility to better serve the community.
- Foundation of Life Ministries: \$18,906: This project provides overnight and wraparound services for unhoused individuals as an extension of the local shelter.
- Hutchinson Friends of the Zoo Inc.: \$10,000: The grant will support the addition of themed pedal boat rentals at the zoo.
- Hutchinson's Historic Fox Theatre: \$28,301: Grant dollars will help fund the installation of a new boiler in the theater, helping ensure climate comfort year-round.
- Pretty Prairie Community Food Pantry Association: \$25,000: The grant will help fund the construction of a community space that will house the food pantry.
- StartUp Hutch: \$9,000: Funds will support workshops and coaching sessions for entrepreneurs across rural Reno County.

Dynamic Culture: \$56,400

Projects that enhance and celebrate local arts, theater, history and tourism.

- Family Community Theatre, \$7,600: Funding will help finish renovations of three restrooms in the Flag Theatre lobby.
- Emancipation Committee, Hutchinson, KS, \$11,500: Funding will help with the costs of inviting an in-state and an out-of-state marching band to participate in the annual Emancipation Parade in August, increasing excitement, pride, attendance and, ultimately, a better understanding of what Emancipation weekend represents.
- Hutch in Harmony, \$20,000 per year for two years: Funding will help launch the Hutch Pass: Hutchinson Cultural Passport Program, an interactive and educational experience encouraging residents to explore cultural, historical and artistic sites across the county. Participants will receive a physical or digital “passport” through a booklet and will be able to download an app that provides incentives for engaging with local cultural landmarks, businesses and events.
- Hutch Rec, \$9,700: This project will bring the Hutchinson Municipal Band to performances in Hutch Rec’s Healthy Neighborhood Initiative neighborhoods, as well as the Smallville Festival. The project aims to transform public spaces into lively cultural hubs and foster a deeper sense of community while also increasing the band’s audience and, potentially, supporters.
- Stage 9, \$7,600: Funding will help with the repair of the Stage 9 theater building façade.

Strong Organizations: \$82,992

Projects that strengthen the capacity, sustainability and resilience of Reno County community-based organizations.

- Cancer Council of Reno County: \$7,500: CCRC is undertaking a strategic marketing project with the objective to take their 28 years of work into the future by aligning what they have done, what they continue to do, and what they aspire to do into a cohesive marketing plan.
- City of Sylvania: \$2,580: The grant will pay for lightweight tables and chairs to replace dated, less mobile sets.
- City of Turon, \$7,500: Funding will assist in the repair and maintenance of the entrance and some windows of the 116-year-old Turon Community Building, which serves a variety of functions within the community, including for Friendship Meals, City Council meetings, birthday parties, family gatherings and as a polling place.

- Clothed in Compassion: \$6,993: Grant will provide supplies for Kitchen Hero Academy, a 10-week summer cooking course for middle-school students.
- Early Education Center, Inc.: \$6,500: This grant will go toward a strategic planning retreat for the education center.
- Hutch Rec, \$1,500: This grant proposal aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of the community's music culture by exploring a strategic partnership with the Hutchinson Municipal Band, Reno County Choral Society and the possible restart of the Hutchinson Symphony. Funding will provide a stipend to people who serve on the exploration task force.
- Hutchinson School of Tae Kwon Do, \$7,500: This project will allow for the purchase and installation of new training equipment and upgraded lighting to enhance the safety, accessibility and overall learning experience for underprivileged families, thereby fostering personal growth and strengthening the community.
- Hutchinson Wesleyan Church, \$2,500: This hands-on project, which includes coaching and training, will help participants develop the relational and organizational skills needed to serve The Big Table community dinner events and start their own throughout Hutchinson and Reno County.
- Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation, \$7,500: Funds will go toward a two-day retreat for the Kansas State Fair board and key staff members to develop a strategic plan.
- Kansas Food Bank Warehouse, Inc.: \$5,000: This project provides weekend food packs to food insecure children in kindergarten through eighth grade in Reno County who may not have access to nutritious meals when school is not in session.
- Love Hutch Daily: \$2,719: Funding will contribute to the purchase of a 15-passenger van to pick up students from area schools and deliver them to after-school care.
- New Beginnings, \$5,000: Funding will allow for replacement of six obsolete lab computers at New Beginnings, which are used by low-income individuals and families for education, communication and applying for jobs.
- Rise Up Reno Prevention Network, \$4,200: Rise Up Reno staff will work with a trained facilitator of strategic review and planning processes to evaluate current programs and attitudes toward the work they do, and in turn, prepare for the most important priorities they will face moving forward.
- Salvation Army, \$7,500: The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope initiative is an evidence-based program that strives to break the cycle of poverty by guiding low-income parents with children beyond crisis to stability. Funding will support the salary and benefits of the program's case manager.
- The Food Bank of Reno County Inc., \$7,500: To accomplish the Food Bank's goal of reducing food insecurity and improving services for children and families, it is in the

process of developing a long-term plan, and part of that plan will require a more spacious and reconfigured facility. Funding will cover part of the project management costs of the project.

- Trinity United Methodist Church: \$1,000: Funds will provide materials and resources so that Circles Reno County can expand its community outreach.

Thriving Kids: \$63,088

Projects that support high-quality early care and education, youth development and families. Support for these projects also comes from the Helen Adams Hamilton Children and Education Fund of Hutchinson Community Foundation.

- City of Arlington, \$20,000: Currently, the gymnasium in Arlington's community building has no heat. As a result, the open gym for youth, as well as the community and family gatherings that previously filled the gym, has halted. This project will restore heat to the gymnasium in the community center through installation of two 60-foot radiant tube heaters and a center-circulating fan.
- ESSDACK, \$4,500: Many Reno County students living outside of Hutchinson are unable to attend school daily at the Reno County Learning Center inside of the Hutchinson Mall because of lack of funds to purchase gas. Some students travel 80 miles a day round trip. Funding will help provide gas cards for those students so they can attend school.
- Girls on the Run, \$5,400: In this program, trained, caring and qualified coaches deliver a life-skills curriculum during out-of-school times by guiding small teams of girls through twice-weekly lessons that promote social-emotional learning alongside physical activity.
- Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters Serving Reno County, \$5,500: Funding will assist in providing large-scale match activities between Bigs and Littles.
- Kansas Children's Service League, \$5,275: Funds will provide transportation assistance to those enrolled in the Healthy Families program, helping relieve a frequent stressor for families working toward resilience.
- Reno County Education Cooperative, \$2,300: This proposal will fund training 20 special education teachers in the PAX Good Behavior Game during a summer session.
- USD 312-Haven, \$7,613: This project aims to initiate the rebuilding of the school library collection with current nonfiction books and quality fiction books starting with reading levels for students in kindergarten through third grade.
- Wisdom in Motion, \$12,500 per year for two years: This organization serves at-risk and high-potential youth, fostering a sense of connection, empowerment and

community engagement through structured mentorship, experiential learning and family-focused initiatives necessary for long-term success. Funds will help cover the costs of experiential learning initiatives, workshops and community engagement to help increase the impact on youth while also creating awareness of and engagement with the organization and programming.