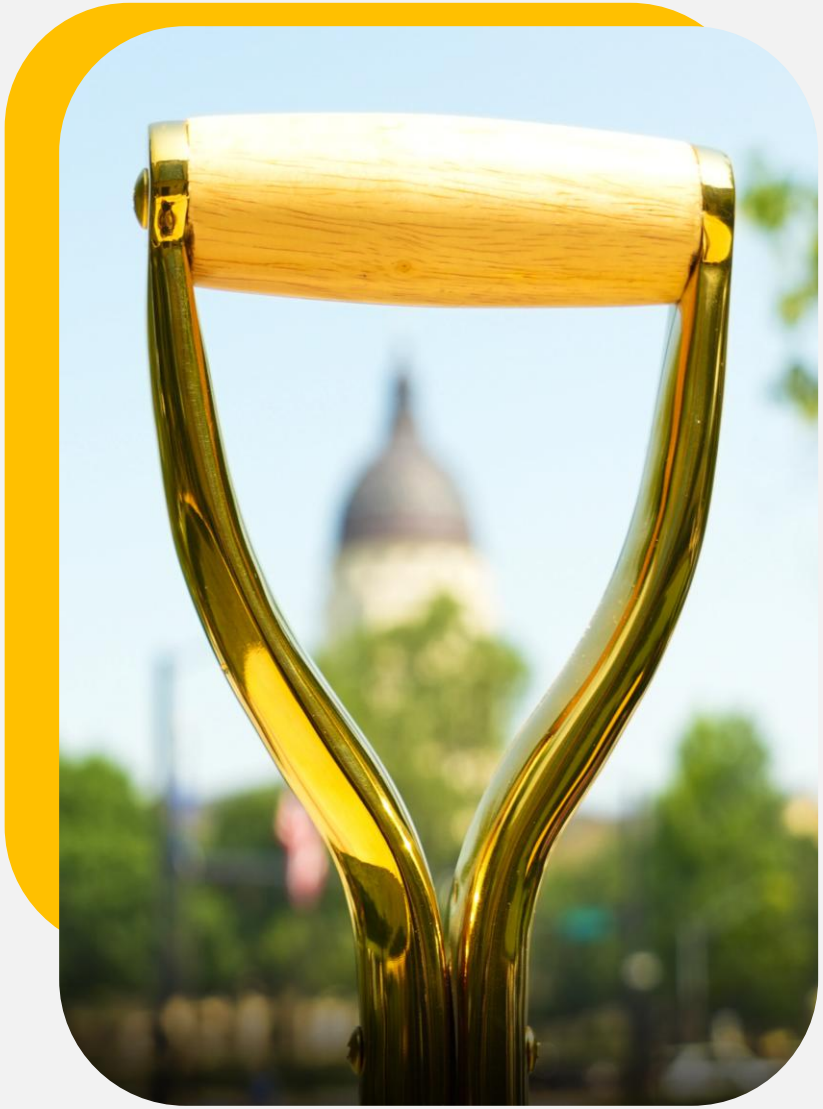


Kansas Department of Commerce: CDBG, ORP, and Tourism Talk Trails

October 2026

KANSAS
COMMERCE



Commerce Programs

Today's Agenda

- Community Development Block Grant – Andrew Hayman
- Office of Rural Prosperity – Trisha Purdon
- Tourism – Kelli Orender
- Questions

Kansas CDBG – Background

- Provides approximately $14.8 million annually in federal Community Development Block Grant (**CDBG**) funding.
- Serves eligible non-entitlement Kansas communities: generally cities with populations under 50,000 and counties under 200,000.
- Supports community development projects that benefit **low- and moderate-income** (**LMI**) residents.
- Funds eligible activities including **community facilities**, housing, water and sewer infrastructure.
- Projects must comply with applicable federal and state requirements, including:
  - **Build America, Buy America** (**BABA**) domestic purchasing requirements, when applicable.
  - **Davis-Bacon and Related Acts** prevailing wage requirements, when applicable.
  - **NEPA** environmental reviews and related federal environmental requirements.
- All projects must meet applicable CDBG eligibility, national objective, and documentation requirements.

2025 CDBG Awards in Kansas



2027 CDBG Community Facilities Funding Overview

- **Eligible Program:** Community Facilities
- **Pre-Applications**: Spring 2027 - **Full Applications:** Summer 2027.
- **Maximum Award:** Up to $1 million or $650,000 for cities with populations under 2,500.
- **Funding Purpose:** Support community facilities and public infrastructure projects that address community needs, improve quality of life, and benefit LMI residents.
- **Best Fit:** Local trail projects that improve connectivity between LMI neighborhoods, community parks, public facilities, and other amenities that serve residents.
- **The priority of the project must be to serve LMI persons!**

CDBG Requirements – LMI National Objective

- **Eligible National Objective:** Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) benefit.
  - Projects must demonstrate benefits to the local LMI population, not simply the number of trail users.
  - Clearly identify the LMI population served and demonstrate how the project meets CDBG requirements.
- **Avoid Tourism-Based Justifications:** Regional trails or projects primarily benefiting tourists and visitors are not a good fit for CDBG.
- **Funding Is Not Guaranteed:** Projects must meet all program requirements and compete through the 2027 application process.

What Makes a Strong CDBG Trail Project?

- **Benefits Local LMI Residents**
- **Connects Residents to Destinations** - Improve access to essential services, community facilities, neighborhood amenities, and parks.
- **Fits a Local Community Setting** - Prioritize practical neighborhood trails, particularly those connecting residential areas to community parks and nearby destinations.
- **Meets All CDBG Requirements** - Demonstrate the LMI national objective and comply with applicable environmental, labor, procurement, and other program requirements.

Key takeaway: The strongest projects connect local LMI residents to places they need to access—not simply create a recreational trail for general users.

ORP TRAILS



October 2026

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TEFFI:SEED

Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED)

- To support the economic revitalization of Kansas communities under 5,000 population through investments in quality-of-life initiatives.
- Specific Counties are eligible (typically those 40K or less population)
- $25,000 maximum award; 10% match
- Applications opened August 17, 2026 – Closed October 19, 2026.



TEFFI:SEED

Projects focused on economic development and revitalization efforts through one of the following quality-of-life categories:

•**Childcare and senior programming** – projects that support or enhance these services, such as building improvements, educational materials, supplies and equipment

•**Community vibrancy** – projects that refresh, re-energize and unlock the attractiveness of rural communities, such as art installations, trails, and trail signage

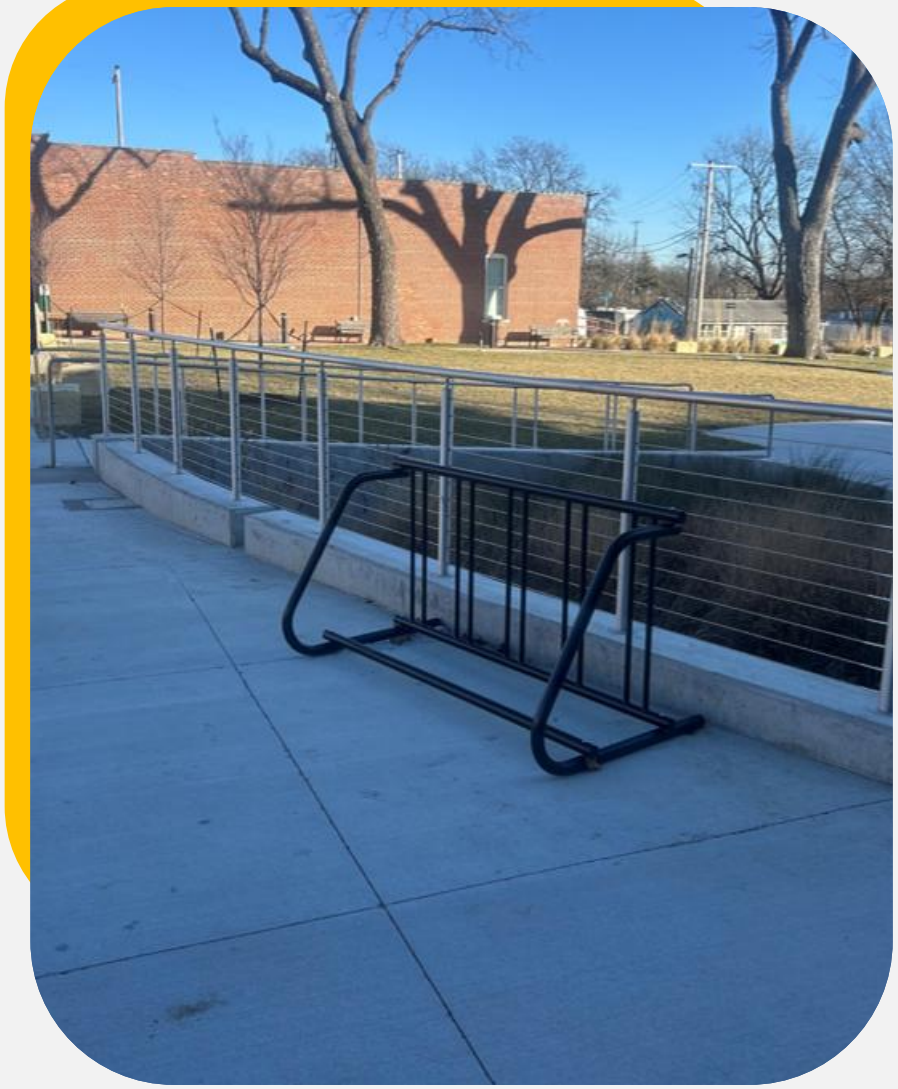
•**Food retail** – projects that support access to food retail establishments, including development, renovation and/or expansion

•**Libraries** – projects that support providing free and open access to a broad range of materials and services, including reading material, technology, furniture and building improvements



Towns

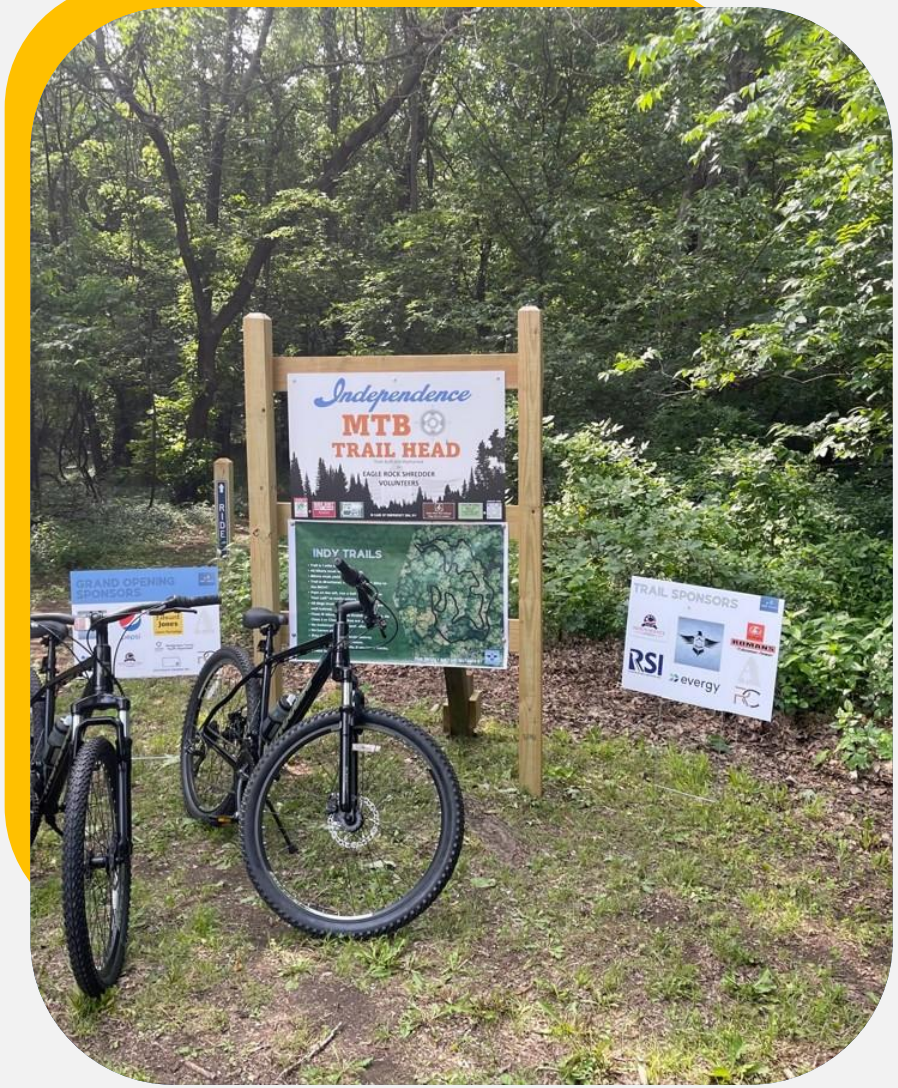
- To support small-scale quality of place projects in rural communities with 5,000 or less population **OR** urban center distressed census tracts that will help a community be more welcoming, beautiful, or will create community momentum for revitalization.
- $25,000 maximum award; 10% match – Communities that collaborate across more than one zip code can apply for up to $50,000.
- **Funding Available: $500,000**
- Applications opened October 23, - Will close December 23rd at 5:00PM.



Towns

Funds must be used for tangible projects.

- Community placemaking improvements such as downtown seating, equipment for main street sound systems, gathering places, and park and recreation equipment.
- Signage for communities, including welcome signs, downtown light pole banners (including brackets and hardware), and wayfinding signs (wayfinding, not signage for businesses.)
- Benches, signage, beautification, pocket parks, or permanent public art or murals
- Trash receptacles, planters and plants, bike racks, etc.
- Small downtown infrastructure needs, such as sidewalks, curbs, accessibility improvements, or pedestrian or trail lighting (not full streetscape)



Rural Champions

- A network of devoted Rural Champions working to strengthen Kansas communities
- The current cohort of 9 Champions are tackling projects such related to food access, downtown revitalization, trail development, Community Vitality and more!
- Eligible applicants are in counties with 50,000 population or less.
- New Program Updates coming soon!



Rural Champions

- Guidebooks on the Challenges and the results of the work that the champion did over the 2-year long process.
- For the 2023 and 2025 Champion guidebooks visit: https://www.kansascommerce.gov/orp/ruralchampions/
- Follow current Champion on the Office of Rural Prosperity Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/ORPKS



Community Service Tax Credits

- Community Service Tax Credits - 2026, $4.13 million in state tax credits were available for CSP. The maximum tax credit award for a project is $200,000.
- For major capital campaigns
- Eligibility: Non-Profits or Public Healthcare Organizations:
  - Community service, including childcare
  - Non-governmental crime prevention
  - Youth job and technical training
  - Healthcare services
  - 70% tax credit to contributors for projects located in towns of 15,000 or less or 50% for 15,000 or more



Empower Kansas

The Empower Kansas Program supports volunteer-led efforts to revitalize, inspire, strengthen, and elevate communities across Kansas. Backed by the Kansas Department of Commerce, this program provides tools, training, and funding that help local leaders turn great ideas into lasting impact. Whether it's downtown beautification, civic engagement, or leadership development, we're here to help your community move from intention to action, and from action to transformation.

- **Exciting new announcement:**
  - **Empower Kansas Announces 2026 Awards, New Recognition Opportunities and Inaugural Awards Banquet**



Empower Kansas

- Kickstart Grants - The KICKSTART GRANT is designed to build engagement, capacity, and community momentum. Projects should kickstart excitement and action!
  - Up to $5,000 available
  - Grant applications are reviewed monthly on the 15th!

- Impact Grants - designed to support permanent or long-term improvements that enhance public spaces and community assets.
  - Up to $15,000 available
  - 13 month timeline
  - Applications due October 31

COMMERCE GRANTS AT A GLANCE	AMOUNT Maximum	MATCH	FUNDING TIMELINE Announced	Application	Awarded	CONTACT
Barn Adaptation & Restoration Needs Grant (BARN) Funds to help revitalize old barns for use as agritourism venues	$25,000	50%	Jan.	Jan. - Mar.	July	Kelsey.Wendling@ks.gov
Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG) Infrastructure buildout in economically distressed counties	$1,000,000	50%	May	May - July	Sept.	Joseph.Le@ks.gov
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)						
Competitive Round: community facilities, public service, infrastructure	$800,000	25%	Jan.	Jan. - Sept.	Dec.	Andrew.Hayman@ks.gov
Rolling Round: housing, commercial rehabilitation, economic development, urgent need, regional water systems	$1,000,000	25%	Jan.	Rolling	Rolling	Andrew.Hayman@ks.gov
Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP) Amplify fundraising efforts for non-profit organizations	$200,000 tax credit	0%	Jan.	Mar. - Apr.	June	Sara.Bloom@ks.gov
Historic Economic Asset Lifeline Grant (HEAL) Rehabilitate downtown buildings for new businesses or organizations in rural communities	$100,000	100%	Nov.	Nov. - Feb.	Apr.	Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov
Emergency Historic Economic Asset Lifeline Grant (E-HEAL) Rehabilitate downtown buildings from likely demolition or collapse	$100,000	100%	July	Rolling	Within 15 days of application submission	Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov
Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit Program Bring together accredited angel investors with qualified companies seeking early-stage investment	Varies by project	N/A	N/A	All Year	Rolling	Rachell.Rowand@ks.gov
Kansas Apprenticeship Tax & Grant Act Expand/promote apprenticeships within businesses, non-profits, healthcare and education	$2,750 per apprentice	0%	N/A	Jan. May	Feb. June	Shonda.Anderson@ks.gov
Kansas Office of Apprenticeship Project Grant Support needs related to technical instruction for registered apprenticeship	$200,000	100%	N/A	June - Aug.	Sept.	Shonda.Anderson@ks.gov
Kansas Arts Commission Arts Everywhere Program						
Arts in Education Support the role the arts play in all levels of education, community service and workforce development	$10,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Innovative Partnerships Assistance for arts-centered programs that address community needs	$20,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Organizational Development - Capacity Building Fund projects that increase administrative or artistic capacity	$5,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Organizational Development - Salary Assistance Support for one or more positions at rural and/or SEDI art organizations	$20,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Specific Arts & Culture Projects Support for the arts in Kansas through funding for cultural projects and programs	$10,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Kansas Arts Commission General Operating Support Program Strengthen the state's cultural infrastructure	$25,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Kansas Arts Commission Public Art & Mural Program Support permanent or semi-permanent installations, murals and other public art projects	$10,000	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Kansas Arts Commission Visiting Artists Program Engage and deepen impact of arts on local and underserved audiences	$7,500	100%	Sept.	Dec. - Jan.	Apr.	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Kansas Arts Commission Visiting Touring Roster Artists Program Encourage the integration of visiting artists into a variety of community settings	$8,500	100%	N/A	Rolling	Rolling	Curtis.Young@ks.gov
Proof of Concept Fund Funds to help develop a project/product to the point where an entity can raise external capital	$25,000	100%	N/A	Rolling	Quarterly	Rachell.Rowand@ks.gov
Rural Champions Provides stipend to hire a Champion to fill a gap in community capacity to complete a needed project	$20,800	25%	Apr.	June - July	Sept.	Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov
Rural Murals	$7,500	25%	Feb.	Feb. - May	May	Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov

KANSAS
COMMERCE

COMMERCE "GRANTS AT A GLANCE" OR GRANTS CALENDAR

www.kansascommerce.gov/grantscalendar

KANSAS
OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY

Meet the Team

Trisha Purdon – Director – Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov

Kelli Hansen – Grassroots Strategy Developer – Kelli.Hansen@ks.gov

Sheena Thomas – ROZ Program Manager – Sheena.Thomas@ks.gov

Cassie Alexander – Program Specialist – Cassandra.Alexander@ks.gov

Destany Wheeler – Program Manager – Destany.Wheeler@ks.gov

Tourism TRAILS



October 2026

KANSAS
COMMERCE

ECONOMIC IMPACT & VISITOR SPENDING

Kansas

- 2025 - $8.4 Billion
- 2024 - $8.2 Billion
- 2023 - $8.0 Billion

Economic Impact In Context



$8.4B VISITOR SPENDING

Visitors spent $8.4 billion in Kansas in 2025, an average of $23.0 million every day.



$3.8B PERSONAL INCOME

Tourism generated $3.8 billion in personal income for Kansas residents, equivalent to $3,207 per household.



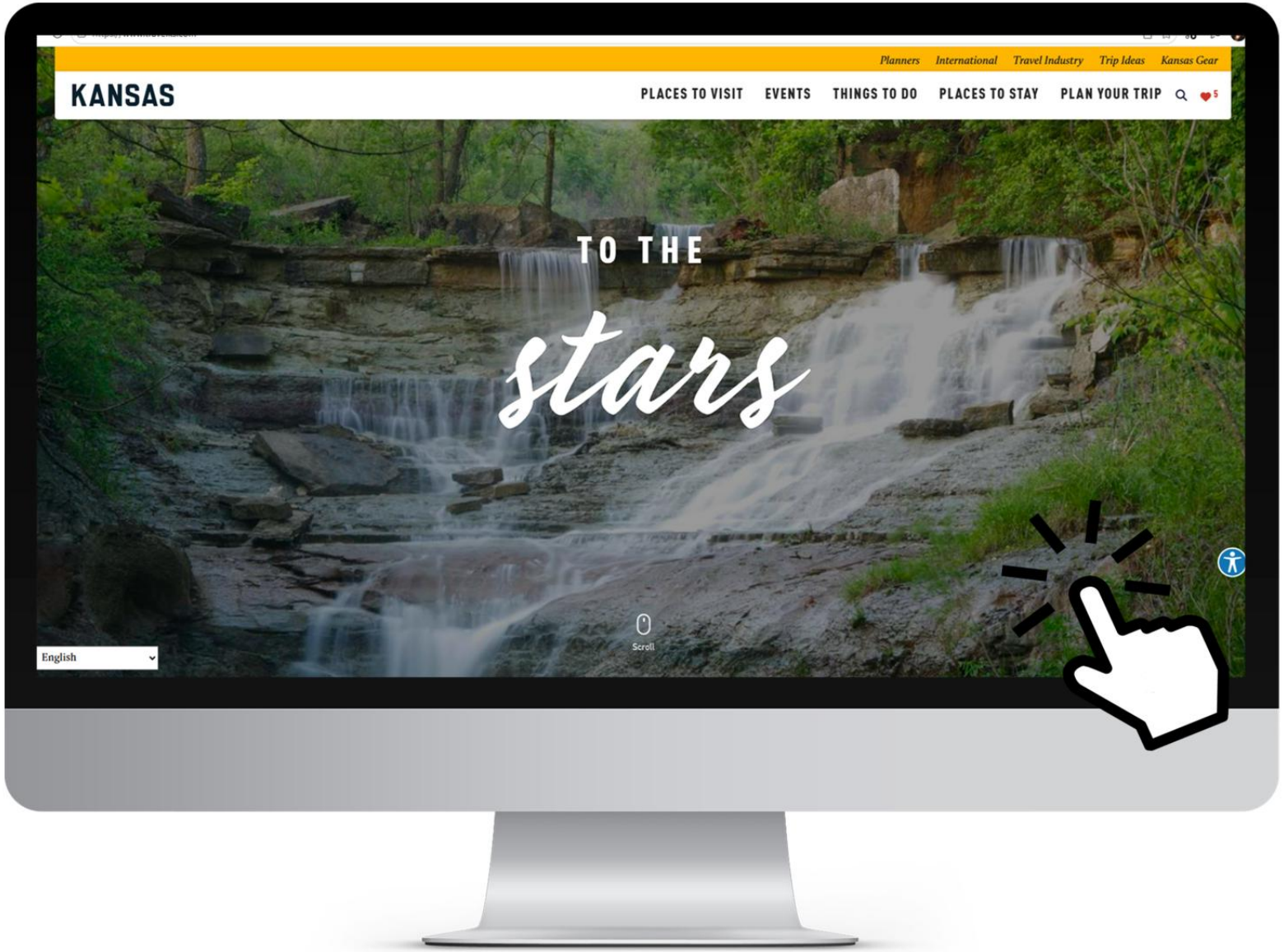
91,600 TOTAL JOBS

The number of total jobs sustained by tourism is equivalent to 4.5% of all jobs in Kansas.



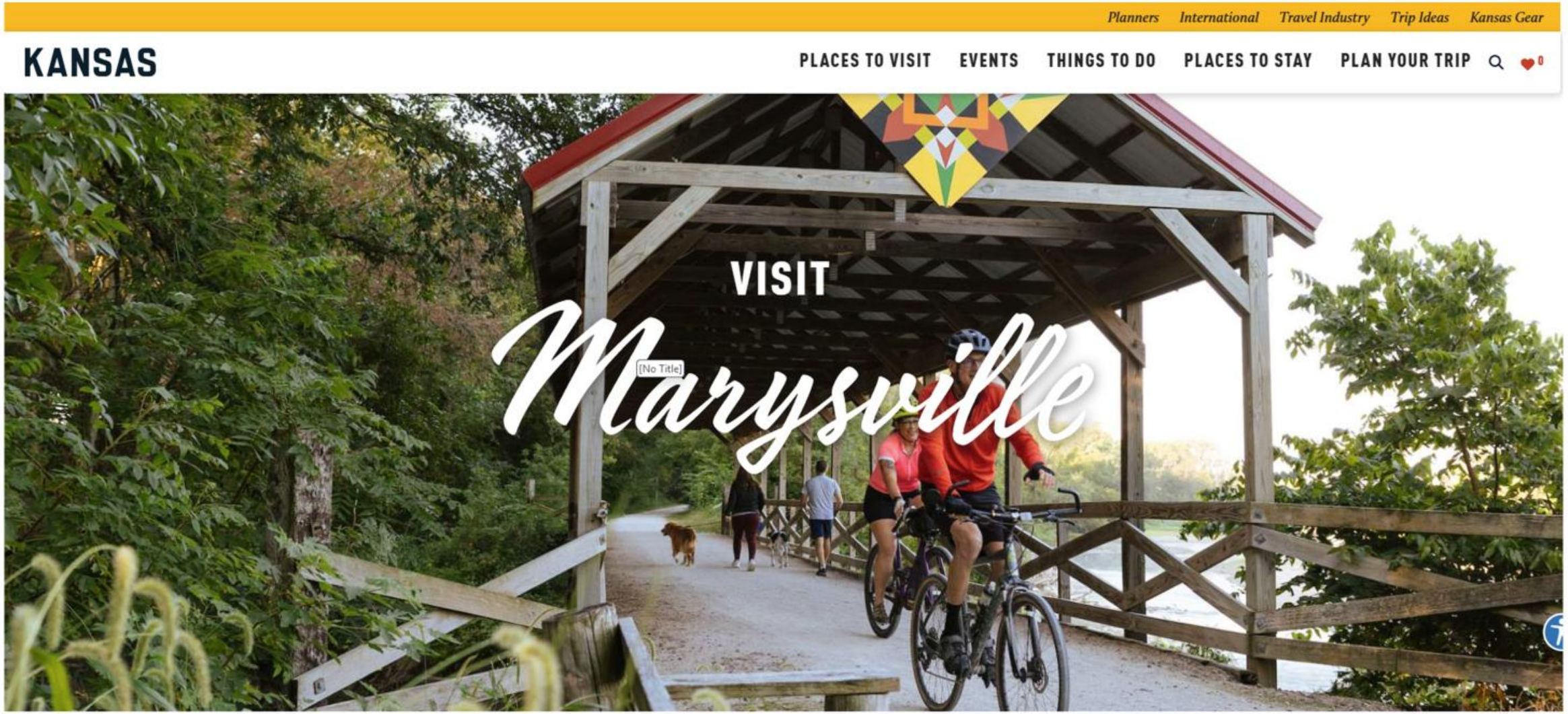
$857.3M STATE & LOCAL TAXES

Each household in Kansas would need to be taxed an additional $730 to replace the visitor-generated taxes received by state and local governments in 2025.



KANSAS TOURISM

FREE CITY PAGE



KANSAS TOURISM

FREE LISTINGS & EVENTS

Share

Blue River Rail Trail

VISIT WEBSITE



8th St. & Jayhawk Road Marysville, KS 66508

info@blueriverrailtrail.org

(785) 562-3101

KANSAS TOURISM

FREE BLOG POSTS

ALL POSTS | FAMILY FRIENDLY | ITINERARIES | HISTORY + CULTURE | FOOD + DRINK | EVENTS | ALL CATEGORIES



HAUNTED AND SPOOKY EVENTS HAPPENING IN KANSAS

As Kansas prepares for Halloween this Fall, get ready to experience some of the most thrilling sights you've ever laid eyes...



THE ULTIMATE BOOK LOVER'S ROAD TRIP

The swish of pages turning. The faint smell of paper and ink as you crack a cover open for the first time. The magic of books can...



SLEEP, SAVOR, & STAY: AGRITOURISM GETAWAYS IN KANSAS

Agritourism stays offer more than just a place to rest your head, they connect you to the land, the people, and the traditions...

KANSAS TOURISM



KANSAS TRAVEL GUIDE

Back Alley Pizza
125 W Sixth St, (316) 804-4924, backalley.pizza
In the heart of downtown Newton, Back Alley features made-from-scratch, brick-oven pizzas, plus sandwiches and salads. A favorite of locals and visitors alike.

Blue Sky Sculpture
1699 N Kansas, (316) 284-3642, townsenton.com
Enjoy a unique view of the Kansas horizon at this large outdoor sculpture with a cloud motif that is one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art.

Breadbasket
219 N Main, (316) 283-3831, Find us on Facebook;
This restaurant and bakery has served locals and visitors for over 30 years. Don't miss the German buffet on Friday and Saturday nights. Good for groups.

Carriage Factory Art Gallery
128 E 6th St, (316) 284-2749, carriagefactoryartgallery.com
Beautiful art in a warm and inviting historical setting. Three levels featuring regional artists in a variety of media. Also enjoy the gift shop and courtyard park.

Charlotte's Sew Natural
710 N Main St, (316) 284-2547, sewnatural.com
Located in historic downtown Newton, we offer 6,000-plus bolts of fabric for quilting and other sewing projects, plus patterns, books and notions. Tremendous selection.

Faith & Life, Inc
606 N Main St, (316) 283-2210, faithandlifebookstore.com
Independent Christian book and gift shop. Books, Bibles, music, cards, jewelry, decor, stationery, kids' items and much more in a peaceful atmosphere.

Gevona Italian Restaurant
1021 Washington Rd, (316) 587-8099, gevonaitalianrestaurant.com
[illegible]

Kitchen Corner
607 N Main, (316) 283-4253, shopmainstco.com
Offering gourmet food, kitchenware, home decor, house-made fudge, holiday decorations and much more in historic downtown Newton.

Main Street Company & Kitchen Corner
607 N Main, (316) 283-4253, shopmainstco.com
A store with passion for fashion. Featuring the latest styles in clothing and accessories as well as specialty bath and body items and gifts.

Moxie Grill & Brew Pub
1420 Old Main, (316) 212-1668, moxienewton.com
A local bar and grill offering burgers, sandwiches, craft beer, cocktails and more. Burger and Brew night is a local favorite. Enjoy weekly specials and live music.

Norm's Coffee Bar
613 N Main, (316) 804-4360, normscoffeebar.net
Located in the heart of downtown Newton. Serving up your favorite hot espresso drinks, iced coffees and teas, blended treats, and gourmet waffles.

Prairy Market & Deli
601 N Main, (316) 283-6623, prairy.com
The home of Prairy Peppernuts. Watch them being made, then shop our mercantile for specialty foods, bulk goods, fresh deli and bakery items, and unique Kansas products.

Sand Creek Station Golf Course
930 Meadowbrook Dr, (316) 284-6161, sandcreekgc@cfuh.com
Nationally renowned golf course offering an unmatched experience at reasonable rates. Most known for hosting the final U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship.

[illegible]

NW

Nicodemus

Nicodemus National Historic Site
310 Washington Ave #B2, (785) 839-4321, nps.gov/nico
Settled by newly freed slaves after the Civil War, Nicodemus was the first all-Black town west of the Mississippi. Learn community stories and see historic sites.

SC

North Newton

Kauffman Museum
2801 N Main St, (316) 283-1612, bethelks.edu/kauffman
Museum features a tallgrass prairie reconstruction, Mennonite immigrant history, farmstead with heirloom gardens, gift store, and special and traveling exhibits.

Mojo's Coffee Bar
300 E 27th St, (316) 284-3204, mojoscoffeebar.com
Voted Best Coffee the past seven years, Mojo's is a local favorite for specialty coffee, smoothies, house-baked goods, breakfast and lunch items, salads, and sandwiches.

NW

Norton

Norton Chamber of Commerce/Travel & Tourism
205 S State St, (785) 877-2501, discovernorton.com

Adobe House
Prairie Dog State Park, (785) 877-2953, ksoutdoors.com
Visit this historic home constructed in 1892. It is the only known adobe house sitting on its original site in Kansas. Self-guided outdoor viewing museum.

Heaton Building Event Space
112 S Kansas Ave, (785) 874-5106, nortoncf.org
Home to the Gloria A. Nelson Cultural Arts Center featuring [illegible] shows, music [illegible] events.

[illegible]
Established by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hillman in 1874. Dedicated in September 1969 at Prairie Dog State Park.

[illegible]

life in Norton County over the centuries from fossils to meteorites to the booming 1940s.

Prairie Dog State Park at Keith Sebelius Reservoir
13017 State Hwy 261, (785) 877-2953, ksoutdoors.com
Home to a thriving 300-plus prairie dog colony. Hike nature trails and view wildlife. Explore the 1892 adobe house in its original location. Cabins rentals available.

Stagecoach Station 15
W Hwy 36 & Jones Ave, (785) 877-2501, discovernorton.com
In 1859, Horace Greeley made a trip west across the entire U.S. and wrote about his experiences, including a stop at Station 15 which is now a viewable museum.

They Also Ran Gallery
105 W Main, (785) 877-3341, theyalsoran.com
This art gallery consist of photographs of all the individuals who ran for the presidency of the United States but were defeated. Also view works by Remington.

NW

Oakley

Annie Oakley Park
627 E 5th St, (785) 671-3000, visitoakleyks.com/parks
Enjoy playground equipment, picnic areas, gazebo, 9 holes of disc golf and a walking trail. Swimming pool with slide and a separate kiddie pool.

Bertrand Park
700 W Third, (785) 671-3000, visitoakleyks.com/parks
The park memorial honors our local service men and women. Playground equipment, gardens, benches and walking trail around the park.

Buffalo Bill Bronze Sculpture
3083 US Hwy 83, (785) 671-3000, buffalobilloakley.org
Witness the incredible twice life-size monumental bronze of Buffalo Bill on his horse in pursuit of a buffalo. It stands 16 feet tall and weighs 9,000 pounds. One of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art.

Fick Fossil and History Museum
[illegible]
Local area history, fossils and [illegible]

TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS & MOBILE VISITOR CENTER







KANSAS TOURISM



- Online format - make updates and be timely in adding additional opportunities
- Allows for easy access to important links
- Highlights ‘Free’ opportunities for partners to take advantage of.

TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS

Attraction Development

2026 - $1,000,000

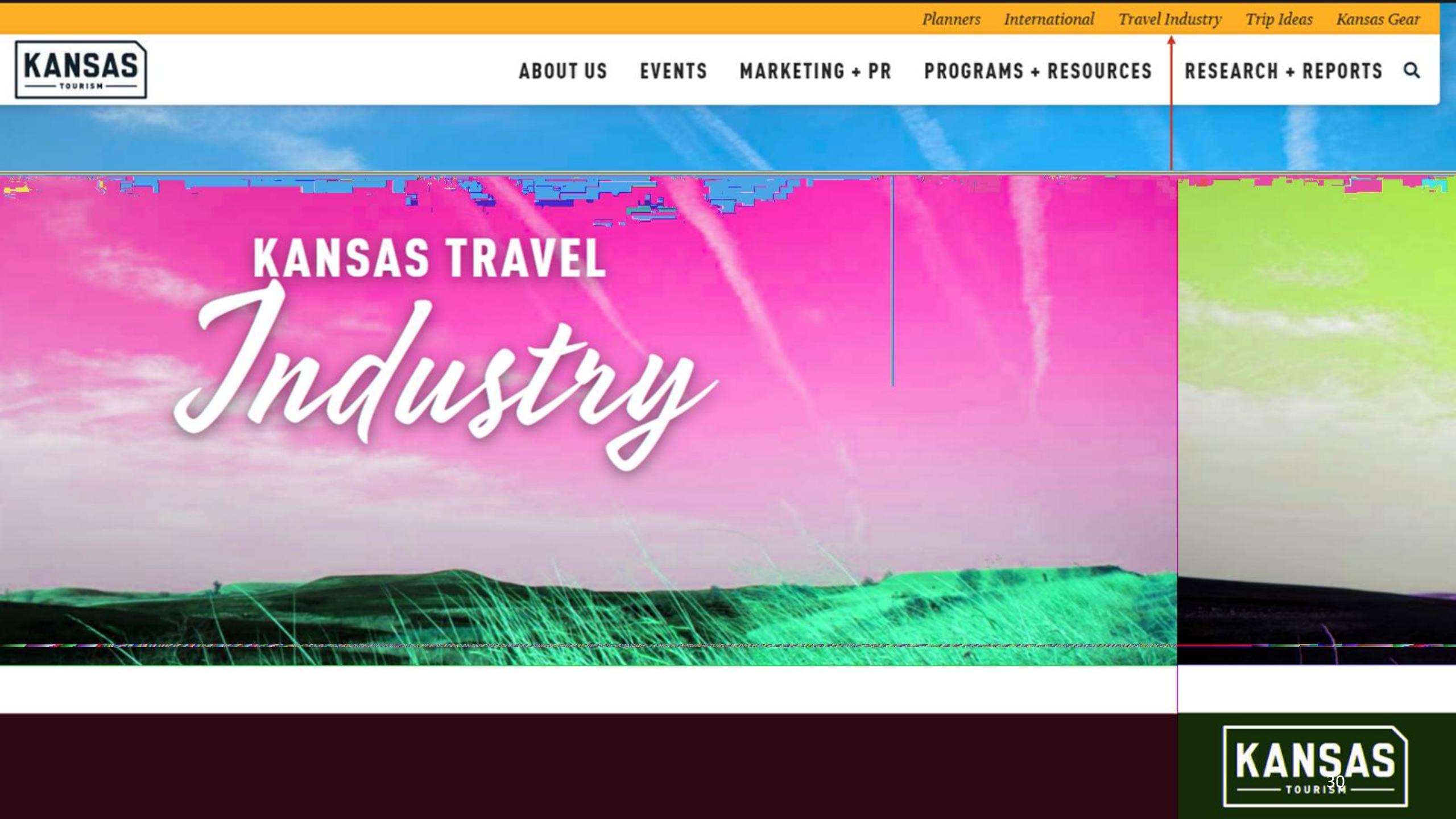
- 60/40 Match
- Unlimited

Tourism Marketing

2026 - $117,407

- 60/40 Match
- $10,000

KANSAS TOURISM


Planners
International
Travel Industry
Trip Ideas
Kansas Gear
KANSAS
TOURISM
ABOUT US
EVENTS
MARKETING + PR
PROGRAMS + RESOURCES
RESEARCH + REPORTS
KANSAS TRAVEL
Industry
KANSAS
TOURISM

KANSAS
COMMERCE

Kelli Orender
Tourism Industry Relations Manager
Kelli.Orender@ks.gov