**Description**

Rural Kansas towns and counties are built on a bedrock of unpaid volunteers that include firefighters, teacher’s aides, youth sports coaches, and so many more. Since 1974, the United States has set aside the month of April to celebrate the impact these people have on our communities. This year, Wabaunsee County has chosen to participate by recognizing volunteers and promoting service between **April 1, 2024, through October 25, 2024.**

**Eligibility**

* Projects must occur within the geographic boundaries of Wabaunsee County.
* Projects must benefit the county, an area, or city, not an individual, single family, or entity.
* Funds must be used for tangible projects. For example, funds cannot be used for planning, marketing, political activities or issue advocacy, or related activities.
* Partnerships between groups are encouraged. Examples include public or private school clubs and groups; homeschool groups; two or more businesses, including farms and ranches; two or more governmental entities; two or more non-profits (i.e., churches, youth organizations, community foundations, Chambers of Commerce, etc.); or any combination of the above.
* One grant per group, up to two grants per city.

**Match.** This program will match 80% of a service project’s cost, up to $250.00. Donated supplies and materials are eligible for matching; labor is not.

**Program Timing**

* Applications open Monday, April 1, 2024, and close Friday, September 27,2024 at 11:59PM. Applications can be submitted by email to SImthurn@wbcounty.org or by mail to the Economic Development office.
* All applications will be reviewed by the Office of Economic Development for eligibility. Projects will be funded on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. $2500 is the grant budget.
* To be eligible, expenses must be incurred after grant approval.
* Though youth participation is strongly encouraged, participating organizations will need one or more supervisory adults who can approve and sign award agreements and receive funds.
* Service projects must begin and be completed between Monday, April 01, 2024, and Friday, October 25, 2024.

**Sample Projects**

Pick up trash in a particular area (at a park, cans on a gravel road, trash along the highway, etc.) … grant can pay for trash bags, gloves, etc.

Paint a storefront, water hydrant, park bench.

Organize a community wide clean-up day.

Clean up ball fields/paint a concession stand/dugout … funding can pay for trash bags, gloves, paint, etc.

Creating a blessing/food box in a city/all cities … grant can pay for construction materials and advertising or promotional material.

Paint a community mural … grant can pay for construction materials, paint, paint brushes, etc.

Organize a clothing/food/hygiene drive for Community Care Ministries or similar organization … grant can pay for promotional materials, packing materials, pick-up and delivery of items.

Make frozen meals for Meals on Wheels participants.

Start a community garden … grant can pay for seed, dirt and fertilizer, work gloves, etc.

Visit lonely seniors – read books, chat, cook a meal together, help with small house projects … grant can pay for promotion, materials, and ingredients, etc.

**Instructions:**

* **This is a fillable application. Using Microsoft Office Word, you should be able to click on “yes/no” boxes and add text to other fields.**
* **Forms can either be mailed or emailed to the Economic Development Office.**
* **Applications for service project grants are due no later than September 27, at 11:59 pm. Return this application to the Office of Economic Development.**

 **Email** **SImthurn@wbcounty.org**

 **Postal Mail Office of Economic Development**

**114 W 3rd St**

**Alma, Kansas 66401**

1. **Primary contact information –**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone Number:**

**Mailing Address:**

1. **Project Description, including location, date and time, and goals:**
2. **Name of participating organizations:**
3. **Expected number of participants:**
4. **Estimated budget.**

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| **Item** | **Cost** | **Remarks** |
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| **Total** |  |  |

1. **Estimated Matching Funds (must be 20% or more of budget, including in-kind supplies and materials):**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** | **Remarks** |
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| **Total** |  |  |