



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

Mid-America Regional Council • 600 Broadway, Suite 200 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • 816/474-4240

September 24, 2024

Board Member Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

In-person attendees in MARC's Board Room with a remote option via Zoom

- **Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email McKenzie Neds at mnedes@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, for instructions to join the teleconference.**

AGENDA

1. Brief Self-Introductions
2. COMPEITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. VOTE: Approve the 2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
3. EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 - a. REPORT: Briefing on the draft 2025 State Policy Agenda
4. EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES
 - a. VOTE: Approve the 2025 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations
5. BRIEF REPORTS
 - a. REPORT: Update on the current 911 Technical Services projects and projects planned for 2025.
 - b. VOTE: Authorize application for Department of Housing and Urban Development Pathways to Removing Obstacles Housing Grant.
 - c. REPORT: Outcomes from the GrandPass Program for older adults
 - d. REPORT: Review updated Mid-America Regional Council's Core Values
6. Executive Director's Report

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

7. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the August 27, 2024, Board Meeting
 - b. VOTE: Authorize application to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of remaining Match Funds for FY24 Mid-America Regional Council Head Start Federal Grant.
 - c. VOTE: Approve actions taken at the September 10, 2024, Head Start Advisory Committee Meeting.
 - d. VOTE: Authorize to solicit and accept funds from the states of Kansas and Missouri for Mid-America Regional Council air quality program.
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

MARC Board of Directors - Members and Alternates

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Anderson, Jalen	Jackson County	County Legislator - Designee for County Executive Frank White Jr.
Bacon, John	Olathe, KS	Mayor
Baird, Bill	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor
Boley, Damien	Smithville, MO	Mayor
Bunch, Eric	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Burroughs, Tom	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Caiharr, Carolyn	Edwardsville, KS	Mayor
Carpenter, Jon	Clay County	Commissioner
Culbertson, Jeff	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Duncan, Johnathan	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Fast, Becky	Johnson County	Commissioner - Designee for Commission Chair Mike Kelly
Fears, Jared	Independence, MO	Councilmember
Fields, Vernon	Basehor, KS	Councilmember
Fricke, Scott	Platte County	Presiding Commissioner
Gaines, Billy	Ray County	Presiding Commissioner
Garner, Tyrone	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Mayor/CEO
Grummert, Holly	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember
Hanzlick, Janee	Johnson County	Commissioner
Hardy, Jeff*	MoDOT	Asst. District Engineer
Heley, Logan	Overland Park, KS	Councilmember - Designee for Mayor Curt Skoog
Hill, Dr. Evelyn	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Hurlbert, Victor	Clay County	Auditor
Huston, Bob	Cass County	Commissioner
Jarrold, Dick**	KCATA	Vice President
Johnson, Ryan	Cass County	Commissioner - Designee for Commission Chair Bob Huston
Jones, Leonard	Mayor	Grandview, MO
Kane, Mike	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner - Designee for Mayor/CEO Tyrone Garner
Kelly, Mike	Johnson County	Commission Chairman
Koehn, Leroy**	KDOT	District Engineer
Lopez, Beto	Lee's Summit, MO	Mayor Pro Tem – Designee for Mayor Bill Baird
Lucas, Quinton	Kansas City, MO	Mayor
Marshall, Megan	Jackson County	Legislator
McCandless, Bridget	Independence, MO	Councilmember – Designee for Mayor Rory Rowland
McDonough, Mike	Raytown, MO	Mayor
McGee, DaRon	Jackson County	Legislator
Meyers, Jeff	Johnson County	Commissioner
Mikkelson, Eric	Prairie Village, KS	Mayor
Moriarty, Michael**	KDOT	Chief of Transportation Planning
Nolte, Jerry	Clay County	Presiding Commissioner
Pogue, Randy	Kearney, MO	Mayor
Poppa, Michael	Johnson County municipalities	Mayor
Ramirez, Christian	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Redline, Chris**	MoDOT	District Engineer
Roberts, Rob	Miami County	Commissioner
Rowland, Rory	Independence, MO	Mayor
Sandifer, Mickey	Shawnee, KS	Mayor
Skoog, Curt	Overland Park, KS	Mayor
Smith, Doug	Leavenworth County	Commission Chairman
Stephens, Tom	Bonner Springs, KS	Mayor
Turnbow, Kristofer	Raymore, MO	Mayor
Vaughan, Tyler	Miami County	Commissioner
Vogt, Marge	Olathe, KS	Councilmember - Designee for Mayor John Bacon
Wagner, Scott	Clay County	Commissioner
Walker, Rick	De Soto, KS	Mayor
White III, Frank**	KCATA	President/CEO
White Jr., Frank	Jackson County	County Executive
Willet, Nathan	Kansas City, MO	Councilmember
Wood, Dagmar	Platte County	Commissioner

*Public Transit Representatives (Voting) **Public Transit Advisory Representatives (Non-Voting)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 1

ISSUE:

Introductions and Board Sharing Time

BACKGROUND:

Time has been reserved on the agenda for introductions and items of interest to Board members. The Board Chair encourages board members to raise matters for discussion at future meetings or other issues of general concern or interest.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 2a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the 2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

BACKGROUND:

The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides funding to regional organizations and local communities for targeted economic development planning and investments that respond to priority needs. In 2002, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) prepared and submitted the first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan to the EDA, outlining economic development needs of smaller outlying communities in the Kansas City region. EDA approved an Economic Development District designation for the Kansas City region in 2006, and EDA awarded the first of a series of annual planning grants to MARC. The district designation is important as it allows MARC's Community Services Corporation and local agencies to apply for EDA funding.

The planning grant funds have been used to conduct economic analysis about the region, to update the CEDS plan in cooperation with local officials, to provide targeted assistance to small cities, and to support the Regional Workforce Intelligence Network (RWIN) and GradForce KC in offering information and analysis for local economic development organizations and working on strengthening the region's workforce system.

MARC is required to update the CEDS plan every five years. The last complete plan was adopted by the MARC Board in January 2019 with a modest update in 2022 to address economic resilience because of the pandemic. The plan includes an overview of the metro area, an analysis of economic challenges and opportunities, goals and objectives for the region's economic progress, community and private sector involvement in the plan and a plan of action, and performance measures. The draft plan is out for public review and comment until September 17 and posted on the MARC website at [Economic Development | MARC.](#)

MARC used RWIN as the advisory committee to provide input to the plan's policy framework and to review the plan. The plan's goals, objectives and strategies are consistent with work underway by the Civic Council on a KC Playbook for economic progress, a new Entrepreneurship Strategy developed by the UMKC Innovation Center, recent work by UMKC, KU, K-State and others around major economic projects in areas of biologics and life sciences, biodefense, cybersecurity, and critical minerals.

The plan includes a resiliency and equity focus, and MARC's long-range transportation plan, regional hazard mitigation plan, climate action plan and work conducted by the Regional Housing Partnership have been incorporated into the CEDS.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Regional Workforce Intelligence Network has reviewed the plan and recommended approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

EXHIBITS:

[Draft 2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)

[2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Executive Summary](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

STAFF CONTACT:

Lisa Danbury, Small Cities Manager

Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development



2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

for Metropolitan Kansas City

Executive Summary

MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL
on behalf of the Mid-America Regional Council
Economic Development District

600 Broadway, Suite 200 | Kansas City, MO 64105
816-474-4240 | www.marc.org

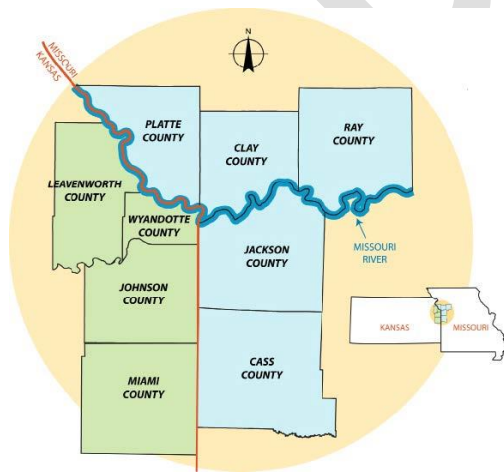
September 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THE CEDS

The 2024-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Metropolitan Kansas City was prepared by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) with public participation from key stakeholders. The CEDS provides a continuing regional economic development planning process designed to capture the driving forces guiding economic growth, resilience and inclusive prosperity. Contributions to the data and SWOT analyses, policy framework, action plan and performance measures were under the review and guidance of the Regional Workforce Intelligence Network (RWIN) and its CEDS Strategy Committee. The plan was adopted by the MARC Board of Directors on [September 23, 2024].

As the region’s designated Economic Development District (EDD), MARC has the responsibility to develop and maintain the CEDS in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA). A new CEDS is required at least every five years to qualify for funding through EDA’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. Funding eligibility is extended to communities and organizations in the region to carry out the plan’s strategies through infrastructure and planning projects that benefit economically distressed communities and populations.



Greater Kansas City Region

EDA promotes the federal economic development agenda through innovation, competitiveness and collaboration helping to prepare regions for growth and success to advance national and regional economic goals. Efforts focus on strategic investments to foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas and in areas that require assistance to recover from emergencies and natural disasters.

The Economic Development District includes Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri and Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.

EMERGING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The strategy proposed for 2024-2029 is informed by previous CEDS planning efforts and forward-thinking leadership. The 2022 CEDS update incorporated resilience and equity policies to address pandemic-era economic challenges. Recent work by KC Rising, a business-led civic collaborative, has identified metrics to measure the region's economic competitiveness and growth toward inclusive prosperity. Climate Action KC is working with MARC to create a more sustainable region through mitigation, adaptation and resiliency measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Further, the UMKC Innovation Center's recent report on the state of small business reveals opportunities to support the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Respondents to a recent public opinion survey as part of the Connected KC 2050 regional transportation plan update process identified affordable housing options, road and bridge options, and a healthy environment as top regional priorities for the next five years.

And, work on behalf of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City by Bruce Katz, founder of New Localism Associates and Accelerator for America, provides insights into new national economic priorities and how the region can respond competitively to take advantage of driving forces and local assets to support economic growth.

To measure progress, KC Rising benchmarks the **region against ten aspirational metros** that historically have done a little better than Kansas City on growth, inclusion, or both, and that the region continuously competes against for economic development projects. These metros are Austin, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Columbus OH, Denver, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Nashville, Portland, and Raleigh.

Early Identification of Opportunities to Unlock Kansas City's Assets in Critical Technologies

Biotechnology & Medical technology

KC shows a strong positioning in this technology prioritized by the US government and highly interconnected to the local life sciences cluster.

Advanced energy efficiency technologies

Cross-sectoral players (construction, batteries, suppliers) that could position the region on these technologies that are essential to the energy transition.

Data storage, Data mgmt. & Cybersecurity

The region has important federal agencies (such as FBI-Kansas City Division; Fort Leavenworth) with strong cybersecurity activity, and a rich ecosystem of organizations and chambers.

Grid & Microgrid

A coordinated ecosystem of construction firms, utilities and R&D could position KC to tap into the growth opportunities driven grid expansion.

Automotive supply chain: EVs & Batteries

The ecosystem of suppliers and OEMs, alongside recent Panasonic's investment and the ongoing transition to EVs renew the opportunities for KC.

Transportation & Logistics Hub

Nearshoring is strengthening trade within the US and across the North Triangle, with KC strategically positioned to attract investments in tradable sectors.

Federal Assets

Including the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, along with the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, often recognized as the intellectual hub of the US Army.

Source: Bruce Katz, New Localism Associates

REGIONAL GROWTH & COMPETITIVENESS

The region's diversity of industry clusters is among its economic advantages. Regional and local organizations have worked together with business and industry to create important leadership groups in areas of animal and human health, transportation logistics and warehousing, manufacturing, building construction and design and others. Recent efforts around emerging industries have led to national Tech Hub designations. In addition to current economic development advances in biologics, biodefense, critical minerals, cybersecurity, data storage and electric vehicle technologies, the region is well-positioned to respond to emerging national economic priorities. These new priorities, as defined in the aforementioned Civic Council research include **reshoring** to bring manufacturing back to the US, **remilitarization** given wars and tensions in Ukraine, Gaza and China, and growing concerns over the changing climate and need for **decarbonization**. Growth opportunities can bring in new federal resources to the region, take advantage of opportunities for critical technologies and green supply chain investments, and increase domestic and global exports as a share of greater Kansas City's total economy.

KC Rising Pillars of Prosperity

Enterprise

A robust entrepreneurial ecosystem sparks scalable business and innovation, leading to breakthroughs that can transform a region's economy.

Industry

Building on our strengths enables our region to attract, grow, and retain globally competitive businesses.

Inclusion

Economies thrive through increased participation when everyone has equitable access to opportunity.

Connectivity

Effective, accessible transportation and Internet options open doors to economic mobility.

Culture

Cultural assets are an integral component of our economy, as well as a force to unify and inspire our region.

Neighborhoods

Healthy, safe, and attainable housing options allow families to build better futures.

Education

Learners of all ages need equitable access to continuous, innovative education to meet evolving workforce needs.

KC Rising established **two overarching growth metrics** to measure regional growth and competitiveness. An economy's overall growth rate is set by its growth in workers and its growth in their productivity.

Net migration rate is a key component of population growth, and by extension labor force growth.

GDP per job is a measure of productivity, or how much each worker is able to produce.

INCLUSION & EQUITY

As one of EDA's investment priorities, the CEDS aligns with KC Rising's Pillars of Prosperity to grow the regional economy

through inclusive prosperity. For the region to succeed, socioeconomic inequities must be addressed to allow all people to achieve economic prosperity. KC Rising also established **two overarching inclusion metrics**. In today's economy, self-sufficient incomes may not be enough to cover unexpected expenses or loss of income. It takes wealth for households to be resilient in the face of adversity. The greatest potential to support building wealth is increasing opportunities for homeownership.

Self-sufficient households – percent of workers, a measure of whether jobs are sufficient to cover bills for necessities such as housing, transportation, childcare and healthcare.

Housing wealth gap – black percent of white housing wealth as indicator for resiliency.

RESILIENCE

The region's recovery from the pandemic demonstrated the need for increased resiliency to withstand, recover and bounce forward from future events and natural disasters. Many of those who were at an economic disadvantage before and during the pandemic remain at a greater disadvantage.

Climate Action KC and MARC are continuing efforts to address economic and climate resilience with a focus on social equity and public health. The CEDS aligns with the nine

Kansas City Region's Climate Action Plan – Areas of Focus

1. **Collaboration and Leadership:** Create new patterns of collaboration that engage diverse interests and support leadership development and capacity building around climate action and adaptation.
2. **Energy:** Replace our dependence on fossil fuels with renewable and clean energy to address climate impacts and reduce energy costs for households and for businesses.
3. **Transportation:** Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by encouraging a shift to other modes of travel (public transit, bicycle, pedestrian) and by locating businesses offering goods and services at key activity centers and along key transportation corridors. Reduce travel by increasing the supply of affordable housing near growing employment centers.
4. **Urban Greening:** Use green infrastructure in the design of new development and redevelopment to achieve important public health and environmental benefits.
5. **Food Systems:** Strengthen local food systems to increase access to affordable healthy food.
6. **Finance and Innovation:** Increase equitable opportunities for a healthy environment, digital technology adoption and green businesses and jobs.
7. **Healthy and Resilient Homes and Buildings:** Support policies and programs to produce more energy-efficient homes and buildings that not only reduce GHG emissions but create healthy living and working environments. Support energy-efficient homes to reduce utility costs for low-income households.
8. **Community Resiliency:** Engage organizations and people of color in the design of policies and programs that create a more inclusive, resilient region.
9. **Industry and Resource Management:** Encourage waste reduction and diversion through recycling, waste diversion and reuse- that could create new economic business opportunities and reduce government, residential and business expenses. Support use of methane from landfills for energy use.

focus areas of this 2021 climate planning effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and create greater economic opportunity for the greater Kansas City area.

COLLABORATION

Community and private sector organizations support the region's economic progress and inclusive prosperity efforts. Regional and local economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, public institutions, nonprofits and civic and government partners contributed to the establishment of the CEDS policy goals, objectives and strategic actions. The policy areas address investments in industry sector growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, education and workforce preparation, housing, and transportation and other infrastructure investments.

2024-2029 CEDS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK POLICY AREAS

BUSINESS

Strengthen the region's economy by focusing on steps to support robust and emerging traded sectors, including efforts to enable existing businesses to grow and for the region to attract new firms. Encourage steps to increase the region's economic position relative to the nation and peer metros.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A new regional vision for strengthening entrepreneurship is under development by the UMKC Innovation Center. Recognized as a hub for entrepreneurial talent and small business formation, the region's entrepreneurs need better access to investor funding and increased support from the area's established companies to fully achieve their growth potential. With assets provided by the UMKC Innovation Center, KCSOURCELINK and Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation among many others, further strengthening of the region's pipeline with research institutions is needed.

PEOPLE

Build a skilled workforce designed to meet the needs of business and to create economic opportunity for residents. Ensure that the region can develop, attract and retain the talent needed to increase the region's pace of innovation and sustain inclusive growth. The increasing diversity of the region's population poses opportunities and challenges to develop the human capital necessary to meet these needs.

PLACE

Invest in vital infrastructure to support economic growth, create vibrant places, a resilient region and increase access to opportunity.

LEADERSHIP, RESILIENCE AND EQUITY (SYSTEMS)

Strengthen local governments and other public and civic institutions throughout the Kansas City region to address social equity, economic resiliency and climate resiliency.

CONCLUSIONS

The region's economic strategies address future growth and prosperity for all. Data analysis reveals how different trends and forces influence the CEDS' policy framework in the five areas of Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, People, Places, and Leadership, Resilience and Equity. The Civic Council's Kansas City Playbook, UMKC Innovation Center's Entrepreneurial Strategy, and recent work by UMKC, KU, K-State and others around major economic projects in areas of biologics and life sciences, biodefense, cybersecurity, and critical minerals are incorporated into the CEDS Five-Year Strategic Action Plan.

Population and labor force: Population trends are impacting the region's economy. Much of the region's population growth will be persons of color. Population is growing more modestly due to a declining birth rate, growing deaths due to the aging population, and fewer immigrants entering the region. The lack of enough workers in the labor force to support a growing economy is also impacted by disparities in educational and skill attainment that could result in many workers limited to filling low skill, low wage jobs. And, the region's unemployment rate has remained low, creating a tight labor market. Yet, this high demand for labor and limited supply has not translated into above average wage gains. Less than half of the region's workers earn a salary considered adequate for self-sufficiency.

Business and industry profile: Our regional economy continues to be diverse—a longstanding strength. Yet our GDP per worker is not keeping up with our peer metros, in part due to our continued reliance on services rather than the production of goods through our traded sectors. The region's three key traded sectors – professional and business services, wholesale trade, and information – have shown no or slow growth beyond the pandemic recovery.

Need for innovation and support for small business: The region has demonstrated strong entrepreneurial activity, and job growth across the region has been fueled by the strength among small businesses. However, the region has low research and development expenditures and patents. To bolster the region's position as a strong entrepreneurial region, a focus on increased capital, entrepreneurship among persons of color, commercialization through research institutions and entrepreneurs, and increased technical support services.

Create a capable workforce and enable households to achieve inclusive prosperity: The region has strong workforce development organizations, but the state line and a lack of awareness of available programs and services limits support for those seeking education

and training. The two states offer strong apprenticeship support systems, and the region could benefit from interest by area employers to offer apprenticeship opportunities to build their workforce. The region's K-12 system and intermediaries have strong career readiness and career exploration programs with scale up needed to serve more students.

Address challenges of creating places that support economic progress: The region, like much of the nation, has a deficit of workforce housing, particularly in and around emerging and growing employment centers. The ability of the region's workforce to find affordable rental and owner housing to meet their needs has become increasingly challenging and limits opportunities for the region to attract new workers. The region has a strong transportation system but lacks adequate public transportation to help workers travel time to training and jobs.

Encourage collaboration among local governments, public institutions, economic development agencies and others to pursue economic opportunities: The region needs to expand industry support organizations to strengthen key industry sectors for continued growth. More encouragement of public and private organizations can lead to greater understanding and opportunities to address economic and environmental resilience.

The strategic actions identified for the next five years are summarized in a reference chart in the CEDS. **Business** actions are centered around the KC Playbook and regional initiatives. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship** actions are centered around entrepreneurship and small business support services and diversity. The actions for **People** focus on workforce training and education and the providers of those services. The actions for **Places** concentrate on housing options. And Leadership actions seek to leverage funding and collaboration to support public investment of projects with significant impact to the region.

In the next five years, the regional economy will be strengthened by our business goals reframed around the new national priorities of reshoring, remilitarization, and decarbonization. A greater emphasis on manufacturing and transportation and logistics can strengthen domestic and international export trade. New opportunities to advance biologics, biodefense and biotechnology, critical materials, cybersecurity, and green energy, including electric vehicles and batteries place the region in a unique competitive advantage. Remilitarization offers sizable opportunities for Kansas City area businesses to provide goods and services to support nearby military bases and other major enterprises in the region. And through decarbonization, the region can expand upon EV investments in vehicle manufacturing and battery manufacturing, expand the number of energy efficient buildings, and strengthen the use of renewables like solar and hydrogen.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 3a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

REPORT: Briefing on the draft 2025 State Policy Agenda

BACKGROUND:

Annually, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board adopts a state policy agenda. The adopted policy has allowed the organization to respond to policy issues, specific legislation or proposed rules during the legislative session that might affect the Kansas City region. MARC does not lobby directly for specific bills in the legislatures, but often works with community partners to share information with state officials to help inform decision-making.

The 2025, the policy agenda areas include:

Local Government Authority
Efficient Transportation
Healthy Environment
Quality Early Learning
Economic Development
Broadband Infrastructure and Access
Affordable Housing
Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION: The MARC Board is asked to provide input in the development of the 2025 state policy agenda.

- Are there specific issues that should be included in the policy agenda?
- Are the suggested issues and statements appropriate or how might they be modified?
- Are there priorities among the issues?

EXHIBITS:

[Draft 2025 State Policy Agenda](#)

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. MARC staff will recommend adoption of the 2025 State Policy Agenda in October.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development



DRAFT 2025 State Policy Agenda

Mid-America Regional Council

About MARC

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is the association of city and county governments and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) serving the bi-state Kansas City region, including Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri and Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. MARC brings together local officials, nonprofit organizations, economic development organizations and other groups to address an efficient and equitable transportation system; a healthy environment; support for vulnerable older adults; a strong early learning system for families and the economy; a competitive economy; safe, secure and healthy communities; affordable housing to meet a range of needs; and efficient local government services.

About this policy platform

This policy platform represents a consensus of policy positions and priorities of the Kansas City region as discussed and discerned in various committees, working groups and public engagement forums supported by MARC. It is approved by the elected leaders comprising the MARC Board of Directors as a statement of regional consensus and does not necessarily reflect the views of individual board members.

The Missouri General Assembly and the Kansas State Legislature are encouraged to consider the following critical needs in the Kansas City region as they deliberate policy issues and appropriate funds in fiscal year 2025.

Local government authority

Local governments provide critical infrastructure and services to residents and businesses. Their ability to budget for and use tax and other resources should not be limited by state legislation or regulation. The region supports maintaining home rule authority for local governments to raise and expend resources, and provide services and adopt regulations that meet the needs of the communities they serve and comport with local priorities.

Efficient transportation

The Kansas City region has an extensive network of highway, bridge and roadway infrastructure and an expanding network of facilities for other modes of transportation. The region supports investing in the safety and integrity of current systems; expanding multi-modal transportation, particularly public transit, to support travel to jobs in suburban locations; lowering household

transportation costs and promoting efficient economic growth and development patterns; active transportation to meet both travel and health needs of an expanding population; and freight infrastructure to support a growing logistics industry.

Key policy positions:

- **Transportation safety:** Strengthen policies and funding to improve enforcement, education, engineering and emergency response strategies to eliminate or reduce roadway fatalities and serious injury crashes.
- **Transportation funding:** Maintain existing transportation funding programs to address the states' growing transportation needs and ensure that the Kansas City region receives appropriate resources as a major economic hub for both Missouri and Kansas. Support expanded funding for multi-modal transportation including public transit, active transportation, ports and freight.

Healthy environment

The states' support for a healthy environment includes addressing climate resiliency and energy conservation; solid waste and recycling; water resources; and air quality. The Kansas City region is committed to creating and sustaining a healthy environment.

Key policy positions:

- **Energy conservation and renewable energy:** Encourage investment in energy conservation, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. Encourage investments in energy-efficient housing and building energy retrofits through strategies, such as green banks, lender education programs and utility partnerships. Proactively coordinate with local officials to seek federal funds to address energy conservation and renewable energy that align with local priorities. Encourage the state of Missouri to work with local officials in the Kansas City region to implement its federal Solar for All funding to help low-income households increase the comfort and affordability of housing.
- **Solid waste and recycling:** Support policies and regulations that enable local governments to address solid waste and recycling in ways that respond to their community's needs. Support the Paint Stewardship Bill, which will provide convenient access for Missouri residents to drop off leftover paint for proper disposal.
- **Water resource protection/climate adaptation/hazard mitigation:** Encourage the development of state and local plans and support investments in infrastructure to protect water resources, build climate and economic resilience, and ensure that residents and businesses are protected from the risk of loss of life or damage to property due to more extreme weather conditions.
- **Air quality:** Support the Kansas City region's efforts to reduce ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution and maintain its status as a Clean Air Region.

Quality early learning

The lack of early childhood services for infants, toddlers and pre-K students, as well as the lack of before- and after-school care for K-8 students, is negatively affecting the states of Missouri and Kansas, including but not limited to employee families and young children. Access to high-quality early learning helps prepare young children to enter kindergarten ready to learn. These educational opportunities support economic growth, safe communities and the development of a skilled workforce.

Key policy positions:

- **Affordable child care:** Reduce barriers to child care subsidy access in Kansas and increase child care subsidy reimbursement rates to the actual cost of quality instead of the market rate model. Increase subsidy income limits so that families pay no more than 7% of their household incomes toward child care, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Establish categorical eligibility for child care workers to receive the child care subsidy. Support child care exchanges through grants and tax credits in Missouri.
- **Qualified workforce:** Invest in strategies to develop a pipeline of human capital, including certification and recruitment starting at the secondary level, workforce retention, and funding to support higher wages and increased benefits.
- **Strong families:** Increase access to evidence-based home visitation programs.

Economic development

The states of Missouri and Kansas have identified priority economic development industries for federal and state investment. Funding through large federal grant programs offer the Kansas City region the opportunity to strengthen its economy, benefitting the states in the key areas of biosciences, including animal and human health and biologics; bio-defense; technology and cybersecurity; reshoring of manufacturing and strategic investments in critical minerals; electric vehicles and batteries manufacturing; the innovative health district in Kansas City, Missouri; and transportation and logistics.

Key policy positions:

- **Economic development projects:** Support regional economic development projects in key industries that offer the opportunity to transform regional and state economic prosperity.
- **Secure resources:** Provide state matching resources for regional initiatives to enable securing federal grants consistent with state and federal economic development priorities.

Broadband infrastructure and access

The Kansas City region's economy depends upon reliable, affordable broadband for businesses and residents. While much of the Kansas City region is reasonably well served by existing internet service providers, there are urban, suburban and rural areas with inadequate infrastructure or cost barriers to access. Many anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, libraries, local governments, etc.) lack access to quality broadband for their facilities or lack the resources to connect in ways that enable more efficient operations.

Key policy positions:

- **Address metro area gaps:** Both Missouri and Kansas should invest a portion of federal infrastructure funding to address the needs in the Kansas City region, including urban, suburban and rural areas. Funds should be allocated to support anchor institutions in the region to improve access to reliable, quality broadband and to connect important facilities.
- **Targeted populations:** Both Missouri and Kansas should support digital access for low-income households, older adults and other target populations for education, employment, telehealth, civic engagement and social interaction through resources for devices, internet connections and digital training.

Affordable housing

The Kansas City region, like much of the nation, lacks an adequate supply of affordable housing. State actions could help to address this critical need.

Key policy positions:

- **Local housing development tools:** Support policy and innovative strategies to achieve safe, stable and attainable housing. Enable local jurisdictions to dedicate public funds to support the development, rehabilitation and preservation of attainable housing.
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit:** Support the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program for the acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of rental housing for lower-income households.
- **Related household expense relief:** Support policy and innovative strategies that lower the cost of housing through energy efficiency and transportation improvements.

Safe, secure and healthy communities

911

For over 40 years, the Kansas City Regional 911 System has served 2 million people, businesses and visitors, connecting callers to the appropriate public safety agency to provide response. The system has been designed and implemented with state-of-the-art technology and redundant

systems to avoid service disruptions. Over 40 public safety agencies, relying on the system across 11 counties in Kansas and Missouri, work together to ensure that system reliability and response serve residents who travel frequently across the state line.

Key policy position:

- **Next Generation 911:** Continue to support funding that will allow Missouri's emergency communications centers the ability to provide Next Generation 911 to residents and fund the establishment of a statewide emergency services network, which will improve 911 interoperability across the state.

Public health

While each local public health department offers different programs and support based on the needs of their service area, all public health focuses on disease prevention and health education.

Key policy positions:

- **Investment:** Support investment in a strong state and local public health infrastructure to ensure that communities are protected from, and able to respond to, public health threats.
- **Regulatory authority:** Maintain adequate regulatory authority to respond to possible public health emergencies.

Emergency medical services

The Kansas City region has a strong network of emergency medical service (EMS) agencies that work closely with one another.

Key policy positions:

- **Reimbursement payments:** Support reimbursement payments and program regulations that enable EMS agencies to provide the highest quality pre-emergency care.
- **Behavioral health:** Support the integration of the regional EMS system with the developing network of behavioral health centers as part of the overall response to behavioral health patients.
- **Improving care:** In Missouri, support regulations that enable EMS agencies to ensure a quality time-critical diagnosis program. In Kansas, support EMS agencies to establish community paramedic programs to improve care to patients in their homes, reduce the need for costly transports and save scarce hospital emergency room resources.

988/opioid settlement/mental health

After the launch of the national 988 program, agencies across the nation – including in Kansas and Missouri – are answering more calls in response to suicide and behavioral health crises.

Key policy position:

- **Implement crisis system:** Support full implementation of the essential elements of an integrated crisis system, including the 988 call centers, mobile crisis response teams and crisis stabilization facilities. Focus opioid settlement and federal resources to reduce deaths from opioids and heroin by expanding behavioral health services for children, youth and adults and implementing harm-reduction programs.

Community health workers

Community health workers have become an important part of the health care system, supporting patients with chronic diseases and those facing barriers due to social determinants of health (such as food and housing insecurity, mental health challenges, and domestic violence).

Key policy position:

- **Reimbursement:** Support allowing agencies that use community health workers to be reimbursed through Medicaid and other public health care programs.

Medicaid

Medical insurance is critical to ensuring that all residents can live healthy, productive lives.

Key policy position:

- **Implementation and expansion:** In Missouri, support full implementation and funding of MO HealthNet and timely review and approval of applications for eligible families and children. In Kansas, authorize the expansion of Medicaid and enable Medicaid reimbursement for community health worker services to connect patients to resources.

Thriving older adults and communities

As residents in the region age, they may require services to remain in the community and in the setting of their choice. This population segment is growing as the Baby Boomers retire and many older adults live longer.

Key policy positions:

- **Responding to older adults:** Support additional funding and flexibility for regional and local agencies to respond to specific needs of older adults within their service areas. In Missouri, maintain and fully fund the Missouri Senior Services Growth and Development Program previously supported by ARPA dollars to serve older adults at risk of abuse.
- **Restore programs:** Restore programs important to older adult health and well-being that have been demonstrated to be effective. In Missouri, restore funding for the Missouri Rx Program, which aids older adults where their health insurance coverage was inadequate to meet prescription costs. Fully fund critical Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs. In Kansas, continue to support the Kansas Rural Transit

Assistance Program, which helps older adults in securing services.

- **Food security:** In Missouri, identify additional state funding to fully maintain and expand access to healthy foods and support for local farmers and grocers through the Double Up Food Bucks program. In Kansas, support the Double Up Food Bucks program through funding mechanisms. Continue strong support of statewide congregate and home-delivered meals infrastructure enhancements and food access solutions.

DRAFT

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024

Item No. 4a

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the 2025 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations

BACKGROUND:

The Kansas City region’s vibrant, green and connected centers and corridors are central to the region’s long-range transportation plan, Connected KC 2050 (CKC 2050). To that end, the planning program, Planning Sustainable Places (PSP), is an initiative to provide communities with planning resources to advance sustainable projects in our region’s centers and corridors since 2013. The 2025 funding is the seventh funding round for the program.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) issued a call for projects that closed on June 14, 2024. MARC staff conducted an initial review and scoring of the 20 applications received and worked with the Sustainable Places Policy Committee to develop a recommended list of awardees. The Committee developed the final recommended project list on September 13, 2024.

The recommendation includes 17 planning studies from across the region:

- 14 Sustainable Places Plans
- 3 Project Development Studies

Complete street plans, corridor plans, and connectivity plans are just some of the projects included in the proposed list. These projects will be developed with a focus on the integration of transportation, land use and environment, and will include robust citizen engagement. The Committee weighed several considerations when developing the list including project scores, scalability, local jurisdiction priorities, geography, replicability, and alignment with PSP program objectives. Local sponsors are responsible for local match requirements. The consultant contracts for the projects will be held by MARC, authorization for those individual contracts will be brought to the MARC Board after they have been negotiated.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
KS Surface Transportation Program (FFY 2025)	\$ 720,000
MO Federal Transportation Admin. (FFY2025)	\$ 900,000
Local Match from Project Sponsors	\$ 700,375
Transportation Fee	\$ 14,985
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$ 151,875
Contractual	\$2,183,485

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Sustainable Places Policy Committee approved the presented funding recommendation on September 13, 2024. The Total Transportation Policy Committee will be considering the recommendation at their September 17, 2024 meeting.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The recommended projects include the Kansas jurisdictions of: City of Basehor, City of Bonner Springs, Johnson County, City of Leavenworth, City of Mission, City of Osawatomie, City of Overland Park, City of Shawnee, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

The recommended projects include the Missouri jurisdictions of: City of Harrisonville, City of Kansas City, City of Kearney, City of Lee's Summit, City of Liberty, City of Parkville, and the City of Platte City.

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

EXHIBITS:

The recommended list can be found on the [MARC website](#) or on the next page.

Summaries for the proposed studies can be found on the [project application portal](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve project funding for the Planning Sustainable Places Program as presented.
- Authorize receipt of local match funds from project sponsors.
- Authorize receipt of \$720,000 from the Kansas Surface Transportation Program and receipt of \$900,000 from the Missouri Surface Transportation Program.
- Authorize the Executive Director to execute agreements with project sponsors.
- Authorize the release of Request for Proposals (RFPs) for selected projects under MARC management.

STAFF CONTACT:

Beth Dawson, Principal Planner

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment

2025 Kansas Planning Sustainable Places | Funding Recommendation

Project Number	Primary Applicant	Project Title	ProjectType	Project Score	Score Rank	Priority	Federal Amount Requested	Local	Recommended		Revised Total
									%	Funding	
23	Unified Government	UG Zoning Code Update	Sustainable Places Plan	90	1		\$ 150,000	\$150,000	100%	\$150,000	\$ 300,000
42	City of Bonner Springs	Bonner Springs Connectivity and Walkability Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	81	3		\$ 65,000	\$ 21,500	90%	\$ 58,500	\$ 80,000
50	City of Leavenworth	7th Street Corridor Study	Sustainable Places Plan	74	6		\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	90%	\$ 58,500	\$ 123,500
54	City of Osawatomie	Mile Zero Trailhead Master Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	71	7		\$ 36,000	\$ 9,000		\$ 36,000	\$ 45,000
45	City of Overland Park	Overland Park Wayfinding Master Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	70	8		\$ 64,000	\$ 14,000	90%	\$ 57,600	\$ 71,600
51	City of Basehor	Basehor Reimagined Active Transportation Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	70	8	2	\$ 120,000	\$ 30,000		\$ -	\$ -
49	City of Basehor	Basehor Town Center Trail and Recreation	Sustainable Places Plan	68	10	1	\$ 60,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 34,000	\$ 49,000
39	City of Mission	Martway/Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan: Martway West	Project Development	82	2		\$ 96,000	\$ 24,000	90%	\$ 86,400	\$ 110,400
55	Johnson County	Fast and Frequent Transit Service on the Metcalf Corridor	Project Development	81	3		\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	90%	\$135,000	\$ 172,500
47	City of Shawnee	Downtown Shawnee Wayfinding Plan	Project Development	80	5		\$ 56,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 70,000

Total	\$ 862,000	\$386,000	\$666,000	\$ 1,022,000
Available	\$ 666,000		\$666,000	
Difference	\$ (196,000)		\$ -	
Funded Projects			9	

2025 Missouri Planning Sustainable Places | Missouri Funding Recommendation

Project Number	Primary Applicant	Project Title	ProjectType	Project Score	Score Rank	Priority	Federal Amount Requested	Local	Recommended		Revised Total
									%	Funding	
53	City of Kearney	Connected Kearney Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	89	1		\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000	100%	\$ 75,000	\$ 100,000
40	City of Kansas City	Forgotten Homes and Independence Plaza Study	Sustainable Places Plan	85	2		\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	100%	\$ 150,000	\$ 187,500
52	City of Platte City	Historic Downtown Platte City and Courthouse Square	Sustainable Places Plan	84	3		\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000	100%	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000
41	City of Lee's Summit	Rock Island Trail Connectivity and Wayfinding Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	82	4		\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000	100%	\$ 40,000	\$ 55,000
38	KCATA	Blue Ridge TOD and Transit Center Study	Sustainable Places Plan	81	5		\$ 150,000	\$ 35,500		\$ 142,000	\$ 177,500
34	City of Liberty	MO 291 Multimodal Corridor Study: Kansas St. to Leonard	Sustainable Places Plan	75	6	2	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500		\$ -	\$ -
33	City of Liberty	Leonard/Lightburne Multimodal and Reconstruction Study	Sustainable Places Plan	70	7	1	\$ 150,000	\$ 35,625	95%	\$ 142,500	\$ 178,125
35	City of Harrisonville	Harrisonville Downtown Area Traffic and Parking Study	Sustainable Places Plan	68	8		\$ 120,000	\$ 36,000	95%	\$ 114,000	\$ 150,000
56	City of Parkville	Parkville Sidewalk Gap Inventory and Rating Plan	Sustainable Places Plan	65	9		\$ 20,000	\$ 4,750	95%	\$ 19,000	\$ 23,750
24	City of Liberty	Glenn Hendren Corridor Study	Sustainable Places Plan	57	10	3	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500		\$ -	\$ -

Total	\$ 1,155,000	\$ 314,375	\$ 832,500	\$ 1,071,875
Available	\$ 832,500		\$ 832,500	
Difference	\$ (322,500)		\$ -	
Funded Projects			8	

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024

Item No. 5a

Safe and Secure Communities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on the current 911 Technical Services projects and projects planned for 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) public safety communications programs help strengthen the region's abilities to protect, prepare, respond and recover with coordinated plans, resilient communications systems, high-quality training and exercises, technology and equipment. MARC also coordinates ongoing enhancement and operation of the regional 911 and interoperable communications systems. Hassan Al-Rubaie, MARC's 911 Technical Services Director will provide and update on the 2024 technical services projects on the regional 911 system and provide an overview of projects scheduled in 2025.

Below is a list of projects that will be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting. These enhancements are designed to ensure that the regional response system continues to lead in the adoption of technologies that enable more precise routing of calls, backup reliability, reduce system downtime and service calls, improve network connectivity, and to provide the best possible service to not only the citizens of our region, but also our regional telecommunicators who are answering the calls.

2024

Cyber Security Disaster Recovery for 911 host systems
GeoComm Maps
Hardware Refresh for PSAP call answering equipment
Kansas City, MO Fiber to Mid-America Regional Council
Lenexa Police Department location move
Netclock Upgrades (network time synchronization)
Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Upgrades
Uninterruptible Power Supply Upgrades (Tower sites)
VESTA 9-1-1 Server Refresh and Upgrade

2025

Citizen Input & Smart Transcription (Trial)
Hardware Refresh for PSAP call answering equipment
Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Upgrades
Rapid Deploy Eclipse Analytics
VESTA Router 2 (Next-Generation 911 Internet Protocol Selective Router)

The Public Safety Communications Board has multiple goals for the regional 911 system. Included in these goals are the enhancement of the communications capabilities between all public safety and emergency services agencies in the region, as well as creating a state-of-the-art communications network to serve the region.

The enhancements and improvements to the 911 system will ensure that the regional 911 system continues to adopt technologies that improve the location of 911 calls, create 911 system redundancies, secure the 911 system against cybersecurity threats, and process and deliver the millions of 911 and administrative calls to our regional Public Safety Answering Points annually.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The Public Safety Communications Board approves an annual budget that is organized by their work and allocated across organizations. That budget includes a four-year capital improvement plan. Based on projections the 911 Program has adequate funding to support these projects.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This report supports the 11-county MARC regional 911 network.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Director
Hassan Al-Rubaie, Director of 911 Technical Services

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 5b
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize application for Department of Housing and Urban Development Pathways to Removing Obstacles Housing Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Directors approved an application for the first round of this grant in September 2023 and approved a resolution regarding the regulatory requirements set out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at its October 2023 board meeting. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) was not awarded funds in the first round.

HUD has now opened a second round of funding with the intent to award over \$100 million in competitive grant funding for the identification and removal of barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Barriers to affordable housing may include, but not be limited to, zoning decisions, land use policies, inadequate infrastructure, expiration of affordability requirements, preservation funds, harmonizing building codes, etc. HUD expects to make approximately 30 awards with a minimum award of \$1 million and a maximum award of \$7 million. MPOs are again eligible entities to apply for these competitive grants

Based on the feedback from HUD on the previous application and looking at successful applications, MARC is planning to submit a regional application based around three projects:

- Developing a strategy and program to assist communities in reviewing land-use policies, zoning codes and development processes to increase and preserve affordable housing with an aim for implementation and adoption.
- Harmonizing building codes within the region to foster development and preservation of affordable housing.
- Funding development of the Community Land Trust Consortium as described in the Regional Business Plan for CLTs that will provide technical assistance and development of CLTs in the region.

Expected partners/subrecipients in this work include Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS), Kansas City Community Land Trust and Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City.

Based on HUD feedback, it is imperative the application call out more clearly serving priority communities and provide evidence of past success. In this application the focus area will be Johnson County, Kansas as well as the First Suburbs Coalition. Johnson County is the largest priority geography, and the First Suburbs Coalition has a history of coming together around topics working to implement best practices. The rest of the region will still be called out as major stakeholders to engage, share information and materials and work with.

There is a required public hearing on the application anticipated to be held the week of September 30th. and the application will be posted on the MARC website for a 15-day comment period as required by the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The application with responses to comments is due October 15th.

Approval of this item would also reaffirm the resolution from last year to again be used in our application regarding the certification of excessive force policies.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

MARC staff are still in the process of putting together the application and final budget numbers. The maximum award is \$7 Million and the total request in federal dollars will not exceed that amount. Staff anticipates including leveraged dollars and more will be shared at the B&P meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The application will have a specific focus on Johnson County, Kansas and the First Suburbs Coalition communities given HUD's priority geography distinction and need for past evidence, but the application is intended to allow involvement of the entire nine-county region.

EXHIBITS:

[2023 MARC Board Resolution](#)

[HUD PRO Housing Summary](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize staff to submit a regional application for the Department of Housing and Urban Development PRO-Housing Grant not to exceed \$7 Million in federal grant dollars and the use of staff time and already awarded grant dollars as leveraged dollars.

STAFF CONTACT:

Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024

Item No. 5c

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Outcomes from the GrandPass Program for older adults.

BACKGROUND:

Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Aging and Adult Services provides respite programs through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, part of the Older American's Act. One of the four focus populations in this program is "caregivers age 55+ of children under the age 18." In 2023, Aging and Adult Services partnered with the YMCA and started GrandPass, a unique program that offers a free week of camp for children in this population. This gives the older caregiver needed relief from caregiving tasks and expenses and gives the children exposure to new activities and opportunities for socialization.

The first year, 60 children applied for the camp, and 24 met the age criteria and were approved for a free week of day camp at one of the YMCA's day camps in the Kansas City area. This past summer was the second year of GrandPass. We were able to partner with the YMCA again for day camps, and also with Camp Wildwood to offer an overnight camp experience to children. This summer, GrandPass was able to serve 36 children and 18 families across 8 weeks at five different locations through the metro.

Looking to next summer, our goal is to reach more participants and provide this opportunity to even more older caregivers and the children they care for.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte Counties in Missouri.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Christian Aguirre, Integrated Care Specialist II
Shannon Halvorsen, Integrated Care Manager

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 5d
Exemplary Core Capacities

ISSUE:

REPORT: Review updated Mid-America Regional Council's Core Values.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) observes a set of core values that are developed and operationalized by the dedicated staff of the organization. The values were last updated in 2012. The process to update the values is intentional and thoughtful by reflecting and making updates as needed to ensure that these values echo our collective work as an organization and our region. The MARC team has recently completed another iteration of this process including listening sessions, surveys and team outreach across the organization. Staff will share information about the process as well as the updated MARC Core Values.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

EXHIBITS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
Amanda Graor, Deputy Director of Research Services and Chief Innovation Officer
Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager

Refreshed MARC Values



- **Integrity**
- **Collaboration**
- **Innovation**
- **Leadership**
- **Respect**
- **Belonging**
- **Impact**

We operate with **integrity** as public servants – responsibly and equitably managing the work with which we are entrusted.

We foster trust, **collaboration**, and partnership among people, communities, and organizations.

We cultivate **innovation**, forward-thinking ideas and demonstrate **leadership** and excellence to advance our region.

We foster a culture of **respect**, valuing diverse perspectives and mutual understanding to create a sense of **belonging**.

We provide stewardship of resources and coordinate community-driven solutions to make a meaningful **impact** on our region – now and into the future.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 7a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the August 27, 2024, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the August 27, 2024, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm, Executive Director
McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant

MARC

MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY
AUGUST 27, 2024
12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS - MARC Board Chair
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO - MARC Board 2nd Vice Chair
Council member Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - Treasurer
Council member Bridget McCandless, Independence, MO - Secretary
Legislator Jalen Anderson, Jackson County, MO
Council member Eric Bunch, Kansas City, MO
Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Council member Johnathan Duncan, Kansas City, MO
Commissioner Becky Fast, Johnson County, MO
Council member Jared Fears, Independence, MO
Mayor Leonard Jones, Grandview, MO
Mayor Mike McDonough, Raytown, MO
Mayor Eric Mikkelson, Prairie Village, KS
Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, KS
Mayor Tom Stephens, Bonner Springs, KS
Mayor Kris Turnbow, Raymore, MO
Council member Marge Vogt, Olathe, KS
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

Chris Redline, MODOT
Council member Inas Younis, Overland Park, KS
Sylvia Stevenson, Jackson County, MO

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Due to the meeting being held remotely and in-person, Commissioner Hanzlick provided instructions for participation. She reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item, and ask for approval of all agenda items as they appear on the agenda. The consent agenda will be voted on at the end of the meeting. Members will have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during each vote.

REPORT: Regional Housing Partnership update

Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager, and Josh Akers, Research Manager, gave an overview and holistic look at the Regional Housing Partnership program. MARC has recently produced data stories that show the region needs 64,000 more units of housing than we currently have available with the ideal price point at \$650 and below. Adding on to these pressures is the

potential for 10,000 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units that are expected to roll off in the next decade and as of this presentation, the region's homeownership data shows that we are still below a healthy supply of homes. The RHP seeks to produce and preserve more housing at more price points of more types across the region by using the 7 elements of an effective housing system. Ms. Killen then walked through the timeline of funding and work that the RHP has accomplished since the end of 2021. During 2024, the RHP created a strategy committee that had three goals emerge from the discussion process: (1) build upon a collaborative regional process and approach, (2) produce and preserve housing, and (3) increase resident housing stability and access to housing. The next steps of this work will be to develop action plans with the network in order to implement the goals throughout the region. Ms. Killen called attention specifically to goal (1) because those action plans will rely heavily on land use, development processes, zoning codes, and other local policy action steps that jurisdictions can take. She also mentioned that a housing policy survey was just sent out to every jurisdiction to set the tone for the region's current policies and help prepare for things like the World Cup in 2026. The team is requesting one response from each community to create those data points.

Josh Akers presented data and research that outlines the need for affordable housing in the Kansas City region. He stated that there are three main factors affecting housing affordability: wages, transportation and housing prices / availability. Since COVID-19 wages have not been keeping up with the rising prices of housing in the area even when adjusted for inflation. Prior to the pandemic, Kansas City was near the middle of the peer metro scale for wages and now we sit second to last. The second factor is transportation, which when combined with housing costs accounts for 56% of a moderate-income household (making \$82,000 per year) costs. Finally, housing costs themselves have almost doubled in ratio compared to incomes and over 64,000 households cannot find a house or apartment that is less than 30% of their income. Mr. Akers said that if we wanted to close the housing gap, we would need to create 10,000 units per year for the next decade.

The RHP is working to create a Regional Housing Fund that seeks to bring \$900 million of additive capital to the region that could benefit all the communities by developing market and affordable housing which will reduce the upward pressures caused by the limited supply of housing. The group will continue to work on tracking data and seek feedback from local communities about their needs for housing.

Council member Johnathan Duncan asked if there was data regarding for profit companies that are buying up single family houses and has the group seen AI technology use to manipulate rent prices for homes?

Mr. Akers pointed to the housing section of the MARC website that has the data and analysis that would piece this story together. The investor ownership in Kansas City matches what the team is seeing nationally and they recognize that it directly impacts first time home buyers or starter homes. These investors are able to buy homes in cash and outbid a family looking to buy their first home - these are usually targeted in neighborhoods that have limited styles of housing (that were produced like an assembly line) which makes it easy to estimate costs and repairs. Once the repairs are made, the prices of the homes can be increased to the point of unattainability. In regards to the AI question - there are a number of federal cases right now that are looking at the collusion practices but the MARC team has not seen anything specifically in the KC region where that is happening.

Commissioner Tom Burroughs asked for clarification on the difference between affordable housing and workforce housing. Mr. Akers said there really isn't a difference between them and the definition is income based. The assumption is that a working class family of 4 makes on average \$82,000 per year and the metrics are broken down from there to determine what is an affordable portion of income for housing costs. If a family spends more than 30% of their income on housing then that is not considered affordable housing.

REPORT: Public Sector Workforce Development Program update

Alex Morgan, Workforce Program Manager, provided an update on the public sector workforce development program that is funded through a grant from the Bloch foundation. The goal of this program is to create better governments by investing in the backbone of governments, which are the people that make up government organizations. All the initiatives and different programmatic elements center around primary goals and objectives: fill vacancies (particularly hard-to-fill positions), create pathways to living wages/family sustaining careers, and develop a regional talent pipeline for the public sector. To fulfill these objectives, four initiatives have been identified. (1) the hard-to-fill jobs pilot program consists of six government employers, the City of Kansas City, MO, Clay County, MO, Independence, MO, Overland Park, KS, the City of Shawnee, KS, and Johnson County, KS who are helping us to better understand pain points and make connections with workforce programs. The theory is that this group of jobs can be treated like an industry like engineering. (2) MARC is working to write a concept paper for an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary application which would allow MARC to apply for AmeriCorps VISTA positions for other government organizations in the area. AmeriCorps is a national service program focused on poverty initiatives, which includes roles or jobs that focus on poverty in your communities. (3) Reimagining the Career Expo which MARC along with partner organizations host for high school students to attract them to government jobs and career opportunities. (4) Finally re-envisioning of the MetroKCGovJobs website which acts as a jobs board for local governments to use to post their jobs. The hope is that this resource can be built into a more robust resource with new tools like a comprehensive internship list and job fair information. The immediate future focus of the program will be expanding the pilot group that is working on the hard-to-fill jobs, looking further into early talent connections (i.e. high school or early college engagements), and the team is hoping to create a suite of technical assistance services for programmatic elements from recruitment to retention and everything in between. All with the hope that building the backbone of better government is by creating a robust talent bench for the public sector.

Mayor Eric Mikkelson asked if this program includes police departments as they are one of the largest pain points he has experienced. Ms. Morgan explained that the team is aware of the need and that those are pain point positions however, they are also some of the most complicated positions to fill within local governments and the pilot program is working on other positions that are slightly more attainable to get the ball rolling.

Council member Duncan asked if the housing presentation and workforce presentation are linked. Mostly because the City of Kansas City, MO has a residency requirement for their employees but if it's becoming increasingly harder to find housing within the city then their talent pipeline is limited. Ms. Morgan said that yes these topics are absolutely linked together. Part of the suite of technical services could include exploration of policies and whether those policies are negatively affecting the workforce whether that be through housing requirements, second chance hiring, or something like STARS (Skilled Through Alternative Routes).

REPORT: Early Learning Strategic Planning update

Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start, reminded the board that in February, the Early Learning Department started their strategic planning for the region and has a steering committee comprised of 32 persons from various organizations around the region representing both sides of the state line. There are five work groups: policy and public engagement, quality pedagogy, supported teachers and families, data and metrics, and services, funding, and coordination. In early July, the team hosted a forum on early learning that engaged with over 90 attendees to discuss the need of the region. Staff shared that across the region we need at least 30,000 additional infant-toddler classroom slots and that 67% of providers are operating under capacity due to staffing challenges. While at the forum those gathered identified community priorities surrounding workforce development, ensuring that parents are informed about available resources for child growth and development, improving transportation systems for families and educators, providing accessible professional

development for educators and increasing government funding at all levels. The next steps for the strategy committee will be to stabilize the ECE workforce through outlined action steps for each of the five work groups. The workgroups will continue toward their stated goals from now until December 2024 when they will present their final plans to the steering committee to receive feedback and then in January 2025 the plan will be presented to the community and Connecting the P.I.E.C.E.S. will be sunset as the plan is launched. If any member of the Board is interested in participating, they are welcome to join the conversation at any time.

BRIEF REPORTS:

REPORT: Regional Solid Waste Plan Executive Roundtable update

Dianna Bryant, Solid Waste Management Program Manager, provided an update from an executive round table that was hosted by MARC to discuss the Regional Solid Waste Plan. The roundtable consisted of elected officials and senior staff members that came together to familiarize themselves with the process and participated in a gap analysis to identify needed services and missing opportunities for waste diversion. Dr. Bryant invited anyone who would like to participate in the next two meetings to reach out to her for more information, they are happening at the MARC offices on September 18 and November 18. The September workshop is aimed for city and county staff to understand what resources are available regionally, what infrastructure exists to handle different waste streams, and how we can reduce the impacts of landfills.

Mayor Kris Turnbow attended the event and said that the group had great ideas and energy around best practices and new technologies. He is looking forward to learning about how other municipalities handle their waste around the region and creating a comprehensive plan for the future.

Commissioner Tom Burroughs also attended the roundtable and was taken aback by the amount of resale / recycled materials that move through the restock stores effectively keeping items out of the landfill by repurposing them and getting them back in the community to use.

Mayor Mike McDonough thanked the MARC staff for coming out to the Household Hazardous Waste event that Raytown, MO hosted over the weekend. They were able to recycle and dispose of a wide range of hazardous materials safely for the community from over 300 cars.

Commissioner Hanzlick mentioned the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recently presented at the Johnson County Board of Commissioners meeting about the 2024 Solid Waste plan for the county and just some of the issues discussed were hauler licensing, large-scale composting facilities expanding household hazardous waste events, etc. The conversations are happening around the region and hopefully coordination will begin to form.

REPORT: WAY TO GO 2024 Green Commute Challenge Information

Rachel Krause, WAY TO GO Program Manager, announced that the Green Commute Challenge is back for its 16th year in the Kansas City Region. For the month of October, employees are encouraged to take greener ways to and from work and log their trips on the WAY TO GO app. Persons can be on employer or community-based teams to green their trips by carpooling, biking, walking, scooting, and taking public transport to and from work (including lunch!). Each green trip you take will earn you points for the weekly raffle and grand prizes. This year there is a new category specific for city and county teams to create friendly competition and even out the smaller cities vs bigger cities to give an equal chance to win.

Ms. Krause asked the board to be a champion in the community by sharing social media campaigns and information regarding the challenge and to reach out to the MARC team if their jurisdiction would like more information or a presentation regarding the event or other ways to travel green throughout the year.

Mayor Turnbow commented that the City of Raymore has had ordinances allowing golf carts,

which are typically electric, on city roads that allows residents to leave their cars at home when running errands.

Ms. Krause reminded the board that driving an electric vehicle does not count toward the challenge unless you carpool in the EV to and from work / meetings.

REPORT: Regional Coordination of World Cup 2026

David Warm, MARC's Executive Director, announced a new MARC member center that will help communities around the Kansas City area collaborate / coordinate on World Cup related events happening in their jurisdictions. Any civic entity or employee is able to join the conversation by following the instructions listed on the MARC website at www.marc.org/world-cup

REPORT: #CityHallSelfie Day 2024 Success

McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant, reported that this year's #CityHallSelfie Day was a success! MARC staff took to the region and created a heart shaped map around the Kansas City area and stopped in at civic locations that boast a Parde of Hearts statue. Anyone interested in seeing the photos should look at the MARC social media pages on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. Save the date for next year's event: August 12, 2025.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

David Warm, MARC's Executive Director, called attention to the Bi-State Reinvestment Corridor project is officially launching, Any members that are interested in the work are encouraged to reach out to Ron Achelpohl. He mentioned that the next MARC Board meeting will be September 24, 2024. And he noted for the board that because the Board of Directors does not meet in the month of July, he administratively approves items that cannot wait until the August board meeting and then asks for ratification in the month of August.

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the June 25, 2024, Board Meeting
- b. VOTE: Review and accept the 2023 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report
- c. VOTE: Authorize a contract amendment increase with Sustainable Solution Groups for consulting support for the update of the Regional Kansas City Climate Action Plan.
- d. VOTE: Authorize a sub-grant award from the Center for Watershed Protection to expand development of a green stormwater infrastructure workforce training program.
- e. VOTE: Authorize contract with the city of Kansas City, Missouri to implement green infrastructure policy and training activities.
- f. VOTE: Authorize contract with the US Geological Survey to continue the operation and maintenance of a Missouri River gage in Parkville and accept contributions from six communities and agencies to pay for project costs.
- g. VOTE: Authorize application to the US Department of Transportation SMART Grant Real-time and Historical Sourced Data and Platform for the Operation Green Light Regional Traffic Signal Program.
- h. VOTE: Authorize 2024 expenditures per approved memorandum of understanding to LISC Greater Kansas City 2024 for continued Regional Housing Partnership work.
- i. VOTE: Approve a five-year contract with Motorola to provide maintenance services for all regional VESTA 911 workstations and associated devices and VESTA Managed Services.
- j. VOTE: Approve amendment increase with Town & Country Super Market, Inc for Double Up Food Bucks incentives at their stores participating in the program.
- k. VOTE: Authorize an application for a Transformation of Rural Community Health Community Grant.
- l. VOTE: Authorize Community Support Network contracts with Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly and The Don Bosco Centers to provide catered meals.
- m. VOTE: Approve amendment increase to contract with Kathy Waage for continued support

for the Head Start health team.

VOTE: Approve Administrative Actions from July 2024 Memo

- a. VOTE: Authorize a contract with the Mid America Missouri Local Emergency Planning District to provide hazardous materials planning, training and exercise, and administrative services (\$52,800).
- b. VOTE: Authorize contract with Kelly Construction Group for updated amount to complete renovations of the repack facility at 1218 Swift, North Kansas City (\$738,400).
- c. VOTE: Authorize acceptance of funds and increased contracts for Regional Community Health Worker Collaborative
- d. VOTE: Approve a contract between The Family Conservancy and Mid-America Regional Council's Early Learning Department (\$50,319).
- e. VOTE: Approve the purchase of Creative Curriculum kits for five Head Start direct service providers (\$140,134).
- f. VOTE: Approve the 2024 3rd Quarter Amendment to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.
- g. VOTE: Approve 2024 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #4.
- h. VOTE: Approve Connected KC 2050 Amendment #8.
- i. VOTE: Approve the 2025-2027 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal
- j. VOTE: Authorize a contract amendment with Sustainable Solution Groups (SSG) to increase the budget of on-call services supporting the update to the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan (\$290,000).
- k. VOTE: Approve contract with Forvis Mazars for support in researching, selecting and implementing a human resources information system.
- l. VOTE: Approve renewal of Property, Liability, Vehicle, Cyber and Work Comp Coverages with Midwest Public Risk (\$345,328.85).

MOTION: Mayor Mike McDonough moved for approval of all agenda items, the consent agenda, and the items from the July 2024 Administrative Actions Memo and Council Member Bridget McCandless seconded. Commissioner Hanzlick asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items.

The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 7b
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize application to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of remaining Match Funds for FY24 Mid-America Regional Council Head Start Federal Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The Administration of Child and Families (ACF) funds 80 percent of the total operating cost of Head Start and Early Head Start grants. The remaining 20 percent must come from in-kind donations or matching funds from the community. These in-kind contributions must come from non-federal sources and must support necessary, reasonable and allowable costs for operating the program to be counted toward the 20 percent match. These contributions are generally in the form of volunteer services, donated or loaned equipment or space, donated supplies, land, or buildings by MARC's partner agencies.

The required federal match for the Head Start and Early Head Start grant (07CH012381) ending October 31, 2024, is \$8,229,714. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has identified contributions totaling \$7,379,285.29 leaving a balance due of \$477,779.86. MARC Head Start is seeking a waiver from ACF not to exceed the remaining balance of \$477,779.86. Staff are confident in identifying additional in-kind funds but wish to be fiscally conservative in projections.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The agenda item was approved by MARC Head Start Policy Council on September 9, 2024, and MARC Head Start Advisory Committee on September 10, 2024.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Clay, Jackson, Platte counties in Missouri.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve MARC Head Start request to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver for the remaining balance of the required non-federal match for 2023-2024 Federal Head Start and Early Head Start grant.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director
Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 7c
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve actions taken at the September 10, 2024, Head Start Advisory Committee Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The Head Start Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the following program information reports at its September meeting:

- Approval of June 2024 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 2024 Shared Governance Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Updated Policy 7070 Cultural Profile
- Approval of Policy 1060 Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee
- Approval of MARC Head Start Selection Criteria
- Approval of MARC Head Start Waiver for In-Kind

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Head Start Advisory Committee considered this information at its September 10, 2024, meeting and recommended MARC Board approval.

EXHIBITS:

[Head Start Advisory Committee meeting packet](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the actions taken at the September 10th Head Start Advisory Committee meetings.

STAFF CONTACT:

Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

September 2024
Item No. 7d
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize to solicit and accept funds from the states of Kansas and Missouri for Mid-America Regional Council air quality program.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has been actively involved in air quality issues since the early 1970s and since 1978 has served as the official air quality planning organization for the bistate metro area under section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act. Section 174 requires that states appoint an organization to coordinate local input to the development of the state air quality implementation plans.

MARC's air quality responsibilities include coordination, planning, technical analysis, and public information and education. MARC has no regulatory authority related to air quality issues but makes recommendations to the state air quality agencies concerning air quality planning and regulatory measures.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Kansas and Missouri each provide planning funds to support regional air quality work on an annual basis. Contractual elements of the grants will support the 2025 Air Quality Public Education Campaign, Clean Air Action Plan implementation, and a study of mass notification systems for environmental emergencies.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$110,960
Source	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment (\$65,000) & Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources (\$45,960)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$44,960
Contractual	\$65,000
Pass-Through	\$0
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$1000

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the executive director to solicit and accept funding from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the MARC air quality program for the fiscal period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$110,960.

STAFF CONTACT:

Karen Clawson, Air and Climate Programs Manager