

KanOkla Community Development & Assistance Program

(5/10/06)

Purpose/Target Area

The program is designed to promote and assist projects which are intended to sustain, enhance or improve the quality of life or safety, or which assist community growth and sustainability, within the geographic boundaries of KanOkla's wire-line telephone service areas.

Summary Description

Individuals, groups, or community organizations that are eligible to participate in the program may qualify for matching funds from KanOkla up to \$10,000 per application. Applications for matching funds are submitted to KanOkla's Economic Development Committee for final review and approval. The total annual budget is \$100,000 per year, if the funding is approved by KanOkla's Board of Directors.

Eligibility Requirements

1. KanOkla must provide wire-line telephone service to locations for which funds are to be used.
2. An applicant may be a person, a group of persons, or a community service organization.
3. An applicant cannot be a local governmental entity or a church, except that a church may be considered if the church is the only church in the community and if the church is used as the community center.
4. The project must benefit people who reside within the geographic boundaries of KanOkla's wire-line telephone service area.
5. Individuals participating in the application process must not derive direct, personal financial benefit from the project.
6. Funds to be matched must be raised by sweat equity, grants, fundraisers or contributions.
7. Funds to be matched cannot come directly from local government taxes or utility user fees.
8. The application must detail the planned use of the project funds and how the funds to be matched will be raised.
9. If the project is for the improvement of land or for the improvement of a building, and if the requested matching funds exceed \$1,000:
 - a. the land, or the building and the land upon which the building is situated, must be owned by, or under long-term lease to, community service organization;
 - b. the applicant must attach a copy of the deed or lease to the application, and must provide additional information upon request; and
 - c. for purposes of this requirement, a long-term lease must be at least a five-year lease, but a longer term may be required.
10. The authority to approve or not approve an application is vested solely in KanOkla's Economic Development Committee, and its decision will be final.

Oversight Requirements

1. Prior to an award, funds to be matched must be placed in a separate project account, to be used solely for the project specified in the application.
2. The bank must be authorized to allow KanOkla access to the records of the project bank account.
3. When funds are expended from the project bank account, KanOkla will provide funds to match the expenditure up to a total of the maximum of the award approved by KanOkla.
4. Awarded funds that are not used within 12 months of the time of the award will revert back to KanOkla.

Examples

Some of the examples of projects that may qualify for matching funds are as follows:

- Conducting assessment activities that outline community profiles and enable those communities to market their capabilities.
- Assistance in drafting and publishing documents or proposals to be submitted to prospective businesses or industries that may have a desire to locate in a rural community served by KanOkla.
- Access to the Internet, instruction on the use of Internet, in the use of E-Commerce to promote small business enterprises, design a community website, etc.
- Assistance in applying for State or Federal grants and low interest loans to promote new business or to improve the infrastructure for attracting new business or expanding existing business.
- Emergency service personnel training costs;
- Infrastructure improvements for emergency response units;
- Enhancement of facilities for older adults' recreation, health care or nutrition;
- Construction or modification of community centers, recreation facilities or senior/youth centers.
- Distance learning activities/telemedicine projects.
- Supplemental assistance to the construction or modification of facilities that promote tourism, youth activities, or annually sponsored community events.

**KanOkla Community Development & Assistance Program
Application Form**

Name of Individual or Group _____

Responsible Party (if different from above) _____

Mailing Address _____
(Street or Box No.) (City) (State) (Zip)

Daytime Telephone Number(s) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount of Matching Funds Requested _____ Total Project _____

Source of Funds to be Matched _____

Name and Title of Individual Controlling Funds _____

Bank Name Where Deposited _____ Account Number _____

Project Description (brief):

I, the undersigned authority, hereby have read and understand the eligibility guidelines for the KanOkla Community Development & Assistance Program.

Signature of Authorized Applicant _____

(Date)

Committee Action: Approve Disapprove More Information
needed

Date of Committee Action _____ Initial of Committee Authority _____