

Project Wichita \$45,000 Funding Request

Project Wichita, through a 501(c)(3) non profit entity, (Opportunity Wichita) seeks \$45,000 from Sedgwick County to help fund a community engagement and visioning initiative designed to determine the citizen's 10-year vision and action plan for our region. This is a one-time request. County funding support would be used by Wichita State University's Public Policy and Management Center to facilitate the public listening and engagement process with a series of focus groups, surveys and interviews. As a result of the citizen listening process, an action plan will be created to identify strategic steps to accomplish that 10-year vision. Project Wichita's co-chairs are Aaron Bastian, Fidelity Bank President, Debbie Gann, VP Communications & Public Affairs at Spirit AeroSystems, Scott Schwindaman, Lubrication Engineers President & CEO and Juston White, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas.

Project Wichita currently has a budget and funding commitments of \$300,000 from the private sector, local governments and nonprofit organizations. When enumerated on March 21, 2018, private sector contributions account for more than 80 percent of their current funding. The City of Wichita has committed \$45,000 to this effort. Commitments of public funds have come from the cities of El Dorado and Newton, and the Wichita, Maize and Andover School Districts and WSU. Other financial sponsors may be found at: www.projectwichita.org/donors. In addition to financial support, these contributors are volunteering time to a Vision Team providing oversight and guidance.

Hoping to capitalize on recent economic and community development initiatives; NCAA basketball tournament, renewed civic pride, job creation and capital investment announcements by Spirit AeroSystems and Textron Aviation, the community engagement process is now underway. After successfully gathering citizen input, Project Wichita's goal is to develop a 10 year plan identifying projects and initiatives by August, 2018.

If Sedgwick County approves this request, funds would come from the 2018 economic development fund. The County would be recognized publicly for this support by being listed on the aforementioned donor list.