

The South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD) was established in 1972 as a non-profit organization by an executive order of Governor Bob Docking to bring together communities and advocate economic growth.

SCKEDD works within a 14-county district. Although, they are expanding their Housing Programs into a new 41 County area covering Southwest Kansas. Sedgwick County is the largest of the members and has been a member since the District's inception. SCKEDD offers grants and loan opportunities from federal, state and regional programs to improve community infrastructure. Specifically, SCKEDD works with cities and counties that are unable to secure sufficient established revenue streams and help them acquire alternative funds to repair and rehabilitate community infrastructure through housing and lending programs. County membership fees are used for operations.

SCKEDD seeks continued County membership and funding support of \$60,000 for their fiscal year 2019; July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Traditionally, Sedgwick County has provided the financial support in two equal \$30,000 payments. The \$885,659.42 budget for 2019 is 1.1% higher than FY 2018 and the request from the County is the same as last year.

When providing funding last year, the BOCC stipulated that County funds should be used only for economic development activities. SCKEDD has confirmed that County funds went exclusively for this purpose. This would restrict these revenues to their lending activities.

Sedgwick County also cautioned SCKEDD, when providing 2018 funding, that the Commission was concerned about the return on investment of County funding, and implored SCKEDD to improve results and performance measures.

To that end, SCKEDD has focused on working with other economic development agencies throughout the area to strengthen their role in providing capital to small businesses. SCKEDD also notes that they have championed organizing Broadband access meetings with governmental and business leaders throughout the region. They point to a successful Broadband conference and a new state task force coming to Sedgwick County to participate in a symposium to understand business Broadband needs in the County. They are also working with WSU to consider the feasibility of an equity based seed fund for investments in startup companies.

Starting with the 2016 budget, the County has not identified specific allocations to economic development organizations through the Economic Development budget; instead, requests for funding are brought to the Commission for consideration each year. SCKEDD is on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year, similar to the State of Kansas. The County paid \$60,000 for the most recently completed fiscal year. Funds to renew the County's SCKEDD membership would come from the Economic Development Fund: 47001-110. \$30,000 from the 2018 budget and 2019 from the 2019 budget.