



HBCAT NEWS

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The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team Newsletter

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A Message from the CEO

...Enhance Quality of Life and
Encourage Economic Growth

The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team's mission statement drives our work: we aim to increase access to healthy food and physical activity, promote commercial tobacco cessation, enhance quality of life and encourage economic growth. So, you might think, how is this organization, that clearly works to address health outcomes, an economic development support organization?

The answer is as clear to us today as it was in 2016 when we first began this collaborative effort between the City of Fort Scott's Economic Development Director (Heather Smith) and Mercy Hospital's Community Benefit. The vision then, as it is now, is to build places people want to live, work, and play versus using the traditional economic development tools that offered financial incentives, tax breaks and other costly recruiting tools. These tools of the past showed little return on investment.

The time to create quality environments is now. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need to create places with physical and cultural amenities talented and well-educated people want to live. More and more people are working remotely and choosing to live in communities that offer the quality of life they desire. In these more modern times, industry follows the workforce; not the other way around.

Municipalities and government organizations everywhere are seeing a real return on investment by putting people first. Relationships are key. Communities are developing partnerships with community support organizations and focusing time, energy and resources on building meaningful and trusting relationships with the people they serve. We have a shared vision of attracting and growing people.

We Focus on modern Economic Development methods

Traditional Economic Development

Inexpensive place to do business was the key

Attracting companies was key

People followed jobs.

Location mattered, especially relative to **transportation** (airports, trains, highways)

Economic development was government-led.

poor quality environment were common outcomes that did not prevent growth

Modern Economic Development

Being rich in **talent and ideas** is the key

Attracting **educated people** and focusing on **physical/cultural amenities** is key

Talented, well-educated people choose **location** first, then look for a job

Businesses now choose **Quality places**

Relationships are KEY-Partnerships

Clean, green environment and proximity to open space and quality recreational opportunities are critical

Grant Program

The first round of the Grant Program has come to an end! The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team gave out a total 6 grants. There were 2 Farmer/Ranchers grant (\$10,000 each), 3 Women, minority, or low-income Startups grants (\$5,000 each), and 1 Restaurant/Food Retail grant (\$7,000). Each applicant had to become a client with PSU SBDC, produce a Cash Flow Projection, Business Plan, and fill out the Grant Application. The food based businesses had to have a wholesale agreement on file, to increase access to locally produced food. All grant applications were graded on the sustainability, innovation, and community impact of their business. You can view the recipients on Page 4 and the businesses they represent.

The deadline for the 2nd round of the Grant Program is in July. We will give 1 Restaurant/Food Retail and 3 Women, low-income, or minority owned Startup Grants. If you are interested in setting up an appointment to see what your next steps are for your business, you can email Rachel Carpenter info@hbcac.org!





Grant Recipients



1553 Plants and Produce
Kenny and Kerry Wunderly



Freedom Farms
The Palmers



Writers Edge
Kim Carpenter



Made With Love: By Genna
Genna Gilbert



Eighteen65
Bailey Lyons



Dry Wood Creek
Martin Elton



COVID-19 Test Distribution

Through the KU COPE program as part of a 13 million dollar statewide initiative HBCAT was able to receive over 1000 at home Covid-19 tests to distribute to our partner organizations. The tests came with instructions in both English and Spanish. We have distributed them to The Beacon, As You Are Ministries, Uniontown City Hall, SEK Mental Health, and Fort Scott Gun and Pawn. These tests are free to anyone and available to everyone.

The HBCAT is always looking for ways to support our partner organizations and create new relationships in the community.

We asked for volunteers to wrap and label each test. We are so thankful for FSCC Cheer and Dance Team among other volunteers, who spent hours of their time helping us!

