

TRAIL TALK TUESDAY: EPISODE 4 – FUNDING TRAILS

PRESENTED BY KANSAS TRAILS, INC.

WATCH PAST EPISODES & LEARN MORE: WWW.KSTRAILS.ORG/TTT



JENNY KRAMER

Active Transportation Manager, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)
Member, Kansas Trail Congress | Jenny.Kramer@ks.gov

Upcoming Active Transportation Funding Opportunities

Key Funding Programs

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) – Call for Projects opens February 2, 2026
- KDWP Recreation Trail Program – Applications due November 14, 2025
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – For local infrastructure and community improvements.
- KDOT Cost Share Program – Spring and Fall application rounds.

Tips for Competitive Applications

- Demonstrate project readiness and understanding of federal expectations.
- Highlight safety improvements, key connections, and school access.
- Partner with local governments and engineers early.
- Secure right-of-way agreements or easements in advance.

Funding Guide: [KDOT Active Transportation Funding Opportunities](#)

MIKE GOODWIN FOR CHERIE RIFFEY

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – Administered by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) |
Cherie.Riffey@ks.gov | 620-672-0745

Recreational Trail Program

Overview

- Federally funded grants supporting non-motorized and motorized trail projects.
- 80% reimbursable with 20% local match (cash or in-kind).
- Available to municipalities, nonprofits, schools, tribal governments, and state/federal agencies.

Eligible Projects

- New trails or linkages
- Trailhead facilities
- Land acquisition for trails
- Maintenance/restoration
- Educational and safety programs
- Equipment purchase (*must be Buy America compliant*)
- Competitive Factors
- Community connections & ADA access
- Economic development impact
- Partnership & cost effectiveness
- Public land maintenance and safety enhancements

Learn More: [KDWP Recreational Trails Program](#)

TRISHA PURDON

Director, Office of Rural Prosperity, Kansas Department of Commerce | Trisha.Purdon@ks.gov

Utilizing Unconventional Funding Opportunities for Trail Development

Key Opportunities

- **Rural Champions Program** – Funds salary for part-time project leaders and provides a \$25,000 implementation grant.
- **Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED) Grants** – Up to \$25,000 for quality-of-place projects (10% match).
- **Community Service Program (CSP) Tax Credits** – Refundable & transferable tax credits supporting nonprofit fundraising (up to \$200,000).
- **Grassroots Strategy Developers (GSD)** – Expert support for rural communities navigating funding resources.

Helpful Links

[Initiatives & Incentives Lookup Tool](#)

[Grants Calendar](#)

KELLI MARK

Director of Healthy Communities, Sunflower Foundation

Board Member, Kansas Trails Inc. | info@sunflowerfoundation.org

Sunflower Trails: New Horizons for 2026

Since 2005, Sunflower Foundation has funded 200+ trail projects across Kansas—investing in trails as community assets for health, economic revitalization, and quality of life.

Key Initiatives

- **Trailblazers** – Support for communities needing technical assistance before trail development.
- **Trail in a Box** – Regional Champions – Build long-term sustainability through regional leadership.
- **Trail Stewards** – Support for existing trails to increase user engagement and maintenance.
- **Trail Towns** – Launching Kansas' first certified Trail Town program in partnership with KTI and national experts.
- **Kansas Trail Champions Exchange** – Annual learning and networking event for trail grantees and partners.

Learn More: www.sunflowerfoundation.org



WWW.KSTRAILS.ORG | INFO@KSTRAILS.ORG