



**August 2023**

**Dear Friends,**

First, thank you for being a business owner in Sheridan County! You are a vital component to the very existence of our communities, the economy, and the well-being of all who live, work, and visit our area. Thank you for living and working rural!

I apologize in advance for the length and breadth of this mailing; however, it contains some very important items for which I need YOUR INPUT. I also want to make you aware of several opportunities that could benefit your business.

Please take the time to review the entirety of this letter and the enclosed documents.

At a glance, the enclosed items include:

1. **Workforce Recruitment Incentives Program** - *Survey responses requested.*
2. **Hoxie Housing Assessment Tool Study** - *Survey responses requested.*
3. **Official Sheridan County Website Postcard** - *be sure to check out our local website and submit local events to the Community Events Calendar.*
4. **Business Contact Info Form** - *please be sure I have your most up-to-date and thorough contact information. I will use this to add to your business directory listing on the [www.sheridancountyks.gov/business-directory](http://www.sheridancountyks.gov/business-directory) webpages.*
5. **ConnectNWKS Job Board Flier** - *FREE online jobs portal - be sure to post your open positions to this platform.*
6. **Sheridan County Business Bucks Info & Window Cling** - *we have revamped the former "Chamber Bucks" program and hope you'll participate!*
7. **Nex-Generation Roundup for Youth Internship Program** - *a great opportunity to benefit your business with summer (and/or school year assistance) while providing hands-on, real-world experience for the generation.*
8. **Fort Hays State University/Dane G. Hansen Foundation Internship Program** - *another great internship program open to businesses in our region.*

Responses to the surveys are requested by Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023. Your prompt and thorough attention to those requests is most appreciated!

If you have questions related to any of the items enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Sincerely,**

Karl Pratt  
Executive Director

# **Sheridan County** **Workforce Recruitment Incentives Program**

Through the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, based in Norton, our county can apply for \$60k in funding that can be used for a locally developed and managed Workforce Recruitment Incentives Program.

The application requires the following elements:

## **Recruitment Board**

Each County will establish a Quasi-Board for the purposes of developing recruitment plans and implementing the county's recruitment strategy.

Presently, the following individuals who have been asked to sit on this recruitment board are:

- Karl Pratt, SCCF/EcoDevo
- Shelby Moss, Sheridan Co. Health Complex
- Calvin Ochs, First State Bank
- Mary Ellen Welshon, USD 412
- Buck Mader, Sheridan Co. Commission
- Kevin Schoendaler, Hoxie City Commission
- Tammie Stevenson, Selden City Council
- Lonnie Geiman, Foote Cattle Company

## **Recruitment Plans**

Recruitment Boards will create a comprehensive recruitment plan for recruiting individuals to take jobs in each county. As part of the plan, counties will need to do market research of the available jobs in the respective counties. This research will be conveyed to NWKEICI and used to identify future programs and industry support opportunities.

The recruitment plan will be composed with data and content related to the following categories:

- County Demographics
- State R.O.Z. Data
- Community Asset Mapping
- Recruitment Success Stories
- County Wide Job Data

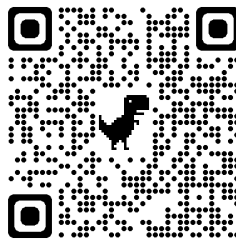
## **Incentive**

- The recruitment plans will establish an incentive policy for the distribution of incentives in a county not to exceed \$10,000 per individual.
- Individuals must move into the region/county within three months of accepting an approved, incentivized position.
- Incentivized positions must be full-time and pay \$15.50/ hour or \$33,000/ year or more or be a critical position (as determined by recruitment board).



**I need YOUR ASSISTANCE in completing market research to ascertain current and/or future job openings your business has or might have. We have also included questions related to housing and childcare as they relate to workforce needs as we understand those components play a vital role in recruitment efforts.**

1. Please complete the Workforce Recruitment Survey found online at <https://www.sheridancountyks.gov/ecodevo-surveys> or scan this QR code using your smart phone:



2. Additionally, enclosed is a spreadsheet for you to enter your job openings. You can download the Excel file on the EcoDevo Survey's webpage (linked above) or contact me to email it to you directly. Please email this back to me directly at [director@growsheridancounty.org](mailto:director@growsheridancounty.org).
3. Finally, please complete the "Community Asset Mapping" survey (use link or scan QR code above). These responses highlight what makes our communities in Sheridan County so great and appealing to folks wishing to move and work here.

***Responses for all open surveys are requested by Sunday, August 27, 2023, to assist us with moving this project forward. Thank you!***



PO Box 445, Hoxie, Kansas 67740  
[director@growsheridancounty.org](mailto:director@growsheridancounty.org) | c: 785.675.1240



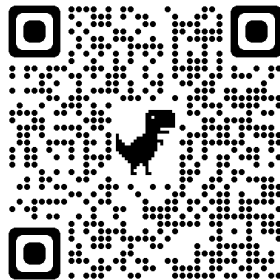
## **Hoxie** **Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) Study**

*The Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) is a self-assessment guide for communities to gather and analyze data on their housing inventory, partner with relevant stakeholders, and develop priorities for local housing investment. Communities can use this tool to make data-driven decisions in addressing housing investment opportunities.*

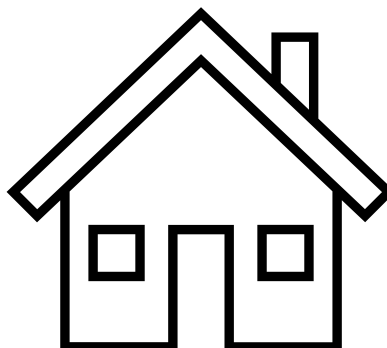
Currently, I have been collaborating with a local sub-committee to complete an updated Housing Assessment Tool for Hoxie. Having this information will provide us with current data that we can use to apply for state and other funding, and/or develop local housing related programs, like other area counties, which assist with demolition, renovation, beautification, etc.

**I need YOUR ASSISTANCE in completing the survey that pertains to your situation as either a 1) Community Member, 2) Realtor, and/or 3) Builder/Developer.**

1. Please complete the relevant survey(s) found online at <https://www.sheridancountyks.gov/ecodevo-surveys> or scan this QR code using your smart phone:



***Responses for all open surveys are requested by Sunday, August 27, 2023, to assist us with moving this project forward. Thank you!***



PO Box 445, Hoxie, Kansas 67740  
director@growsheridancounty.org | c: 785.675.1240

## **Sheridan County, Kansas Business Owner Contact Information**

Please complete and return this form in its entirety to keep you and your business up-to-date on resources, trainings and other important business and economic/community development related news.

Return to Sheridan County Community Foundation, PO Box 445, Hoxie, KS 67740 or complete the form online at <http://bit.ly/sdcobiz>.

Business/Individual Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Site Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on social media? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please include URLs and/or Page Name(s)/Handle(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you...? \_\_\_\_\_ Self-Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Woman / Minority-owned Business

CONNECTNWK.ORG

# LOOKING FOR A JOB OR NEW EMPLOYEES?

CONNECTNWK

FIND A JOB | POST A JOB | ABOUT | COMING HOME ▾ | NEX-GEN

JOB SEEKERS

FIND A JOB →

EMPLOYERS

POST A JOB →

Privacy - Terms

Check out local job listings in Northwest Kansas, or post your business job openings to find potential employees!

CONNECTNWK helps people plant their roots in Northwest Kansas, where there's plenty of space to spread your wings and fly. With a range of vibrant businesses, industries, and agriculture to keep the economy humming, we're here to help working professionals chase their dreams, finding the perfect balance of career and convenience on the High Plains.



SHERIDAN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



SHERIDAN  
COUNTY  
Economic Development

VISIT [CONNECTNWK.ORG](https://connectnwk.org)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Shared with you from the SCCF/Economic Development.  
Questions? Contact [director@growsheridancounty.org](mailto:director@growsheridancounty.org)



# Sheridan County Business Bucks Program



## what is the program?

In support of 'SHOP LOCAL' efforts, all Sheridan County area businesses are encouraged and eligible to participate in the 'Sheridan County Business Bucks Program'. This program is a rebranding of the former Hoxie Chamber Scrip program in which patrons can purchase 'scrip' money to use to pay for goods and services at Sheridan County area businesses.



**Participating businesses are asked to display the window cling and/or register table tent indicating that 'Business Bucks' are accepted at their establishments.**

**To request a window cling or tent, please email [director@growsheridancounty.org](mailto:director@growsheridancounty.org). There is no charge for businesses to participate.**



## how it works

### How to Accept and Process

As a business owner, you can simply accept, endorse, and deposit Business Bucks in your financial institution just as you would a check. If change is needed from a transaction, remit no more than \$0.99.

### Expiration

In accordance with House Bill 2658, passed by the Kansas legislature in 2006, Business Bucks are valid for five years from the date of purchase.



## where to purchase

Customers can purchase Business Bucks in increments of \$5, \$10, or \$20 at the City of Hoxie Office, 829 Main Street, during regular business hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

To order ahead of time, call 785-675-3291.



## questions

Karl Pratt  
SD. Co. Economic Development Director

P: 785-675-1240

Email: [director@growsheridancounty.org](mailto:director@growsheridancounty.org)



[www.sheridancountyks.gov/businessbucks](http://www.sheridancountyks.gov/businessbucks)





# NEX-GENERATION Round Up for Youth, Inc.

Our mission is to educate northwest and north central Kansas students about local career opportunities by providing and supporting programs in career development, entrepreneurship, and internship. Through these efforts, we hope to foster a positive sense of community and encourage youth to remain or return home to prosper.

## Career Development

To educate students about the variety of local career opportunities, we host a regional career fair and provide workshops on interviewing and résumé writing.

## Entrepreneurship

To educate rural youth about starting their own business, we host “Nex-Great Idea” business plan workshops and provide other opportunities for entrepreneurial education.

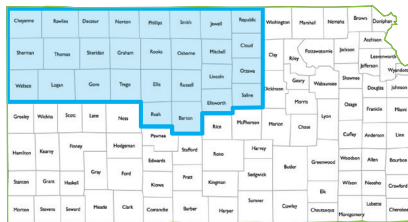
## Internships

To provide high school and college students with hands-on experiences in a variety of technical and non-technical careers, we host summer and school-term internships through local businesses and coordinate job shadowing.

Young AmeriTowne® of Kansas is an educational program offered to 5th and 6th grade teachers to help students learn about business, economics and free enterprise in a fun and hands-on way. The program has received countless accolades for its engaging format and its applicability across all types of student and school demographics.

Located in the former Lenora High School building in Lenora, Kansas, Young AmeriTowne® features a life-like Towne of 10 businesses, including a Towne Hall, Bank, Snack Shop, Radio Station, Medical Center, and more. While at AmeriTowne®, students-turned-citizens experience a career for a day, manage their personal finances, and participate in a free-enterprise economy. Students see the direct impact their actions and decisions have on themselves, their businesses, and their overall community.

*(Young AmeriTowne® of Kansas is licensed through the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, Denver, Colorado.)*



## Counties served

Barton, Cheyenne, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Mitchell, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace.



PO Box 158 • 145 N Main • Lenora, KS 67465 • 877.567.7872



# NEX-GENERATION

## Round Up for Youth, Inc.

### ***Program Overview for Businesses:***

## **Work Study/Apprentice Scholarship Program**

### **On-the-Job Work Experience**

As a participating business in our Work Study/Apprentice Scholarship Program, you have an opportunity to provide a local, high school senior or college student with hands-on job experience during the school year.

The student works at your business for a few hours daily or weekly, while completing his or her school semester. The schedule is determined in a coordinated effort among the business, student, school, and Nex-Generation. Work can be performed at your business or remotely, depending upon your projects.

Participating students who demonstrate successful completion of the program are eligible for a \$500-per-semester Nex-Generation Work Study Scholarship, payable directly to the student. (While this program is designed in lieu of pay, a business may hire the student and pay them a wage.) Students who participate as Nex-Generation summer interns are eligible to continue as Work Study.

### **Application Process & Program Overview**

To be eligible for participation, your business must be located in one of the following 28 Kansas counties: Barton, Cheyenne, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Mitchell, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace.

**Students must be high school or college students, age 16+,** who are from, living in, or attending school in one of these counties, as well. The student application is available online at [www.nex-generation.org](http://www.nex-generation.org).

Students applying to the program are required to obtain a letter of support from the business. If you are asked to provide a letter of support, please indicate within the letter the name of the student and that you are in favor of hosting him or her during the semester to which they are applying. Please provide the letter to the student to include with his or her application (an emailed copy is also acceptable).

Businesses can apply at any time to be on a regular list of participating businesses. Please complete and return the Business Application included with this overview (or on our website at [www.nex-generation.org/internships](http://www.nex-generation.org/internships)). (The form is the same for our summer internship program. Please select the program(s) to which you are applying.) Nex-Gen will notify the schools about the opportunity.

### **Performance/Learning Objectives**

One of our goals is to provide students with valuable, hands-on work and job shadowing experiences in a professional setting. Once a business agrees to host a Work Study student, we will ask you to identify a series of tasks or projects prior to the student's first day on the job. (*We will provide a Performance/Learning Objectives form and an example for your use.*) In addition, we will ask that you

assign one employee who will be responsible for coaching and mentoring the student through the planned projects and assisting him or her in skill development.

We will have the business evaluate the student's progress at least once each semester, using a form we provide. A copy should be given to the student, Nex-Generation, and the high school superintendent, principal, or counselor. (It may also be given to a collegiate academic advisor at the discretion of the student.)

### **End-of-Program "Success Story"**

At the end of the program, we require a one-page summary or short presentation from the student about his or her experience. We recommend he or she document work/projects by taking notes, photos, and videos (as approved by your business), throughout the semester. This can be showcased through a short video, PowerPoint presentation, or short essay (or a combination thereof).

### **Professionalism/Dress Code/Confidentiality**

Students are expected to follow high standards of professionalism and confidentiality at all times, and dress in clothing appropriate for your business environment. Students should be reminded that they represent your business, their school/community, and Nex-Generation.

### **Please contact us with questions or to return your application:**

Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth, Inc.  
Jacque Beckman, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 158  
145 N. Main St.  
Lenora, KS 67645  
785-567-3222 (work cell)  
877-567-7872, Ext. 5102 (office)  
[jbeckman@nex-tech.com](mailto:jbeckman@nex-tech.com)



# NEX-GENERATION

## Round Up for Youth, Inc.

### **BUSINESS APPLICATION: Internship and Work Study**

Businesses within the following 28 counties are eligible to apply: Barton, Cheyenne, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Mitchell, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace.

#### **Business Information:**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business EIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Title

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address City ST Zip County

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Classification:  FOR PROFIT  NON-PROFIT

Business Size: SMALL  LARGE  NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Large" businesses may include, but not be limited to, manufacturing; communication, electric, and agriculture cooperatives; government entities; branch-based financial institutions; hospitals; and schools. Others are classified as "small" businesses.*

#### **Please check the program(s) to which you are applying:**

**Nex-Generation Student Internship Program (Summer)**

Business participates by hiring a college or high school student (age 16+) for a paid, summer internship. Interns are fully engaged in hands-on projects in a professional work environment, allowing them to exercise skill development. Nex-Gen assists in the application process and provides curriculum and guidance. Business interviews, selects, and hires its intern. Intern is employed by the business at the required, base wage of \$12/hour. Business may elect to pay a higher wage, depending upon interns' skills and project requirements. Business is responsible for payroll and payroll tax liabilities. Nex-Gen offers grants to help offset the business's costs. Funding is available on a limited basis. Small Businesses paying \$12/hour may expect grants of up to \$2,720. Large Businesses paying \$12/hour may expect grants of up to \$1,720. Additional funding for higher-level positions may also be available. *(Funding is made possible by the generous donations of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Nex-Generation Business Partners, Nex-Tech Round-up Program participants, and other contributors.)* See **Internship Program Overview** on our website for complete details: [www.nex-generation.org/internships](http://www.nex-generation.org/internships).

**PO Box 158 • 145 N Main • Lenora, KS 67645 • 877.567.7872**

**nex-generation@nex-tech.com • www.nex-generation.org**



\_\_\_\_\_ **Nex-Generation Work Study/Apprenticeship Program** (School Semester)

For Work Study, the business hosts a high school senior or college student for a few hours each day (or week) during the school year, depending upon the student's schedule. The student is expected to be fully engaged in both hands-on projects and job shadowing experiences. This is typically a non-pay situation for the student (unless the business elects to pay). Upon successful completion of the semester, the Work Study student is eligible for a Nex-Gen Work Study Scholarship paid directly to him or her. Nex-Gen assists in the application process, coordinates with the high school, and provides businesses with curriculum and guidance. The number of positions is determined annually, based on availability of funds.

**Please provide a brief position description:**

Please write a brief description of 2-3 sentences explaining what you would have your intern or work study student do at your business. We will use this description when advertising the position:

**Please provide the number of interns you plan to include in this program and your need for funding:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Internship Positions

\_\_\_ Will Self-Fund

\_\_\_ Need Funding

**Your signature below represents your acknowledgement of the program as outlined.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Business Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application

**Please return completed form electronically or mail to:**

Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth, Inc.  
Jacque Beckman, Executive Director  
PO Box 158  
Lenora, KS 67645  
[nex-generation@nex-tech.com](mailto:nex-generation@nex-tech.com)  
Phone: 877-567-7872, Ext. 5102 (office) or 785-567-3222 (cell)

# Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth, Inc.

## Career Development

### **Career Fair & Expo**

- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Three career tracks: Business, Medical, Technical
- Virtual setting – November
- Co-sponsor: I-CAN
- Fees: N/C

### **Career EXPLORation**

- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Virtual setting – January
- Co-sponsor: I-CAN
- Fees: N/C

### **Resume Writing/Interviewing**

- HS Juniors & Seniors
- AmeriTowne® Prep
- Fees: N/C

### **Life\$kills *NEW***

- HS Juniors/Seniors
- Workshop on budgeting, planning, & paying for monthly expenses: utilities, communications, city bills, other services, rent, groceries, taxes, insurance, student debt, and more!
- Students roleplay Life\$kills at AmeriTowne in Lenora
- Fees: \$25/student

## Entrepreneurship

### **Nex-Great Idea Business Plan Workshops**

Features hands-on, classroom workshops on entrepreneurship for middle and high school students, covering key concepts:

- Idea Development
- Product Creation
- Loans
- Marketing
- Competition
- Material / Labor Cost
- Product Pricing & Revenue Generation
- Advertising
- Loan Repayment
- Profit-Sharing
- Marketplace / Tradeshow
- Preparations for elevator pitches and interviewing before judges or investors.

Fees: N/C

## Internship

### **Summer Internships**

- College & HS, Age 16+
- Students apply online to participating businesses.
- Benefits:
  - Skill Development
  - Work Ethic
  - Career Development
  - Mentorship
  - Community Engagement
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Networking
  - Leadership
  - Interviewing
  - Potential Hire/Rehire
- Wages: \$12/hour minimum

### **Work Study**

- College & HS, Age 16+
- Students work for local businesses during school year.
- Benefits (see list above)
- Scholarship in lieu of wages: \$500 per semester

## Young AmeriTowne® of Kansas

### **Young AmeriTowne®**

- 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Hands-on, financial literacy curriculum:
  - Basic Economics
  - Banking/Money Mgmt.
  - Supply & Demand
  - Government
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Philanthropy
  - Careers/Community
- Teachers lead classroom exercises.
- Culminates in field trip to AmeriTowne, where students manage/operate 10 shops
- Real-world roles in elected (Mayor and Judge) and key positions as Police, Managers, Accountants, Tellers, Technicians, Doctors, TV/Radio Personnel, Vol. Firefighters, and more!
- Teacher training at AmeriTowne; refreshers via Teams/Zoom
- Fees: \$40/student

Young AmeriTowne® is a licensed product of the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, Denver, CO.

“From the Classroom to a Career”

[www.nex-generation.org](http://www.nex-generation.org)

[nex-generation@nex-tech.com](mailto:nex-generation@nex-tech.com)

[@NexGen4Youth](https://www.instagram.com/NexGen4Youth)

877-567-7872



## **FHSU/DANE G. HANSEN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Fort Hays State University invites employers interested in hosting a student intern to apply for the FHSU/Dane G. Hansen Internship Program.

Through a generous grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, 25 internships are available for the 2023-24 academic year (either spring or summer). FHSU will partner with employers in the Hansen Foundation's 26-county service area to create part-time internship experiences for students. The employer pays \$500 toward the student's wages, and the remaining funding is through the Hansen Foundation grant.

Both employers and students will be selected through a competitive application process.

Other details include:

- An employer may apply more than one semester/term for an internship, but the typical award will be for one term to allow more businesses and students to participate in the program.
- A participating employer must sign an MOA indicating agreement with the terms of the internship.
- The employer must pay the \$500 match to FHSU for the student's employment within 30 days of receiving an invoice.
- Students will apply through FHSU for the internships. FHSU Career Services will screen student applications and provide assistance with the interview and hiring process.
- The student intern works at the employer's place of business but is paid through Fort Hays State University.
- For a spring internship, the student will work approximately 240 total hours (not to exceed 20 hours/week). Summer interns will work up to 300 total hours (typically 30-40 hours/week, depending on summer class enrollment).
- The employer must complete a student evaluation form at the conclusion of the internship.

**To apply, visit [www.fhsu.edu/career/employers/hansen-internship-program](http://www.fhsu.edu/career/employers/hansen-internship-program). Applicants must complete the employer application form and submit an internship job description using the template provided.**

The application deadlines are:

September 15, 2023 (for a Spring 2024 internship)

September 15, 2023 (for a Summer 2024 internship)

Employers will be notified within ten business days after the application deadline if they have been selected for the program.

If you have difficulty submitting the application or do not receive a confirmation after submitting, please contact Lisa Karlin with FHSU Career Services at 785.628.4260 or [lkarlin@fhsu.edu](mailto:lkarlin@fhsu.edu).