

## 2019 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

### Summary and Community Partner Overview

Community Partner:	<b>The Chamber, EDC of Lawrence &amp; Douglas County</b>
2019 Request	\$220,000

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<b>Community Partner overview:</b>
<p>Founded in 1878, “for the purpose of fostering, promoting and improving the trade, commerce, manufacturing, industrial, railroad and general interests of the city and county,” the Chamber’s efforts have helped shape the community we know today – from downtown viability, school bond issues and university relations to job creation, industrial development and workforce programs. While the community has grown and changed over time, the Chamber’s mission, to ensure the economic vitality of Lawrence and Douglas County, remains the same.</p> <p>In 2016, The Chamber initiated an economic development capital campaign, wherein it worked closely with City, County and other community leaders to develop a five-year strategic plan. The plan’s key objectives and strategies fell into five primary categories: business retention and expansion; workforce development; business recruitment and marketing; entrepreneurship and start-up support; and site and infrastructure capacity development.</p> <p>The requested County funding will be used in concert with matching funds from the City of Lawrence and substantial investment from the private sector in all efforts to achieve these objectives. A reduction in funding would reduce the efficacy of our collective economic development partnership – specifically, any reduction would greatly hinder our ability to support and advocate on behalf of existing industry, to support local entrepreneurial endeavors and to attract outside business prospects to Douglas County.</p> <p>It is essential to our community’s continued growth that this long-standing City, County and Chamber partnership be maintained.</p>
<b>Use of requested funding:</b>

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As described above, the Chamber, in conjunction with the EDC of Lawrence and Douglas County, will leverage County funding to impact the following strategic initiatives:

- **Business Retention & Expansion:** Chamber staff will maintain a consistent presence with existing businesses, identifying and quantifying resource needs, barriers to growth and opportunities for expansion.
- **Workforce Development:** Recruitment of skilled labor is one of the key challenges employers face (locally, nationally and internationally). The Chamber works closely with Peaslee Tech to ensure programming is in line with the needs of local employers. This accomplishes a number of things – it ensures existing business has a pipeline to needed talent; it helps secure the long-term viability of the training center, which, in turn, makes our community more attractive to outside business relocation.
- **Business Recruitment & Marketing:** While a strategic focus is placed on the retention of existing business, the Chamber also works closely with partners throughout Douglas County and the region to market the community for outside investment. The Chamber maintains memberships with many economic development organizations, advertises in national trade/industry magazines, attends out-of-market networking events and so on, to ensure Douglas County’s visibility with business relocation decision makers.
- **Entrepreneurship & Start-Ups:** The Chamber works closely with existing, entrepreneurial-focused organizations, such as the KU Small Business Development Center, the Bioscience & Technology Business Center, the University of Kansas and Douglas County E-Community to actively support small business and start-up growth.
- **Site & Infrastructure Capacity:** Lawrence and Douglas County are often eliminated from business relocation projects due to a lack of appropriate sites, available buildings or infrastructure limitations. To address this, the Chamber works with City, County and existing business leaders to explore opportunities for the next industrial land development and to expand/improve existing infrastructure.

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### Impact of Cuts to Community Partner’s County Funding in 2019 if mail ballot election is unsuccessful:

Community Partner:	<b>The Chamber, EDC of Lawrence &amp; Douglas County</b>
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<b>Service Area Impacted:</b>	All of Douglas County
<p>While we are highly sensitive to the growing constraints on public funding and are happy to comply with the “status quo” request, our economic development program serves all of Douglas County and thus any reduction in funding would likely have countywide implications.</p> <p>Great care was taken in the development of our program’s strategic priorities to ensure that the needs of the broader region, and not just those of the city, were addressed. To this end, we have undertaken site, facility and community tours throughout Baldwin, Lecompton and Eudora and exchanged reciprocal memberships in our respective organizations and EDC boards.</p> <p>The Chamber also works closely with Douglas County leadership to support broader issues and endeavors, such as workforce development (via Peaslee Tech), small business and entrepreneurial growth (via our respective e-community programs; notably, the countywide Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge) and most recently, in advocacy efforts to support the expansion of the Douglas County Jail.</p> <p>Despite the uncertainty of the 2018 mail-in ballot and the implications of the tax lid, we feel that a reduction in economic development investment would hinder the pursuit of such activities and be counter to the County’s financial goals as it is through economic growth that greater revenues will be realized.</p> <p>With this in mind, we humbly request the County’s continued financial support and consideration for same-level funding in 2019.</p>	

## 2019 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

double click on spreadsheet to open

**2019 Budget Request**

calculated fields

Community Partner:	Name					
	2015 Actuals	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Adopted Budget	2018 Current Estimates	2019 Budget Request
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Unrestricted Fund Balance 1/1/xx		0	0		0	0
Douglas County						
City of Lawrence						
United Way						
Grants						
Fundraisers						
Contributions						
Other:						
Other:						
Interest						
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenues and Fund Balance</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Salaries						
Employee Benefits						
Health Insurance						
Supplies						
Utilities, Building Maintenance						
Travel & Training						
Office Equipment						
Debt Payments						
Other:						
Other:						
Other:						
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ending Fund Balance 12/31/xx</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

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## 2019 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

### Budget Request Analysis

Community Partner:	<b>The Chamber, EDC of Lawrence &amp; Douglas County</b>
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#### Analysis of the potential for alternative sources of revenue:

The Chamber's economic development program leverages investment from the private sector with equal funding from both Douglas County and the City of Lawrence. This arrangement represents a longstanding partnership that has proven highly successful, as each partner has a direct role in the development of goals and strategies.

If alternative sources of revenue exist, they have yet to be identified. A dedicated, economic development sales tax has been in discussion for several years, as such a mechanism has proven successful for our metropolitan neighbors in Kansas City and Topeka. While this possibility may yet be explored in the future, the timing for such a conversation has not been right to date and there are no plans to pursue this course at present.

Future capital campaigns are a viable source for additional funding, but unlikely to generate funds comparable to a sales tax or to offset the need for public investment.

#### Analysis of beginning & ending fund balances, and dedicated or restricted cash reserves:

In 2017, the Chamber and EDC implemented a 5-year economic development plan. All funds are restricted and any unspent funds from the previous year will be used to further the plan in subsequent years.

A detailed budget sheet is attached.

#### New funding sources:

No new funding sources have been identified.

## 2019 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

### Supplemental Request for Additional Funding

(This is in addition to the 2015 Request amount on page 1)

Community Partner:	<b>The Chamber, EDC of Lawrence &amp; Douglas County</b>	<b>\$000</b>
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#### Purpose for additional revenue from County:

No additional funding is requested at this time.

#### Impact if supplemental request is not funded: