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July 2, 2020

Kelly Passauer, Interim City Manager  
City of Independence  
811 W. Laurel St.  
Independence, KS 67301

Dear Kelly, Mayor Caflisch, and City Commission:

Enclosed please find Montgomery County Action Council's (MCAC's) 2020 budget request in the amount of \$25,000, the same amount as approved in last year's budget presented in 2019. In addition, please consider our request for continued support in 2021 for the same amount of \$25,000. This ensures that our county-wide collaboration for economic development continues into 2021.

During the first half of 2020, economic activity in the county saw a roller coaster of growth and losses. In the first quarter, we announced new investment of over \$30 Million from new businesses opening in our County, creating over 200 new jobs. Since march, MCAC has worked with the City, Chamber, the Economic Development Advisory Board, and Main Street to help address the rapidly changing needs of the business community due to COVID-19. From assisting on administration of grant programs, working on loan support programs, and working with our banking community to get information out to businesses on new Federal funding opportunities, MCAC has been busy helping Independence businesses navigate this pandemic.

The MCAC budget details a lean operation. Our primary expenditure is personnel. We have received additional funding in the last year to expand our services to better serve the small business community, as a Small Business Development Center. This has helped get information about the new federal programs much faster than we would have otherwise. This led to our area businesses in Southeast Kansas receiving over \$180 Million in Federal funds like PPP and EIDL.

It is my hope that the Independence City Commission will approve this continued level of funding. In addition to Independence's financial support, MCAC has again applied to the cities of Caney, Cherryvale and Coffeyville as well as Montgomery County for their assistance, as well as the business community to continue this public-private partnership for economic development.

I am happy to go through our 2021 budget request in detail with you and the commission at your convenience. In the meantime, we will continue to keep you fully briefed on our activities and are on call to respond to any questions or clarifications you desire.

Sincerely,

Trisha Purdon  
Executive Director  
Montgomery County Action Council

# Montgomery County Action Council 2nd Quarter Progress Report 2020



## CREATE & RETAIN JOBS

"YOU'RE HIRED!"

**209**

NEW JOBS CREATED  
IN 2020

**7** 

PROPOSALS  
SUBMITTED

To Prospective Companies or  
Site Selectors

## GROW THE TAX BASE

**7 New Businesses** 

- Phoenix Logistics/Array Technologies
- Prosperiti Builders, LLC
- Dickies Barbecue
- Invest America Group (Pressure Cast Building)

**4 Expansion/Retention Projects**

**4 RETAIL/FOOD RECRUITMENTS IN PROGRESS** 



## DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY

When COVID-19 hit the Montgomery County Economy, MCAC was there, ready to respond to questions, submitting new grant information, loan information, and supporting our area businesses as they learned more about how they could keep their business open during this pandemic. We have assisted in administering CDBG Micro-Loans, the new CDBG-CV grant, and the new SPARK grant program to help our communities, healthcare industry, and our businesses here in Montgomery County.

## ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

-  Coordinated the SPARK grant to get COVID-19 expenses reimbursed to cities/health/businesses
-  Helped work on county-wide participation on the 2020 Census
-  Participated in the Community Philanthropy Innovation Network program to bring area foundations into a more active role in economic development - Coffeyville Area Community Foundation.
-  Despite COVID-19, we still helped 3 new businesses start in Montgomery County since March 2020
-  Created a COVID-19 Response page to help all businesses find funding during this crisis

## REGIONAL PROJECTS

**169**

Kansas Legislature passed the new Eisenhower Transportation Plan, outlining potential projects to begin design work in 2020 or 2021. Three projects were selected for the new plan - 2 New passing lane projects on 169 and a passing lane project on US 400.

**75**

## COMMUNICATION

### WEBSITE

10,800 Hits so far in 2020

13,870 Hits in 2019

COVID-19 Business Response Page Added



### SOCIAL MEDIA

57,900 Reached

428 Facebook Engagement DAILY