

# Digital Opportunities Connecting Kansas (DOCK) Grant

# DOCK Grant

- February 2024
  - Grant opportunity through the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) for grant up to \$250,000
- KOBD was established in 2020 to ensure every Kansan obtains access to reliable and affordable broadband service and the digital literacy skills necessary to live, learn, work, play, and compete equitably in an increasingly technology-driven society.

# DOCK Grant

- With support from Kansas Workforce One, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Great Bend Economic Development offices we applied for \$250,000.
- Participated in a comment period, interview process with an 11 member panel.
- After interview, we were asked if we could adjust our grant request.
- Notified on May 30, 2024 of award of \$200,000 (\$190,000 DOCK award, \$10,000 match provided by BCC Foundation)

# DOCK Grant

- All of Barton's service area counties are designated as an "economically distressed" counties
- The "Advancing Digital Literacy in Barton County and Central Kansas" Project will allow area residents and justice-involved individuals to receive training in digital literacy skills and proficiency in dealing with online privacy and cybersecurity issues.

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- Lack of basic computer skills places substantial roadblocks to success in obtaining education, healthcare, employment, or advancing their current career.
- Goals:
  - Increase navigation and operation of digital tools
  - Increase knowledge and skills in using digital tools safely, effectiveness, and appropriately, while advocating safety and well being.
  - Create employment opportunities
  - Increase the number of individuals in Barton County and surrounding area with computer certifications (IC3)

# DOCK Grant

- First year of grant
  - Focus will be Barton County
  - Offer county wide digital literacy training in easily accessible locations
  - Focus areas Hoisington, Claflin, Ellinwood, and Great Bend
  - Will offer rudimentary computer training through Microsoft Office certifications
  - Computers will be available for student/participant use

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- Second year
  - Focus will expand to BCC seven county service area
    - Barton, Russell, Rush, Pawnee, Ellsworth, portion of Rice, and portion of Stafford counties
  - Justice Involved individuals
- Overall, the project will provide training opportunities for 1,000 community members plus 500 justice-involved individuals.

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QUESTIONS ?