

Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Package | Memo



To: Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory Committee
Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

From: Matthew A. Volz, PE, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-090-NWKPDC

Date: March 14, 2025

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the City of Hays. The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 10 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – executive summary, pages 9-10.

Project Overview

The City of Hays seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for funding available through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for their R9 Wellfield and Pipeline project which includes providing long-term water supply sustainability for the cities of Hays and Russell.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 25% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$15,833,333.00 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$833,333.00 and additional project contributions of \$68,333,334.00. This request has the potential to unlock \$50,000,000.00 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$135,000,000.00.

The deadline is April 1, 2025, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on January 14, 2025.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on March 12, 2025 following a successful completeness check. The Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS APPROVAL** of Build Kansas Funding to the Build Kansas Advisory Committee for final advice.

Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2025-090-NWKPDC
Applicant Name	City of Hays
Application Date Received	1/14/2025
Project Name	City of Hays R9 Wellfield and Pipeline Project
Project Description	Providing long-term water supply sustainability for the cities of Hays and Russell.
Entity Type	Local government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	Northwest KS Planning & Development Commission
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Water
BIL Program	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Implementation
BIL Application Deadline	April 1, 2025
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$15,833,333.00
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided general and BKF Application support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$15,833,333.00 will unlock \$50,000,000.00 in federal BIL funding, with a local cash contribution of \$833,333.00 and additional project contributions of \$68,333,334.00 for a total project cost of \$135,000,000.00.
Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	3/12/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	3/18/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>

Title	City of Hays, Kansas	01/14/2025
	by John Braun in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 49334953
	johnbraun@haysusa.com	

Original Submission	01/14/2025
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Score	n/a
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Part 1: Applicant Information

The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	City of Hays, Kansas
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Project Name:	City of Hays R9 Wellfield and Pipeline Project
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Entity type:	Local Government
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Entity Population:	21116
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Applicant Contact Name:	Toby Dougherty
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	City Manager
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17856287320
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	tdougherty@haysusa.com
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Applicant Contact Address:	1507 Main Street
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
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Applicant Contact City:	Hays
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip Code:	67601
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Is the Project Contact the same as the Applicant Contact?	No
Project Contact Name:	John Braun
Project Contact Position/Title:	Project Manager
Project Contact Telephone Number:	+17856211507
Project Contact Email Address:	johnbraun@haysusa.com
Project Contact Address:	1000 Vine Street
Project Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
Project Contact City:	Hays
Project Contact State:	Kansas
Project Contact Zip Code:	67601

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Certify that you are pursuing a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity for which your entity is eligible:	Yes
Certify that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity you are pursuing has a required non-federal match component:	Yes
What is the primary county that the project will occur in?	Edwards County

The Build Kansas Fund is intended to support Kansas-based infrastructure projects. Please provide a list of all the zip codes this project will be located in, along with an estimated percent [%] of the project located in that zip code. For example, if seeking funding for road infrastructure, provide a rough percent of the roads expected in each zip code:

[Zip Code Percentage.xlsx](#)

Part 3: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - Grant Application Information
Please Note: This information is related to the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity to which you will apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

Please enter the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity title that the entity is applying for: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

What is the funding agency for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? U.S. Department of Homeland Security

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 94.047

What is the federal application due date for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 4/1/2025

Application Type: Implementation

What is the federal fiscal year for this Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity? 2024

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunity: \$50,000,000.00 **this is the maximum award amount*

Enter the total project cost: \$135,000,000.00

Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 25%

Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information Beginning in July 2024 and moving forward, eligible applicants are expected to contribute a portion of the non-Federal match requirement. This contribution can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions. The goal is to demonstrate the applicant's commitment to the project. The contribution should be significant enough relative to the Build Kansas Fund request. For a local public entity, 5% of the non-federal match is a good guideline, but not a requirement. See Build Kansas Fund Program Guidance for exceptions and more information.

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$15,833,333.00

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$833,333.00

Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 00

Expected breakdown of funding sources to support the project: Enter the funding source and projected amount from each source to support this project:

[Kansas+DOT+table_V2.xlsx](#)

Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test and Eligible Applicant Match

What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? 0

Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match? No

What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each. 0

What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match? A half cent local sales tax for water exploration purposes will be used to finance the local cost share and the balance of project costs not funded by state or federal sources.

Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project: Total Project cost is estimated to be \$135M. City of Hays anticipate having \$40M in cash for this project. We have applied for Kansas Water Office (HB 2302) Technical Assistance Grant (\$1M) to assist in cost of design. Senator Moran has submitted an \$11M Congressionally Directed Spending request to be included in the 2025 Senate appropriations bill. We have applied to KDHE for SRF loan to finance a portion of the project not funded otherwise. We are also eligible to apply for a WIFIA loan through the the US EPA.

Part 6: Additional Information

Please upload a draft or final version of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) program grant application associated with this request OR an executive summary providing an overview of the project:

[Hays_R9_Project_-_Executive_Summary.pdf](#)

Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional):

The R9 Wellfield and Pipeline Project total cost estimate is \$135M. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant is capped at \$50 million for National Competition Awards of which the City of Hays is applying. The non-federal match requirement for BRIC is 25. If the City is awarded a \$50 million BRIC grant, the City will provide a cash match of \$833,333 of the non-federal requirement leaving \$15,833,333 to be funded by the Build Kansas Fund. The \$68.3 million additional project contributions shown in the breakdown of funding sources table above would consist of local cash, other grant opportunities, possible Congressionally Directed Spending, State Revolving Fund Loan, and/or a US EPA WIFIA loan.

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Understanding of Fund Release Requirements: checked

Understanding of Use of Funds: checked

Understanding of Reporting Requirements: checked

Authority to Make Grant Application: checked

Persons and Titles: Toby Dougherty
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Position/Title: City Manager

Additional: John Braun

Position/Title: Project Manager

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Source	Amount	% of project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$ 15,833,333.00	11.73%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$ 833,333.00	0.61%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$ -	
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$ 50,000,000.00	37.04%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$ 68,333,334.00	50.62%
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 135,000,000.00	100.00%

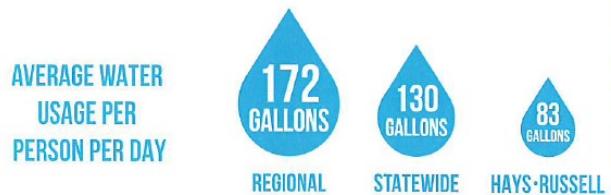
Zip Code	% of project in zip code
67547	39%
67574	24%
67575	13%
67548	15%
67601	9%
	100% in Kansas

Build Kansas Fund

Executive Summary for Application

City of Hays R9 Wellfield and Pipeline Project

In 1995, the City of Hays purchased a 6,700-acre ranch including its 7,647 acre-ft of irrigation water rights in Edwards County, Kansas, for the purpose of providing the City and the region with a long-term sustainable water supply. A year later, the City of Russell co-invested in the project, and over the last 30 years, the cities of Hays and Russell have become water conservation leaders. The average water usage per person per day in Hays and Russell is only 83 gallons. That is less than half the usage rate for the region and about 64% of the statewide average.



In June 2015, the cities submitted an application to the Kansas Department of Agriculture to change the use of water from irrigation to municipal use. This application included a voluntary reduction of our legally entitled 6,756 acre-ft of water to 4,800 acre-ft, meaning that we will never remove more water than what is naturally recharged, demonstrating our communities' commitments to water conservation are unchanging. Extensive modeling shows the R9 Wellfield will be just as viable 50 years from now. The change in usage, from irrigation to municipal, actually preserves water in the aquifer. Less water will come out of the ground than with irrigation.



Hays and Russell have also worked to remove all irrigation infrastructure and have planted the land back to native grass. The cities have taken an unprecedented step to make the R9 Ranch available for public use. The goal: a pristine and unique sandhill prairie environment, home to cottonwood, elm, cedar and osage orange trees, to prairie chickens, pheasant, quail, turkey, and deer. This work has been done to transform the ranch into a natural habitat and wildlife preserve for education and recreational purposes to be enjoyed by all. On November 1, 2023, the R9 Ranch was opened to Walk-in Hunting as the 7th largest contiguous WIHA tract in the State of Kansas.



The R9 Wellfield is located in Edwards County approximately 5 miles south of Kinsley, KS. The pipeline will traverse 69 miles crossing portions of Edwards, Pawnee, Rush, and Ellis Counties. The water produced by the wellfield will serve the water customers of the City of Hays and eventually the water customers of the City of Russell and possibly other communities in the area. The project will develop the R9 wellfield including seven (7) new municipal wells, a half-million-gallon raw water storage tank, raw water pump station, 69 miles of 24" diameter raw water transmission pipeline, elevated storage tank, and ancillary project elements necessary to deliver water from the R9 wellfield to the City of Hays existing pipeline at the Smoky Hill River wellfield near Schoenchen, Kansas.



The R9 Wellfield and Pipeline Project is estimated to cost \$135M. According to Stephen F. Hamilton, Ph.D. the R9 Project would create positive economic impact on the State of Kansas, including a statewide output impact of \$167M, a statewide employment impact of 752 full-time equivalent jobs, and a statewide tax revenue impact of \$4.4M. It would also generate a positive economic impact on the regional economy by avoiding and mitigating the economic loss of water shortages in the range of \$43M to \$117M. Combining the statewide economic impact from water infrastructure and the economic benefits of avoiding future water shortages, the R9 Project will provide economic benefit to the State of Kansas over the next 50 years in excess of \$210M. That number would increase to \$285M under drought conditions more severe than average.

A long-term sustainable water supply for Hays and Russell is critical for the regional economy and for Kansas as a whole. The area is a regional hub for Northwest Kansas, providing educational, health, and commercial necessities for tens of thousands of Kansans. City leaders of Hays and Russell have made a crucial decision to move forward with this project, and we are asking the State of Kansas to make a similar commitment through the Build Kansas Fund for the future of Kansas.

