

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: Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-109-NCRPC

Date: May 22, 2025

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 18 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 – 40101d application, pages 9-18.

Project Overview

The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for funding available through the SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid program for their Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative project which includes replacing aging overhead and underground power lines to improve reliability and prevent outages.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 48.33% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$383,215.85 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$20,169.26. This request has the potential to unlock \$834,589.89 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1,237,975.00.

The deadline was January 9, 2025, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on January 20, 2025.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on May 14, 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 | Fiscal Year 2025

Application Package | Coversheet



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| Build Kansas Fund Application Number | 2025-109-NCRPC |
| Applicant Name | Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. |
| Application Date Received | 1/20/2025 |
| Project Name | Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative Project |
| Project Description | Replace aging overhead and underground power lines to improve reliability and prevent outages |
| Entity Type | Non-Profit |
| Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission | North Central KS Regional Planning Commission |
| Infrastructure Sector(s) | Energy |
| BIL Program | SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid |
| BIL Program Type | Discretionary |
| Application Type | Implementation |
| BIL Application Deadline | 1/9/2025 |
| Build Kansas Fund Request | \$383,215.85 |
| 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 TA and BKF Application Support. |
| Application Notes | Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$383,215.85 will unlock \$834,589.89 in federal BIL funding, with a local cash contribution of \$20,169.26 for a total project cost of \$1,237,975.00 |
| Steering Committee Funding Recommendation | 5/14/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation | 5/22/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Title | Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 01/20/2025 |
| | by Jerod Chaffee in Build Kansas Fund Application | id. 49397716 |
| | jerodc@bluestemelectric.com | |

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| Original Submission | 04/21/2025 |
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| Score | n/a |
| Part 1: Applicant Information | |
| The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund: | Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. |
| Project Name: | Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative |
| Entity type: | Non-Profit |
| Applicant Contact Name: | Michael Leitch |
| Applicant Contact Position/Title: | CEO |
| Applicant Contact Telephone Number: | +17854562212 |
| Applicant Contact Email Address: | mleitch@bluestemelectric.com |
| Applicant Contact Address: | 1000 South Wind Drive |
| Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional): | |
| Applicant Contact City: | Wamego |
| Applicant Contact State: | Kansas |
| Applicant Contact Zip Code: | 66547 |

Is the Project
Contact the same as
the Applicant
Contact?

Yes

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

Certify that you are
pursuing an
Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs
Act (IIJA) funding
opportunity for which
your entity is eligible:

Yes

Certify that the
Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs
Act (IIJA) funding
opportunity you are
pursuing has a
required non-federal
match component:

Yes

What is the primary
county that the
project will occur in?

Clay 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: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - Grant Application
Information Please Note: This information is related to the federal
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), commonly known as the
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), funding opportunity to which you will
apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

Please enter the
Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs
Act (IIJA) funding
opportunity title that
the entity is applying
for:

SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the
Electric Grid

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| What is the funding agency for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? | U.S. Department of Energy |
| What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? | 81.254 |
| What is the federal application due date for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? | 1/9/2025 |
| Application Type: | Implementation |
| What is the federal fiscal year for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? | 2024 |
| Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity: | \$834,589.89 for a total project cost of \$1,237,975.00 |
| Enter the total project cost: | \$1,237,975.00 |
| Enter the required non-federal match percentage: | 48.33% |

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.

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| Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: | \$383,215.85 for a total project cost of \$1,237,975.00 |
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| Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: | \$20,169.26 for a total project cost of \$1,237,975.00 |
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| Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: | 00 |
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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

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| What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? | N/A - there isn't any additional funding for the project under the current budget. In 2022 and 2023, Bluestem's operating margin was less than \$1,000,000, leaving little room for capital projects. |
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| Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match? | N/A |
| What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each. | Bluestem will leverage its existing office and administrative staff to monitor the status of the project, submit necessary payrolls, and provide the internal data necessary for reporting, but the bulk of the grant administration and compliance work will be completed by an experienced grant administrator. |
| What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match? | N/A |
| Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project: | <p>After identifying the projects in the Bluestem Resilient Power Line Initiative, Bluestem worked with its operational and administrative staff and external partners to identify funding sources.</p> <p>In the past two fiscal years (2022 and 2023), Bluestem's operating margin was less than \$1,000,000 leaving little room for capital projects. Assuming a similar budget to past years, these projects alone represent nearly 50% of Bluestem's general maintenance budget for the next two fiscal years combined. There is no room in Bluestem's budget for additional capital improvement projects, so outside of the 40101(d) and Build Kansas funding options, the only realistic option is to secure additional long-term debt.</p> <p>Currently, Bluestem's long-term debt is nearly \$34.7M with about \$2M in short-term obligations over the next 12 months. Securing additional debt would put significant financial strain on Bluestem's financial position, so it is not the preferred option.</p> |

Part 6: Additional Information

Please upload a draft or final version of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) program grant application associated with this request OR an executive summary providing an overview of the project:

[40101d_Application_-_Bluestem_Cooperative.pdf](#)

| | |
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| Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional): | <p>The project will have a significant impact on the communities served by Bluestem Electric Cooperative. The region is a highly rural and economically depressed region of the state with poverty rates as high as 19.6% in some areas. The regional household income, \$67,400, is \$2,600 lower than the state average and \$9,600 lower than the national average. But for the 40101(d) and Build Kansas funding, Bluestem Electric's only other option is to raise rates, which would disproportionately affect on these lower income households.</p> <p>In addition, the project will benefit the regional economy and recreation areas. The projects serve several key industries in the region including agriculture (cattle feed lots, farms, and more), energy, and manufacturing. The projects also support a public golf course and the Milford Lake area, which is a major recreational center in the region and is poised for new housing developments.</p> |
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Part 7: Terms and Conditions

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| 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: The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application. | Michael Leitch |
| Position/Title: | CEO |
| Additional: | |
| Position/Title: | |
| Additional: | |
| Position/Title: | |
| Additional: | |
| Position/Title: | |

| Source | Amount | % of Project |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match) | \$383,215.85 | 30.96% |
| Eligible Applicant Cash Match | \$20,169.26 | 1.63% |
| Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value) | \$0.00 | 0% |
| BIL Federal Funds (applied for) | \$834,589.89 | 67.42% |
| Additional Project Contribution (if applicable) | \$0.00 | 0% |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | \$1,237,975.00 | 100% |

***Applicant satisfies recommended match contribution of 5% of the required match**

| Zip Code | % of project in zip code |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 67432 | 65% |
| 66449 | 3.5% |
| 66554 | 5.3% |
| 67487 | 5.6% |
| 66502 | 3.7% |
| 66401 | 7.7% |
| 66407 | 6.3% |
| 66968 | 2.9% |
| | 100% In Kansas |

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| Title | Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative | 01/09/2025 |
| | by Jerod Chaffee in SECTION 40101(d) Second Round: Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid | id. 49283524 |
| | jerodc@bluestemelectric.com | |

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| Original Submission | 04/10/2025 |
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| Score | n/a |
| Section 1: Applicant Information | |
| Entity name: | Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. |
| Are you submitting a new application, or will you be resubmitting the application you submitted last round? | New Application |
| Entity Type: | Distribution Provider |
| Entity address: | 1000 South Wing Drive Wamego Kansas 66547 US 39.1103805 -93.179043 |
| Employer Identification Number (EIN): | 48-1205132 |
| Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): | ZXNUNTCZER71 |
| Please upload verification of eligible entity size and documentation of annual sales per year: EIA-861_Report_Submission_Screenshots_-_Submitted_03-21-2024.pdf | |
| EIA Table 2023 Utility Bundled Sales to Ultimate Customers List.xlsx | |

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Project Manager name: | Jerod Chaffee |
| Project Manager phone number: | +17852562212 |
| Project Manager e-mail address: | jerodc@bluestemelectric.com |

IRS Form W-9:

[BEC_W-9_2022_Signed.pdf](#)

Latest financial statement and financial statement audit:

[Bluestem_Financials_and_Audit.pdf](#)

Please acknowledge whether your entity has ever submitted an application, similar in nature, to the DOE under BIL Section 40101c, DE-FOA-002740, Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP):

Section 2: Project Description and Scope

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| Project Name: | Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative |
| Project type: | Replacement of old overhead conductors & underground cables |

Project description and scope: Bluestem has been actively engaged in enhancing grid resiliency over the past few years and will continue these efforts into 2025 with six priority projects. The Bluestem Resilient Power Line Initiative is a key component of this plan, aiming to replace 15 miles of outdated copper weld (CWC) and other conductors throughout its system. This initiative focuses primarily on replacing old and antiquated lines, which by itself will improve system resiliency. However, many of the projects will also improve line ampacity, which will allow Bluestem to better manage the flow of power throughout the system helping to maintain power continuity during disruptive events.

The initiative comprises two core projects: five distribution line improvements and one feeder line improvement.

DISTRIBUTION LINE IMPROVEMENTS

The distribution line improvements will cover a total of 12 miles, including 11.5 miles of overhead lines and 0.5 miles of underground lines. Specifically, 11 miles of single-phase 6A CWC will be upgraded to either single-phase 1/0 or #2 ACSR, and 1 mile of three-phase 6A CWC will be upgraded to three-phase 1/0 ACSR. The lines targeted for these

improvements are between 44 and 82 years old, with most being part of the original infrastructure. These upgrades are crucial for enhancing the reliability and capacity of the distribution network.

Bluestem estimates the costs of these projects at \$432,975 and expects the improvements to be completed within 18 to 24 months of the project start date. Specific details for each project are listed below:

Greenleaf - Greenleaf 0.5 mi 1 ph underground #2 ACSR (\$36,225 – 44 years old)

Alma - 2.75 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph #2 ACSR (\$94,875 – 75 years old)

Hunters Island - 1.0 mi 3 ph 6A CWC to 3 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$46,000 – 75 years old)

Leonardville - 3.5 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$109,250 – 75 years old)

Peddicord - 2.25 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$77,625 – 75 years old)

Wakefield - 2.0 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph #2 ACSR (\$69,000 – 82 years old)

FEEDER LINE IMPROVEMENTS

The feeder line improvement project will address 3 miles of a main feeder line that is currently beyond its useful lifespan. Although this line has not yet caused any issues, it has been a priority for several years. Due to funding constraints, Bluestem has not been able to address it until now. The section to be replaced is 43 years old and is part of the original infrastructure. By proactively upgrading this feeder line, Bluestem aims to prevent potential future disruptions and maintain a reliable power supply. Bluestem estimates the cost of this project at \$805,000 and expects the improvements to be completed within 24 months of the project start date.

Overall, these projects are designed to modernize Bluestem's electrical infrastructure, reduce the risk of outages, and enhance the system's resilience against disruptive events. The planned upgrades will not only improve the immediate reliability of the power supply but also ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency for the cooperative's members.

Note – these projects will be completed in rural areas throughout Bluestem's service territory and have not received any other federal or state funding.

Section 3: Need for Funding

Project funding need: Bluestem is asking for \$834,608.64 in 40101(d) grant funding to support critical grid resiliency projects that are essential for maintaining reliable and continuous power supply to its rural customers. The total estimated cost for these projects is \$1,237,975, a significant investment that Bluestem cannot realistically fund through its regular maintenance budget or existing financial resources.

In both 2022 and 2023, Bluestem's operating margin was less than \$1,000,000, leaving very little room for capital projects. Given the cooperative's financial constraints, it is unrealistic to allocate such a substantial amount from the regular maintenance budget, especially when these improvements would represent about 44% of Bluestem's maintenance budget over the next 18 to 24 months. This financial strain is further compounded by Bluestem's existing debt obligations, which include nearly \$34.7 million in long-term debt and nearly \$2 million in short-term debt obligations within the next 12 months.

The high cost of these projects also places a significant financial burden on Bluestem's customers, many of which reside in disadvantaged communities. As it stands, the pro rata cost per impacted member would be \$2,309.65 or \$224.19 if spread across all members. This is an extremely high cost for rural customers, many of whom are already facing economic challenges. However, with the 40101(d) funding, the pro rata cost would be reduced to \$752.55 per impacted member or \$73.05 for all members. While this is still a considerable amount, it is far more manageable and would significantly alleviate the financial burden on the cooperative's members.

Without the 40101(d) funding, Bluestem cannot proceed with these vital projects. The cooperative's financial situation, combined with the high cost of the projects and the significant impact on customers, makes it clear that external funding is necessary. The grant funding would enable Bluestem to undertake these essential improvements, ensuring a more resilient and reliable power supply for its rural customers.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The project is occurring in a highly rural area of the state, with poverty rates as high as 19.6% in some areas, and a regional median household income of \$67,400, \$2,600 lower than the state average and \$9,600 lower than national averages.

Per the Council for Environmental Justice, a portion of the project will occur within a disadvantaged census tract (20201978700) in Washington County.

All of these projects support highly rural populations, increasing the impact of the cost of the project on members, more than \$2,000 per impacted customer. Given the high poverty and other economic conditions in the region, the project will severely impact disadvantaged rural communities with little or no capacity to bear the high per capita cost of the project. Receiving aid through the 40101(d) program would significantly reduce the impact on economically distressed communities.

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| Provide historical and post project estimated interruption frequency and duration data, if known. | Prior to 2023, Bluestem did not have an outage management system, so historical interruption frequency and duration data are not available at any level throughout the system. However, the 7 priority projects identified have had several outage events causing either flickering lights or complete losses of power throughout the last decade. These events are often caused by broken strands, which is common for infrastructure that is 50 – 80 years old. Bluestem fully expects these improvements to significantly improve power reliability and continuity on these lines as a result of the project. |
| Provide pro rata customer impact of total project cost. | Based on a current customer count of 5,522 and a total project cost of \$1,237,975, the pro rata member cost of the project is \$224.19. However, the projects in the Bluestem Resilient Power Line Initiative serve 536 members bringing the pro rata cost to \$2,309.55 per impacted member. |
| Provide number of customers to be impacted by the project and percentage of impacted customers to total customers in the disadvantaged or underserved community. | <p>The Bluestem Resilient Power Line Initiative will directly serve 536 members, about 10% of Bluestem's member base. All of Bluestem's members are located in the state of Kansas.</p> <p>The project is located in a predominantly rural area of the state, with poverty rates as high as 19.6% in some areas. The median household income for the area is \$67,400, which is \$2,600 below the state average and \$9,600 below the national average. According to the Council for Environmental Justice, part of the project will take place within a disadvantaged census tract (20201978700) in Washington County.</p> <p>These projects primarily serve rural populations, which amplifies the financial burden on members, with each affected customer facing a cost exceeding \$2,000. Given the region's high poverty rates and challenging economic conditions, the project will place a heavy strain on already disadvantaged rural communities, which have limited or no capacity to absorb such high per capita costs. Assistance through the 40101(d) program would greatly alleviate the burden on these economically distressed communities.</p> |

Section 4: Complete Budget and Narrative

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| Award amount requested: | 834589.89 |
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| Matching funds to be provided: | 403385.11 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

Budget (Total Costs):

[Budget Template DRAFT.xlsx](#)

Project budget upload (optional):

[Bluestem_40101d_Project_Budget_-_FINAL.xlsx](#)

| | |
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| Project budget narrative: | <p>DISTRIBUTION LINE IMPROVEMENTS - \$432,975</p> <p>Bluestem will replace and upgrade 12 miles of old and antiquated conductors across six different lines to improve system reliability. The specific projects are listed below.</p> <p>Greenleaf - Greenleaf 0.5 mi 1 ph underground #2 ACSR (\$36,225) Alma - 2.75 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph #2 ACSR (\$94,875) Hunters Island - 1.0 mi 3 ph 6A CWC to 3 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$46,000) Leonardville - 3.5 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$109,250) Peddicord - 2.25 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph 1/0 ACSR (\$77,625) Wakefield - 2.0 mi 1 ph 6A CWC to 1 ph #2 ACSR (\$69,000)</p> <p>FEEDER LINE IMPROVEMENTS - \$805,000</p> <p>Bluestem will replace and upgrade 3 miles of feeder line servicing the area surrounding the city of Clay Center.</p> <p>Note – the final project budget includes a 15% contingency above the estimates provided in Section 6 to account for inflation and other unplanned price increases between now and completion of the project.</p> |
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Cost match commitment letter:
[40101_d_Application_Letter_11272024.pdf](#)

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| | Section 5: Project Timeline |
| Project timeline: | <p>Bluestem expects to complete the project within 18 to 24 months of beginning construction on the first line:</p> <p>March 2025 – KCC announces award recipients July 2025 – Bluestem signs grant agreement December 2025 – Bluestem receives BABA waiver from DOE (if necessary) January 2026 – Bluestem orders materials March 2026 – Bluestem begins construction work on first line replacement March 2028 – Bluestem completes construction on final line replacement</p> <p>Note – this is a draft timeline based on the current understanding of the 40101(d) approval process, material lead times, and typical construction timelines.</p> |

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| | Section 6: Bids and Estimates |
| Bids and estimates: | Cost_Estimates.pdf |

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| | Section 7: Community Benefit |
| Community benefit narrative: | The Bluestem Resilient Lines Initiative is designed to bring significant and lasting benefits to the communities it serves in rural Kansas. This project will have a wide-reaching impact, particularly for economically |

disadvantaged areas where poverty rates reach as high as 19%, and median household incomes are nearly \$10,000 below the national average. By focusing on enhancing system resiliency, the initiative will directly improve power reliability for several key economic and recreational facilities, supporting the region's vital industries and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

The project will address the power needs of several critical infrastructure points that play a pivotal role in the local economy. For example, the Clay Center Feeder line supports a major cattle feedlot, with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,500 head of cattle, and a large hog facility housing 4,000 animals. These agricultural operations are crucial to the area's economic vitality, and reliable power is essential for their ongoing success. By enhancing system resiliency along this line, the project will ensure the continued operation of these agricultural businesses, which provide jobs and support for the local economy.

Similarly, the Greenleaf project, which serves a community golf course, will help bolster local recreation opportunities. This facility plays a significant role in fostering both leisure and economic activities in the region, and improved power reliability will ensure that such recreational spaces remain functional, contributing to the overall well-being and prosperity of the community.

The Hunter Island line serves several oil wells and a prefabricated home manufacturing facility. Both of these industries are key to the regional economy, with the oil industry being a significant energy provider and the prefabricated home industry helping meet housing demand in a growing area. The resilience improvements along this line will help secure these industries' operations, further supporting economic stability and job retention in the region.

Additionally, the Wakefield line supports the Milford Lake area, which is poised for new housing developments. As this area grows, the demand for reliable energy will increase, and the enhancements to the power grid will ensure that the area can meet future housing and residential needs without disruptions. The increased reliability will also benefit recreational activities in the region, as Milford Lake is a popular spot for local residents and tourists alike boasting several recreational opportunities including the Milford State Park, Milford Fish Hatchery, camping, trails, boating and swim beaches.

Overall, the Bluestem Resilient Lines Initiative will directly benefit several rural and economically disadvantaged communities by improving energy reliability, supporting key industries, and contributing to both regional economic stability and growth. By addressing these critical needs, the project will play a vital role in strengthening the resilience of the local economy, promoting job retention, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. This initiative will be a transformative step toward ensuring that the region's power infrastructure is prepared for the future, benefiting both current and future generations.

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| Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the targeted areas of each proposed project. | Bluestem did not have an outage management system until 2023, and detailed historical outage records were not kept prior to implementing the system. |
| Provide expected changes to the historical data as a result of each proposed project. | The proposed projects are focused on preventing voltage loss along the lines that are being upgraded, and Bluestem expects these improvements to prevent future outages. The lines targeted in the Bluestem Resilient Power Lines Initiative are either beyond their useful life or under sized and can't handle increased voltages during disruptive events. However, without access to historical data, we cannot estimate the level of improvement. |
| Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the entire system to determine whether the project is in an area that has, on average, more frequent or longer duration outages. | Bluestem did not have an outage management system until 2023, and detailed historical outage records were not kept prior to implementing the system. Over the past decade, the seven priority projects have experienced multiple outages, resulting in either flickering lights or complete power losses. These incidents are frequently due to broken strands, a common issue in infrastructure that is 50 to 80 years old. |
| Provide age of system or line segments to be replaced or repaired, type of equipment that failed, and the number of annual outages for the project area. | <p>The infrastructure to be replaced ranges from 43 to 82 years old and is all original to when the lines were initially built.</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION LINE IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Greenleaf - 44 years old Alma – 75 years old Hunters Island – 75 years old Leonardville – 75 years old Peddicord – 75 years old Wakefield – 82 years old</p> <p>FEEDER LINE IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Clay Center – 43 years old</p> <p>Outages are typically caused by broken strands due to wear and tear of the conductors. Until recently, Bluestem did not have an outage management system, so outage data for these lines is not available.</p> |

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| Provide a number of protective devices (fuses or breakers) that have operated more than once in a rolling 12-month period. | Bluestem does not currently track this data. |
| Provide a number of customers impacted by project and the percentage to total customers served in Kansas. | The Bluestem Resilient Power Line Initiative will directly serve 536 members, about 10% of Bluestem's customer base, all of which are located in the state of Kansas. |
| Description of efforts to attract, train, and retrain a skilled workforce for this project. | Bluestem employees complete 8 safety training courses per year with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Additionally, Bluestem has an apprenticeship program for its lineman and provides ongoing training as needed. |
| Provide an estimate of job creation due to this project. | Bluestem does not expect the any new jobs to be created due specifically to this project. |
| Identify any plans to partner with training providers to support workforce development. | Bluestem has not immediate plans to partner with other training providers outside of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. as noted in a previous response. |
| Provide any other metric(s) that indicates potential community benefit. | None. |
| Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Davis-Bacon Act requirements. | Yes |
| Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Buy America Requirements. | Yes |

Confirmation that the Yes
applicant will submit
an environmental
questionnaire (NETL
Form 451.1-1-3), if
required, for each
work area proposed
in the application.
