



# Economic Development Strategic Plan 2018

A collaborative effort of the Doniphan County Economic Development Commission and the Doniphan County Health Department/Home Health

**VISION:** Doniphan County, home to unified communities and growing businesses, creating a successful future.

**MISSION:** To facilitate empowerment of residents and businesses, enhance quality of life and nurture growth in Doniphan County.

## Six Key Initiatives + Strategies

**1.** Establish housing to fill gaps along the housing continuum, focusing on meeting the needs of elderly residents transitioning from single family housing.

- Identify funding sources including long-term financing, incentives and grants for construction line of credit
- Identify possible site locations for such a business in Troy
- Outline facility feasibility including workforce availability
- Decide what size and facility model will best support the area's needs

**2.** Support and encourage locations for social activities in the County promoting community engagement and keeping dollars within the county.

- Study feasibility of a family restaurant with sports bar model including investors, potential managers and cost analysis for a new building or renovation
- Contact other successful bars/restaurants in surrounding areas that might consider expanding into the market
- Consider capitalizing on historical uniqueness of Ernie's bar in Highland

**3.** Establish housing to fill gaps along the housing continuum, focusing on meeting the needs of young families and new graduates seeking smaller, first time housing.

- Use the Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) to assess current housing and identify which type of housing each city needs
- Research housing demolition programs
- Partner with local organizations to create programs to encourage farmland sales
- Promote the Neighborhood Revitalization program and other local incentives for local contractors and builders

**4.** Focus development on businesses that offer quality salaried positions of \$35,000/year or greater and that offer a benefits package.

- Research the County's workforce availability and identify the industry corridors the County currently has
- Visit existing businesses in the County to understand what new businesses could help grow or support their business
- Market local and state tax incentives and coordinate with the Kansas Department of Commerce

**5.** Increase access to grocery shopping options in the county and support existing grocery options with initiatives that expand access to fresh and local foods.

- Research a grocery co-operative model and a restaurant/grocery combo options and financing structures
- Work with K-State Rural Grocery Initiative and Food Co-op Initiative
- Assess which cities would like to combine efforts or start their own Farmers Market
- Connect local growers and organizations to support new Farmers Markets

**6.** Advocate for and help create additional activities and facilities in the county that focus on fitness and recreation.

- Research existing fitness centers and trails in similar areas and analyze their strategies and financing
- Propose having a satellite branch of the HCC wellness center in the County
- Consider riverfront development as an avenue to have walking and bike trails
- Decide if efforts should be first directed to focus on a fitness center or trails

## Secondary Initiatives

1. Foster and support youth engagement and retention.
2. Launch a new industrial park.
3. Create a vibrant tourism corridor by capitalizing on our natural resources and historical significance.
4. Develop facilities and programs to help deal with perceived drug problems.

## What Makes Doniphan County Unique

- **Missouri River** – we have the largest number of linear feet of riverfront area of any county in Kansas
- **Close to major cities**, but with a rural lifestyle
- **Highland Community College** – oldest institution of higher education in Kansas
- **History** – Native American Heritage, Historic Courthouse, Pony Express and Lewis and Clark
- **Soil** – we have the best soil in the world other than one location in China
- **Name** – we were the first county named in Kansas