



GO TOPEKA

QUARTERLY REPORT

2018 - 4TH QUARTER



Prepared for JEDO
Joint Economic Development Organization



GO TOPEKA
785.234.2644
GOTOpeka.com
719 S Kansas Ave. Ste.100
Topeka, KS 66603

COVER PHOTO:

Small business advocates pledge to shop small and encourage Topeka community members to do the same to do their part to bolster the local economy.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY VITAL STATS	
6	BUSINESS ATTRACTION, RETENTION & EXPANSION	
7	ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	
9	PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER	
10	INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
11	712 INNOVATIONS	
12	FORGE	
13	WORKFORCE & EDUCATION	
14	WASHBURN TECH EAST INCLUDED QUALITY OF PLACE	
15	TOGETHER TOPEKA	

KEY

Momentum 2022 focuses on five key elements to make Topeka & Shawnee County a better place to live, work, play and do business.



Develop
Homegrown
Talent



Create Vibrant
& Attractive
Places



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



Promote a
Positive Image



Collaborate
for a Strong
Community



COMMON QUESTIONS

What is JEDO?

The Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) was established by an interlocal agreement between Shawnee County and the City of Topeka, Kansas, in 2001. The JEDO Board is comprised of 13 members. Voting members include the three Shawnee County Commissioners, City of Topeka Mayor and Deputy Mayor and two Topeka City Council members. Nonvoting members are the remaining six council members. JEDO is funded through the half-cent county wide retail sales tax established by the inter-local agreement and is to be used for economic development.

What is GO Topeka?

GO Topeka is the leader in creating opportunities for economic growth that provide a thriving business climate and fulfilling lifestyle for all residents of Topeka & Shawnee County.

GO Topeka's mission is to create exceptional opportunities for growth, prosperity, innovation, and economic diversity and vibrancy that positively impact current and future citizens of Topeka & Shawnee County by attracting world-class companies, providing existing companies with the knowledge and resources to reach their highest potential, and cultivating entrepreneurial development and growth.

What is the Momentum 2022 Strategy?

Momentum 2022 is a comprehensive, actionable, and consensus-based plan to guide the community's collective actions in the years to come. Strategy development was funded by the Topeka Community Foundation, GO Topeka, Heartland Visioning, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library and the United Way of Greater Topeka. The strategy seeks to make Topeka & Shawnee County a better place to live, work, play and do business. It addresses the full range of factors that influence the community's competitiveness, such as talent, education and training resources, infrastructure, business climate, quality of life and quality of place.

What is the purpose of this report?

The quarterly report to JEDO is a contractual requirement and a resource for the members and the community at large regarding economic development activities in Topeka & Shawnee County. Updates on each of GO Topeka's major initiatives are included here

- Business Attraction
- Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)
- Workforce & Education
- TogetherTopeka
- Forge Young Professionals
- Entrepreneurial & Minority Business Development
- 712 Innovations - Business Startup & Incubation
- The Topeka Subcenter of Kansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)
- Momentum 2022

How does all of this information about GO Topeka and JEDO relate back to Momentum 2022?

Conceived as a strategic plan for the economic development of Topeka & Shawnee County, Momentum 2022 and the work of JEDO are closely intertwined. The strategy takes a broad view of economic development in its inclusion of quality of life, community pride and quality of place. The majority of its designated action items are from the realm of traditional economic development and every aspect of the plan, if achieved as envisioned, will make the area more competitive and make the work of GO Topeka's many initiatives easier to achieve.

How does all of this relate to the Greater Topeka Partnership?

The Greater Topeka Partnership seeks to enhance Topeka & Shawnee County as a desirable place to live, work, play and do business through community and business partnerships and by promoting the Momentum 2022 Strategy.

For more information, go to [JEDOEcoDevo.com](https://www.jedoecondev.com)

TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY VITAL STATS

Updated 1.22.19



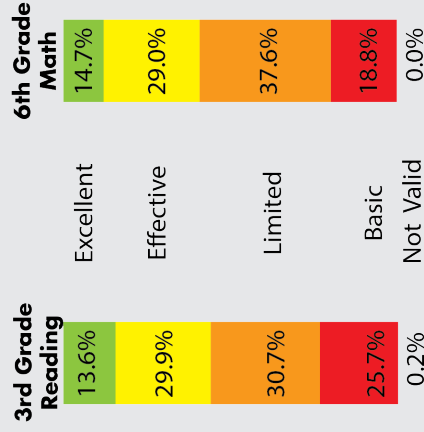
DEVELOP HOMEGROWN TALENT

**GRADUATION RATE -
FOUR-YEAR ADJUSTED
COHORT FORMULA
(ALL SCHOOLS 2016-2017)⁽¹⁾**

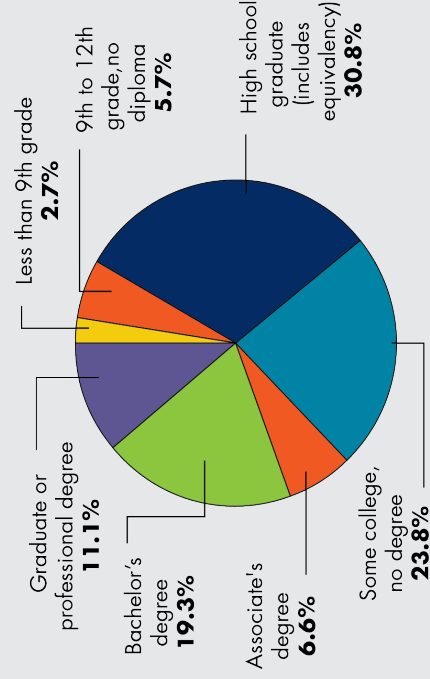
**STATE OF
KANSAS
86.9%**

**SHAWNEE
COUNTY
84.7%**

**STUDENT-LEVEL METRICS
IN SHAWNEE COUNTY
(2018)⁽¹⁾**



**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN
SHAWNEE COUNTY (2017) ⁽²⁾**
(Population 25 years and older)



**TOTAL
CERTIFICATES
EARNED IN
SHAWNEE COUNTY
LESS THAN A
2-YEAR DEGREE
(2017)**

1,284



CREATE VIBRANT & ATTRACTIVE PLACES

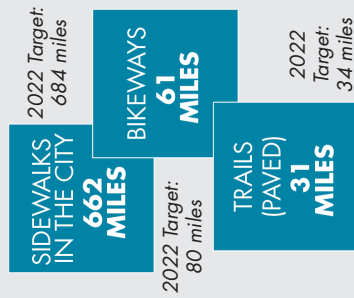
**AARP LIVABILITY
INDEX⁽³⁾**

This score rates the overall livability of Shawnee County on a scale from 0 to 100. It is based on the average score of seven livability categories—housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity—which also range from 0 to 100.

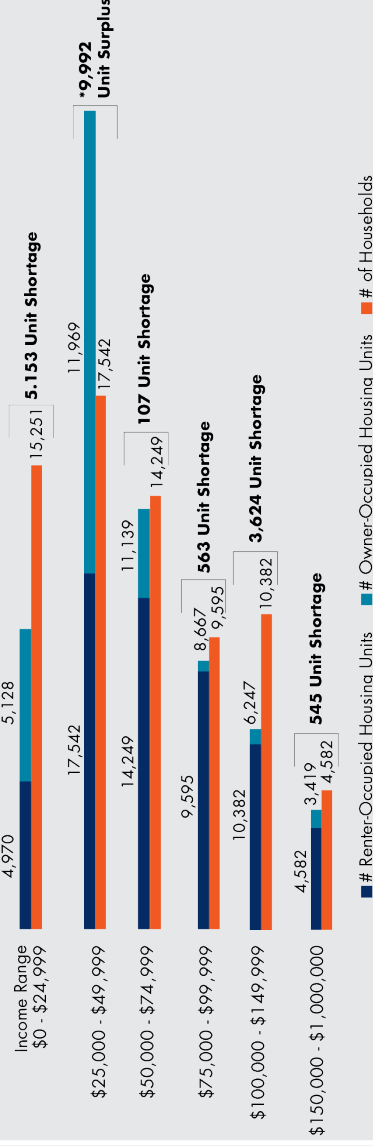


2022 Target: 58 AARP livability index

**PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY
SHAWNEE COUNTY
(2017) ⁽⁴⁾**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING ANALYSIS (2017) ⁽²⁾



*The analysis does not account for age or quality of housing units, and there is the possibility that upper income households are likely outcompeting lower income households for the same housing units.

**ATTENDANCE
AT FESTIVALS
AND EVENTS
(2017)**

**481,974
PEOPLE**

Ticketed event information provided by Kansas Expocentre, Topeka Civic Theatre as well as all Greater Topeka Partnership organizations. Crowd estimation of GTP operated festivals is calculated using the Jacobs Method.

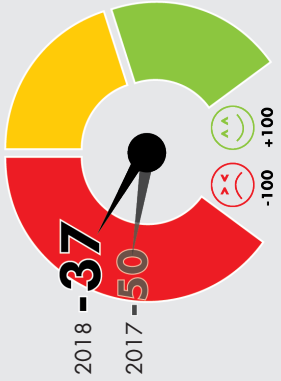
2022 Target: 664,000 people



PROMOTE A POSITIVE IMAGE

® **NET PROMOTER SCORE (NPS) (7)**

An index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures the willingness of customers to recommend a product or experience to others.



GROW A DIVERSE ECONOMY

SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT AT BUSINESSES LESS THAN 5-YEARS OLD (2017 Q4) (8)

7,235
PEOPLE WORK AT A NEW BUSINESS

2022 Target: 7,093 people

ANNUAL MEDIAN WAGE IN TOPEKA (2017) (6)

\$36,000

2022 Target: \$39,000

GLOBAL METRICS

GDP IN BILLIONS OF CURRENT DOLLARS (10)

\$10.491 BILLION
IN 2016

Gross domestic product (GDP) is equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, gross private domestic investment, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.

\$10.655 BILLION
IN 2017

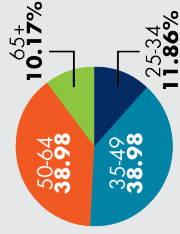
2022 Target: \$11.500 GDP in billions of current dollars



COLLABORATE FOR STRONG COMMUNITY

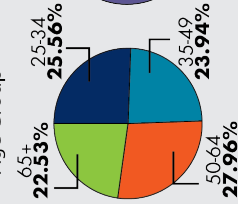
SURVEY RESULTS ON LOCAL NON-PROFIT BOARD DIVERSITY (2018) (7)

Age Group Gender Race Ethnicity



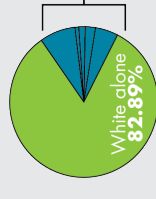
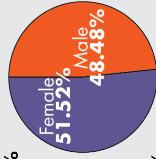
CURRENT SHAWNEE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS (2)

Age Group



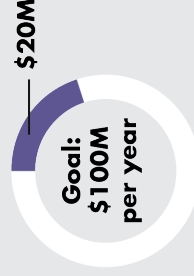
It is intended that non-profit boards are reflective of the community as a whole. To that end, the graphs above should mirror the graphs at right.

Gender



PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2018) (7)

Capital investment is the amount of money new or current businesses spend to create, expand or improve facilities. For this report, capital investment is captured by GO Topeka during regular communications with companies or when companies work with GO Topeka to receive an incentive for an investment. The numbers are self-reported and exclude the cost of maintenance. GO Topeka makes every attempt to gather this info for all companies in Shawnee County, however some will not be captured due to lack of awareness of the investment.



2022 Target: \$500M

TOTAL PRIVATE JOBS IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (JUNE 2018) (5)

Private = Non-Government Jobs

75,692

2022 Target: 79,000 jobs

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING, BUT NOT LIVING IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2015) (8)

37,123 OR 36.8%

2022 Target: 33%

POVERTY RATE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2017) (11)

11.7% TOTAL POVERTY RATE

15.3% CHILD POVERTY RATE

2022 Target: 10%

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2016) (9)

3.1 POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH DAYS
3.5 POOR MENTAL HEALTH DAYS

Average number of physically/mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted)

INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2016) (10)

6.6 WITHIN 1 YEAR, PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Sources: **1** Kansas State Department of Education, **2** U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, **3** AARP Livability Index, **4** City of Topeka Planning Department, **5** Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, **6** Occupational Employment Statistics, **7** GO Topeka, **8** U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, **9** County Health Ranking, **10** Bureau of Economic Analysis, **11** U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

PROVIDED BY





Grow a
Diverse
Economy

BUSINESS ATTRACTION, RETENTION & EXPANSION

Business Attraction focuses on enticing new businesses and organizations to select Topeka & Shawnee County as their home, encouraging them to invest in the community as a viable place to grow. Marketing the community's assets and putting Topeka & Shawnee County in the best light possible during the site selection process are key components of business attraction.

Business Retention & Expansion's (BRE) role is to ensure existing Topeka & Shawnee County businesses have every opportunity to grow and thrive in the community. The BRE program utilizes a variety of tools and resources to assist the community's corporate citizens. Building strong partnerships with businesses supports the prosperity of the community's private sector while growing a more diverse economy.

Business Attraction

GO Topeka's partners at both the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC) have been the source of the majority of the new business leads in the fourth quarter. Staff is also working on a couple major projects that came directly to GO Topeka. There are currently 31 new business projects in the pipeline. Focus in the fourth quarter has been on direct marketing to site selectors in offsite meetings and setting strategies for 2019.

Business Retention & Expansion

GO Topeka is working with a handful of existing businesses on expansion projects planned in the next year that will help grow and diversify our economy. Some projects involve adding jobs while others are strictly investment in the company's physical presence in Shawnee County. Look for some announcements about thriving companies in Shawnee County in early 2019!

Business Attraction



31

Total projects in the
project pipeline



2

New projects
in Q4



1

Site visits in Q4

Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)



19

Total projects in the
project pipeline



1

New project
in Q4



15

Onsite visits YTD

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Business Attraction

Recruits businesses to Topeka & Shawnee County

Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

Helps to retain businesses in Topeka & Shawnee County

Project Pipeline

The projects Business Attraction and BRE are working on

ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Grow a Diverse Economy



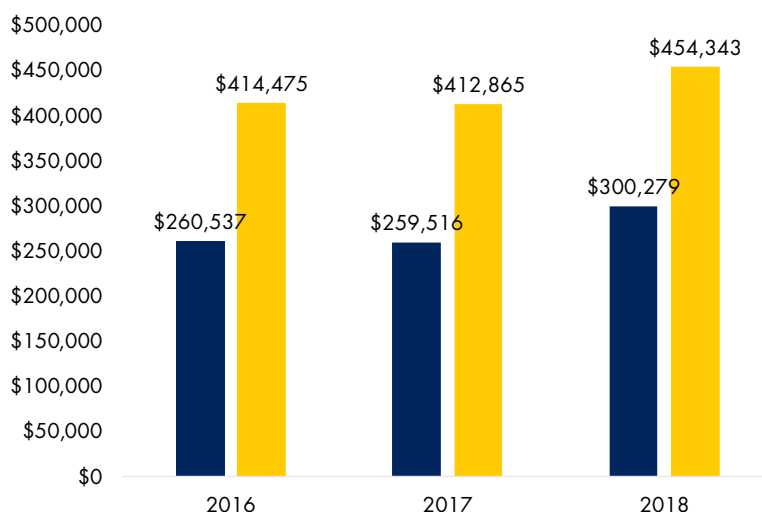
Collaborate for a Strong Community

Entrepreneurial and Minority Business Development ensures small businesses in Topeka & Shawnee County constantly receive the support they need to start, grow and sustain their businesses. Incentive programs, educational sessions and counseling are provided to help them flourish.

SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES

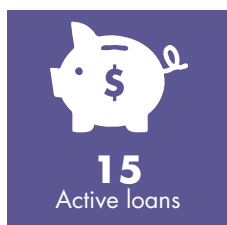


Small Business Incentive Program ROI

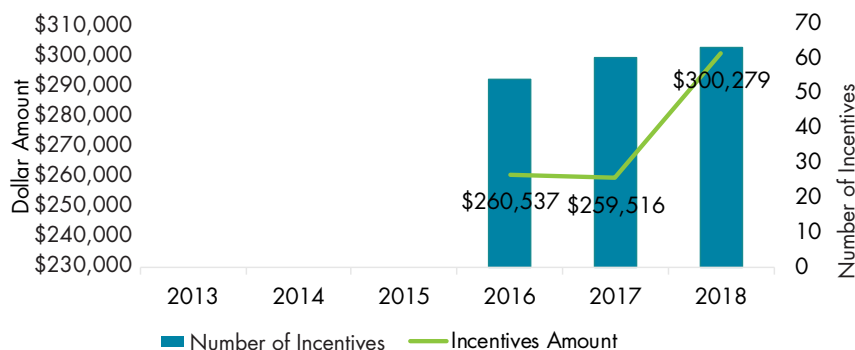


Year	2016	2017	2018
ROI	59%	59%	51%

FIRST OPPORTUNITY LOAN FUND



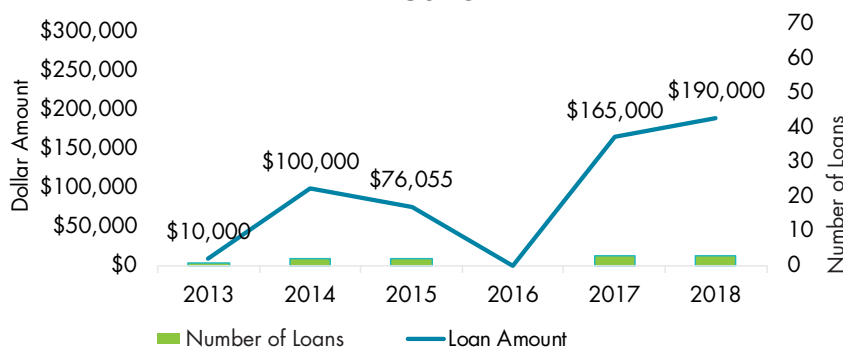
Incentives



TSC3 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN



Loans



ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

(CONTINUED)

Tracking: Seminars, Tech. Assistance, Community Outreach, Incentives and Loans

EMBD hosted 11 minority business networking events. These events were information sessions that served as a platform to allow businesses to interact amongst each other, identify business opportunities and learn more about the growth occurring in Topeka & Shawnee County. Over 582 minority businesses and professionals attended the networking events from January 2018 through December 2018. The events have educated and solidified the minority business community and set the stage for future growth.

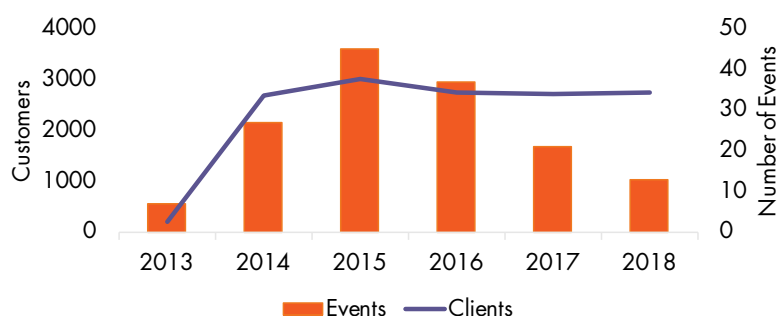
Staff is collaborating with Topeka Housing Authority to introduce an Empowerment Project. The goal of the project is to place a business incubator on the grounds of a THA public housing community. In March, EMBD and THA staff

will survey residents to gather information that will support the implementation of the small business Empowerment Project. Staff is also considering submitting an application for a Kauffman Inclusion grant for the project. Authors of the grant believe that there are undiscovered entrepreneurs throughout the community. The grant focusses on providing business opportunities to these underserved markets.

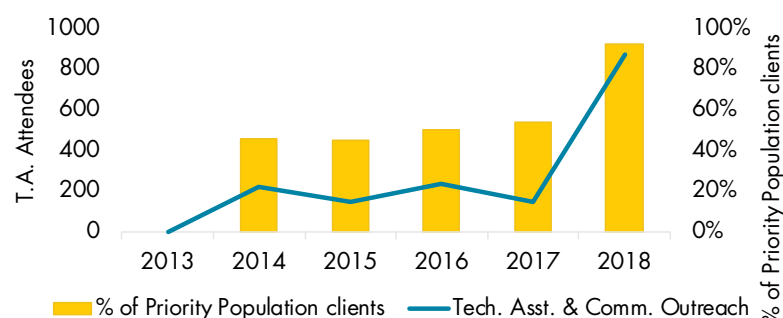
EMBD staff met with a group interested in serving as the facility host of the Commercial Kitchen Project. Staff has received a large amount of interest on this subject and are planning to schedule focus groups to further explore the Commercial Kitchen idea.

	2018
Entrepreneurial Courses	2
Entrepreneurial Attendees	22
Entrepreneurial Graduates	22
Entrepreneurial Graduation Rate	100%
Seminars	11
Entrepreneurs Served	1847
Average Attendance	168
Tech. Asst. & Comm. Outreach	870
% of Priority Population clients	92%
Events	13
Clients	2739
Incentives	63
Incentives Amount	\$300,279
Loans	3
Loan Amount	\$190,000
Total Number of Incentives & Loans	66
Dollar Amount	\$490,279

Seminars, Classes & Technical Assistance



Tech. Asst. & Comm. Outreach

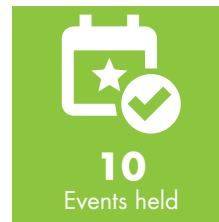
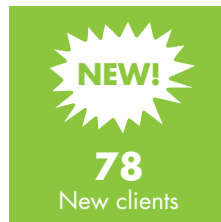


PTAC (PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER)

PTAC was created by congress in the 1980s to assist businesses involved in government contracts. Today, Kansas PTAC assists qualified businesses in locating, obtaining and performing federal, state and local government contracts. Kansas PTAC is funded through a partnership that also includes Pittsburg State University, Johnson County Community College, Wichita State University and GO Topeka.



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



KS PTAC TOPEKA SUBCENTER

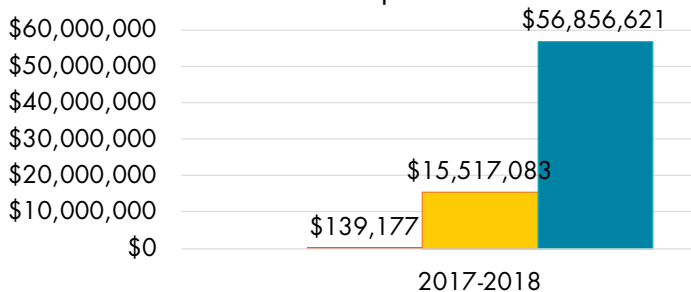


SHAWNEE COUNTY WAS AWARDED



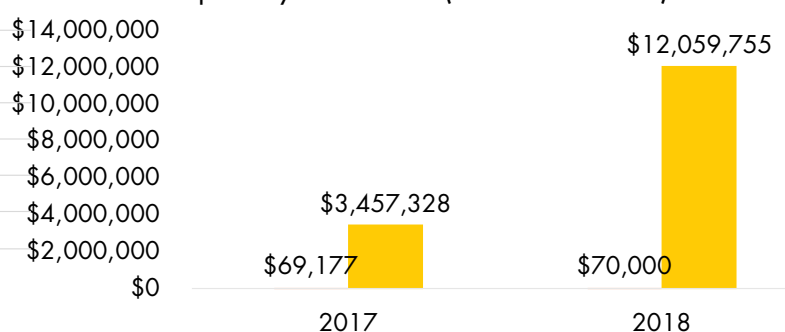
TO DATE RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI):
For every \$1 JEDO INVESTS,
PTAC GENERATES \$347

KS PTAC Topeka Subcenter
Total Economic Impact for 2017-2018



- JEDO Investment
- Shawnee County Award (Total Benefit to the County)
- Total Contract Awards

KS PTAC Topeka Subcenter Economic
Impact by Fiscal Year (Feb. 1 – Jan. 31)



- JEDO Investment
- Shawnee County Award (Total Benefit to the County)



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Innovation is defined as executing an idea which addresses a specific challenge and achieves value for both the company and customer. Entrepreneurship describes the capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks. Entrepreneurship and Innovation are very closely related. In combination, they are aimed at creating value and bettering people's lives. An entrepreneurial ecosystem allows for the fast flow of talent, information, and resources so that entrepreneurs can quickly find what they need at each stage of growth. As a result, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



The fourth quarter of 2018 has been dedicated to driving Topeka & Shawnee County's strategic plan for a strengthened entrepreneurial ecosystem. The visit to an accelerator in Silicon Valley showed that the smart partnering of industry with startups can drive innovation in new and accelerated ways. Opportunities can be created in unexpected places if the right connections are facilitated to create win-win scenarios. This requires total customer focus and unprecedented openness to new ideas.

The team also studied a second successful ecosystem during the inter-city visit to Chattanooga, TN. From an entrepreneurship/innovation perspective, it was fascinating to see what factors contributed to Chattanooga's rise as a hub for entrepreneurs and startups. Besides the label of GIG City, owed to the fact that the country's fastest optic fiber network was installed in 2010 and made accessible to anyone in the community, the development of Chattanooga's riverfront with the installation of an aquarium and other attractions was a big catalyst for change, along with a tight-knit network of resources available to entrepreneurs: a large business development center and a Co.Lab space right downtown acting as a gateway to the innovation district. We took away valuable lessons from Chattanooga's 30-year journey building an entrepreneurial ecosystem. The most valuable is: develop a vision, get started, depend on strong links within the community and improve as you go along.



Back at home, the Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) defined the following four areas of focus to gain traction in early 2019:

1. Ecosystems Best Practices
2. Space: Creating the Home of Innovation
3. Innovation Fund & Incentives
4. Organizational Structure: Building the Innovation Powerhouse

In collaboration with the Momentum 2022 Entrepreneurial Work Group and many community volunteers and stakeholders as well as GTP staff members, the IAB has also been evaluating how local networks can be leveraged to contribute to the overall efforts. Initially, the volunteer focus will be placed on the packed 2019 calendar of events. As the strategic plan takes shape, this focus will be expanded.

712 Innovations, as the current anchor of entrepreneurial activity in Topeka and Shawnee county, has hosted a multitude of events in the fourth quarter (see separate report). In addition, the Innovation & Entrepreneurship team is proud to announce that the Greater Topeka Entrepreneurship Guide now lives online! In collaboration with KC Sourcelink and NetWork Kansas Topeka now uses the Resource Navigator which provides easy access to a searchable database of regional entrepreneurial resources.

Learn more at **712innovations.com/Resource-Navigator**

712 INNOVATIONS

COWORK | INCUBATOR

712 Innovations' mission is targeted programs, resources and services that accelerate the successful development of start-up and fledgling founder-operated small business entrepreneurs and entrepreneur teams building scalable high-growth businesses. 712 Innovations is the hub of the Topeka & Shawnee County entrepreneur ecosystem and works closely with its ecosystem and corporate partners to connect entrepreneurs with our network to accelerate knowledge, growth and revenue.



Grow a
Diverse
Economy

The fourth quarter of 2018 has been dedicated to preparing the largest business to date for graduation from 712 Innovations and positioning 712 Innovations for the start of a new chapter of Topeka innovation business growth. 712 Innovations was founded as a pilot program to enhance our community's entrepreneur support ecosystem. 20 graduated businesses, 35 connected Topeka entrepreneur service partners, 335 entrepreneur members, 35,040 hours of members working 24/7, and 1 million and 42 cups of coffee later and 712 Innovations has arrived, and now innovative work really begins.

On April 1, the latest 712 Innovations graduate will open a new commercial makerspace in Downtown Topeka. After an extensive RFP process the 712 Innovations MakerSpace was purchased by David Corr. The new Arts and Craftsman Workshop business model will continue to serve businesses and individuals in Topeka & Shawnee County with fabrication resources and space to create prototypes for emerging innovative and creative businesses in the Topeka Entrepreneurship Ecosystems.

712 Innovations will now pivot to a Business Incubator, a catalyst tool for local and regional economic development. Continuing to spearhead Downtown Topeka's nascent Innovation District the Incubator's focus will be on providing founders of startup and early-stage scalable companies business assistance services and programming to fast-track growth. The cohort program under development will use a founder-led mentor model with a personalized plan tailored to the founder's business goals. The incubator will also include extensive networking opportunities and office space if needed to develop a growth track for founders with a passion for building their business surrounded by a like-minded supportive environment.

CoWorking will still be available at 712 Innovations at the daily, monthly and yearly rates. The expansion will also provide two conference rooms available for public rent and a full calendar of public entrepreneur class and networking opportunities.

MONTHLY EVENTS

CoWork Wednesdays – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

SCORE at 712 Innovations – Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

1MC TOP – 1st Wednesday, 9 – 10 a.m.

Topeka Social Media Club – 4th Wednesday, 12 – 1 p.m.

Audio Workshop – 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Teen STEAM – 3rd Wednesday, 4 – 5 p.m.

Teen Science Café – 3rd Thursday, Boys/Girls Club Teen Center



Collaborate
for a Strong
Community



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

FORGE

The mission of Forge is to attract and retain young talent. The viability of the community is dependent upon its ability to recruit, retain and train young talent. But the mission is not simply about the replacement of current workforce -it is about driving the innovation and creativity that moves us forward.



74
Events/meetings
YTD



2,017
Members attended
events YTD



1,998
Members YTD



222
Volunteers at
events YTD

Forge leadership team members made up a quarter of this years 20 under 40 class!

Forge's young professionals have loved getting exclusive behind the scenes tours and experiences throughout Topeka.

- A group of 32 young professionals learned to knead dough to make a holiday danish that would make Paula Dean proud at Josey's Baking Co. Forge hosted "Namaste Chardonnay" a private yoga class at Great Life lead by our very own TaNiqua Ward. Our wine was the center of our focus as we held our poses!
- Forge got a behind the scenes look of the Kansas Ballet's Nutcracker at Topeka Performing Arts Center. The amount of work and dedication those performers put into the show was incredible to witness.

The "Forge Your Future" initiative created a voter's guide to provide young professionals with answers from candidates on relevant issues. The guide was shared on social media and received great impressions with over 1,300 people reached, 220 engagements, and 178 post clicks. Forge also hosted a "Vote, Damn it" party with 785 Magazine and Burgerstand.

Forge rang in the new year at the beautiful Brownstone with a night of games, music and dancing. Front Door Catering made sure no one was hungry with their delicious appetizers. The night was capped off with a balloon drop and champagne toast at midnight.

Angel Romero took over duties as Forge's chair. Forge is excited to have Angel's experience and tireless energy to help make Topeka a place where young talent want to work, stay, play, connect, and lead. A big thanks to Ty for all his hard work and dedication this past year.

Forge is growing and engaging more Young Professionals than ever before!

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

Workforce & Education focuses on convening partners from schools and businesses to talk through their current and upcoming needs. As a result, schools can educate and train students to go from graduation to the workforce and companies and organizations get the satisfaction of hiring a locally-educated workforce.

EMPLOYMENT STATS

	CITY OF TOPEKA	SHAWNEE COUNTY	KANSAS
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	50.52%	51.70%	52.62%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.4%	3.3%	3.0%
NUMBER OF JOBS	86,183	102,345	1,499,674
AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE	\$44,922	\$44,863	\$45,643
EMPLOYMENT- POPULATION RATIO	48.78%	50.01%	51.05%

Labor Market Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
Downloaded: 1/15/19

SOTO RIDE TO WORK

9,461 SOTO trips to date	2,804 SOTO trips Oct.-Dec. 2018
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NeTO RIDE TO WORK

50 NeTO trips Dec. 15-30

CaRE PROGRAM

284 CaRE bus passes used program to date	93 CaRE bus passes used YTD
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HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Labor Force Participation Rate

A measure of the active portion of an economy's labor force. It refers to the number of people who are either employed or actively looking for work.

SOTO | NeTO

The SOTO (South Topeka) and NeTO (North & East Topeka) Ride to Work programs are pilot transportation initiatives for South Topeka and North & East Topeka employers. The programs help remove transportation barriers for employers along the South Topeka corridor and in the East and North Topeka communities.

Employment-Population Ratio

A measure of labor market strength; it is calculated by dividing the number of employed workers in an area by the total civilian non-institutionalized population aged 16 and over in that region.

Topeka Rescue Mission's Career Readiness Education program (CaRE)

The Topeka Rescue Mission's Career Readiness Education program provides workforce training for TRM residents. The bus pass program assists TRM in ensuring students in the program have transportation access to internships and employment opportunities in the community.

WASHBURN TECH EAST (ETLC PROJECT)



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

The Hartford, the bond company, sent out bid requests to contractors potentially interested in completing the project. A construction contract with Kelley Construction was ultimately negotiated with the assistance of the bond company and the county counselor submitted both the tender agreement and construction contract to the county commission meeting on December 20, 2018. Both the tender agreement and the construction contract were approved. Kelley Construction has assumed responsibility for completing the project with a new completion date of May 1, 2019.

On December 17, Washburn University and Washburn Tech announced plans to deliver educational opportunities in the East Topeka community beginning in January at the Antioch Family Life Center, securing an agreement with Antioch to use temporary classroom space until construction is complete. Antioch is located north of Washburn Tech East site and the announcement also shared a new partnership between Antioch and the YMCA to offer childcare at the Family Life Center, helping to provide childcare needs which may also be a barrier to education and work for community members.

[included]

Backed by GO Topeka and the Greater Topeka Partnership, INCLUDED aims to be the authority on diversity and inclusion within businesses and organizations throughout the region.



Collaborate
for a Strong
Community



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

iNCLUDED hosted exceptional speakers for the November and December monthly meetings in the fourth quarter of 2018 and as they look to the future in 2019, will host a series of listening sessions in January to dive deeper into doing diversity, equity and inclusion work in a more intentional and strategic way. As the community's business diversity council, the listening sessions are the next step in the process to engage, share and listen to feedback about the direction and work, that employers, stakeholders, partners and community members want to do in the community to move the business community forward and create a more inclusive and competitive business climate from a talent and business attraction, expansion and retention perspective.

QUALITY OF PLACE



Create Vibrant
& Attractive
Places

JEDO awarded \$2M to four projects in Shawnee County:



NOTO Arts District



City of Auburn Park



Jayhawk Theatre



Evergy companies

Downtown Topeka Plaza



EDUCATION | CRADLE THROUGH CAREER | TALENT

TogetherTopeka is the brand creation of collective impact initiatives in the Momentum 2022 Strategy, incorporating all education and training providers, from cradle through career, non-profits, social service providers, faith-based organizations and the business community.



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

More and more it is being recognized how important “talent” is to success in business. The good news is that this has been made a local priority as well. Talent development begins with education, cradle through career. The primary focus of efforts during the fourth quarter have been centered on our partnership with StriveTogether, “a national, nonprofit network of 70 communities using a rigorous approach to accelerate progress and sustain success in education.”

TogetherTopeka hosted a community planning retreat with leadership from StriveTogether on October 25 to launch our efforts locally asking stakeholders to come together to develop and define the scope of work.

The focus of the ‘State of Education’ event held on Nov. 28, brought leaders together to learn about

current initiatives in Topeka & Shawnee County. Panelists addressed challenges and opportunities relevant to:

- Kindergarten Readiness
- 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency
- Middle School Math Proficiency
- High School Graduation Rates
- College & Career Readiness
- Expanding Continuing Education Options for Youth and Adults

TogetherTopeka introduced a pledge of support to help establish a network of individuals and organizations who are committed to supporting targeted outcomes. Drafts of the Mission, Vision and Outcomes will be presented to a leadership team at the next big planning meeting to held in the first quarter of 2019.

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