



**JEDO Board of Directors  
Agenda for Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
6:00 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers  
214 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Topeka, Kansas**

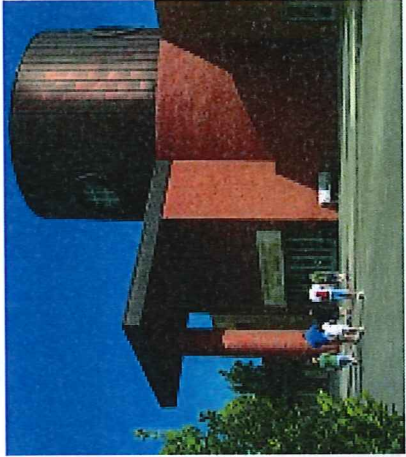
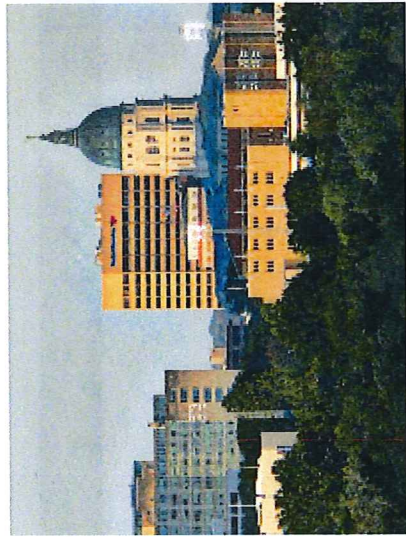
1. Roll Call
2. PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION by Garner Economics, Inc., regarding the Situation Analysis Final Report for Topeka and Shawnee County.
3. Any other business items that may come before the Board for consideration
4. Public Comment
5. Adjournment

**Public Comment Policy:** Comment from members of the public shall be entertained on each actionable agenda item and at the end of each meeting. Comment shall be limited to topics relevant to JEDO business. Members of the public wishing to speak must notify the City Clerk before 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) or call 785-368-3940. This requirement shall not apply to items added during the meeting. Members of the public will be given four (4) minutes to speak and must maintain proper decorum relating to public meetings.

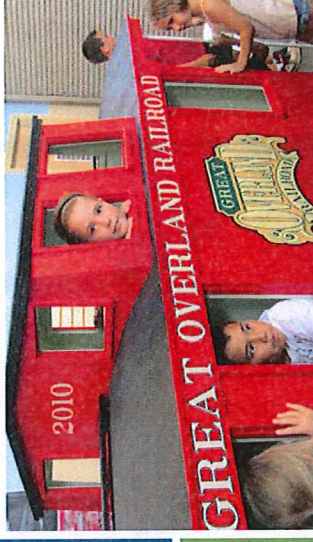
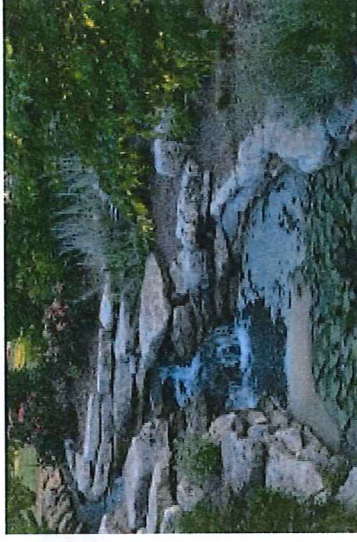
**Agenda:** Agendas are furnished at least five (5) business days prior to each meeting and posted on the City of Topeka web page at [www.topeka.org/JEDO](http://www.topeka.org/JEDO) and the Shawnee County web page at [www.snco.us/jedo](http://www.snco.us/jedo).

To make arrangements for special accommodations please call 785-368-3940 or 785-368-3941. A 48-hour advance notice is preferred.





City of Topeka & Shawnee County  
**JOINT  
 ECONOMIC  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 ORGANIZATION**  
*United For Growth*



# A Strategy for Effective Economic Development Change in Topeka and Shawnee County, Kansas

**Presented to the Joint Economic  
 Development Organization**

**Garner | Economics LLC**  
 solutions that work

Jay Garner, Garner Economics  
 Jim Walton, Brand Acceleration  
 9 December 2015





## Who We Are

GARNER ECONOMICS provides **creative, strategic and executable value** to companies, communities and organizations globally.

We are specialists as corporate site location advisors and economic development **BRANDACCELERATION** is a full-service marketing, communications, branding, and public relations firm with a specialty in economic development.

Garner | Economics LLC  
solutions that work



**BrandAcceleration**  
BRANDACCEL.COM

# Results-Oriented Leadership & Experience

Core Team for JEDO



JAY GARNER – PROJECT LEAD  
[jay@garnereconomics.com](mailto:jay@garnereconomics.com)



JIM WALTON  
[jim@brandaccel.com](mailto:jim@brandaccel.com)



CYNDI DANCY  
[cyndi@garnereconomics.com](mailto:cyndi@garnereconomics.com)



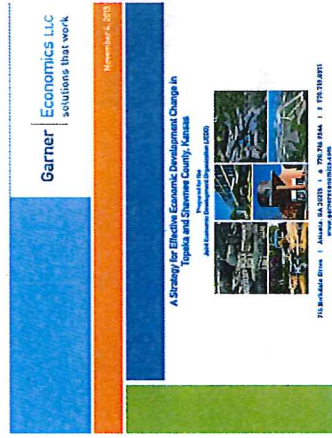
TINA VALDECANAS  
[tina@garnereconomics.com](mailto:tina@garnereconomics.com)





# Developing the Strategy

Project Goal, Scope and Methodology



# Project Process

Assessment —→

Recommendations —→

Strategy

- Organizational assessment
- Best-practice benchmarking
- Incentive analysis
- Marketing audit

Informed through Stakeholder input and community engagement on the business climate of the community

Published the *Situation Analysis*

- **Thirty-one** 1-5 year recommendations:
- ED mission / vision
- Relationships
- Gaps in programs impacting the community's business climate
- Policies to enhance investment
- Marketing and messaging

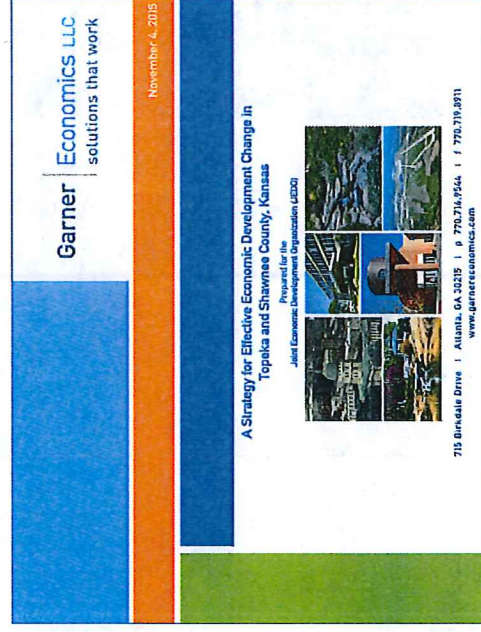
- Executing Effectively (Organizational)
- Renew and Transform (Product Improvement)
- Communicate Effectively (External Marketing and Internal Communications)





## Project Goal

Create a roadmap to ensure that JEDO effectively uses the funds collected through the recently renewed 1/2 cent sales tax to improve the community's economic development efforts and create more and better jobs for Topeka/Shawnee County





# Project Scope

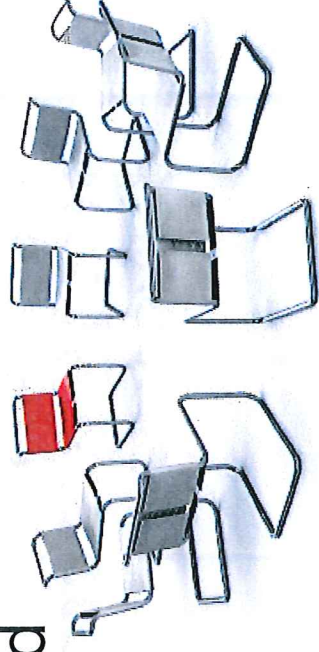
What this strategy is and isn't:

- ED strategy versus a Community Vision
- A strategy that incorporates recruitment, retention, entrepreneurship
- Product development including talent, business climate and infrastructure enhancements
- Organizational recommendations for effective and best in class economic development service delivery



# Community Engagement

- Garner Economics held 6 **focus groups** with 124 stakeholders to solicit their perceptions and opinions of the business climate in Topeka
- An electronic survey was distributed by JEDO to a broader audience of Stakeholders. There were 707 responses
- A public listening session was held
- Input augmented team assessments and analysis



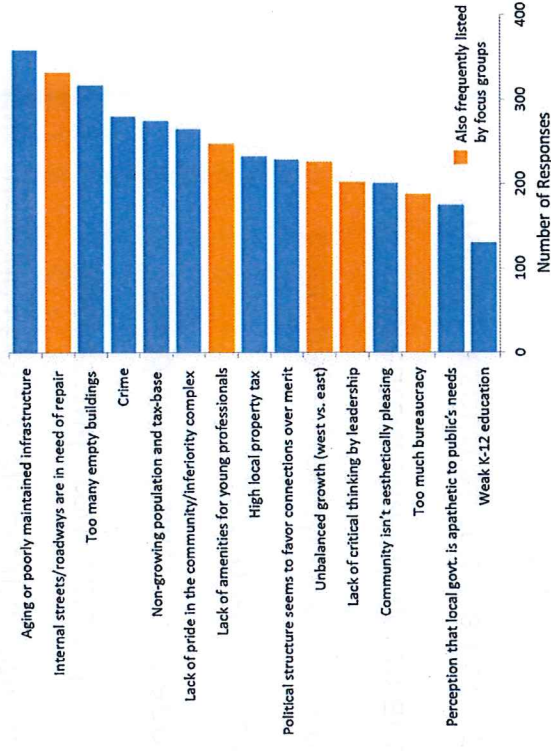
# Common Comments & Concerns

The combined focus groups, survey respondents and listening session participants cited the following key themes:

the area and Shawnee County have potential, but is seen as average and not distinguishable.

- Negativity and pessimism hinder progress.
- There is much confusion and mistrust as to the roles of JEDO and GO Topeka.
- The area's infrastructure has been neglected and lacks curb appeal. This dissuades new business and talent from considering the area.

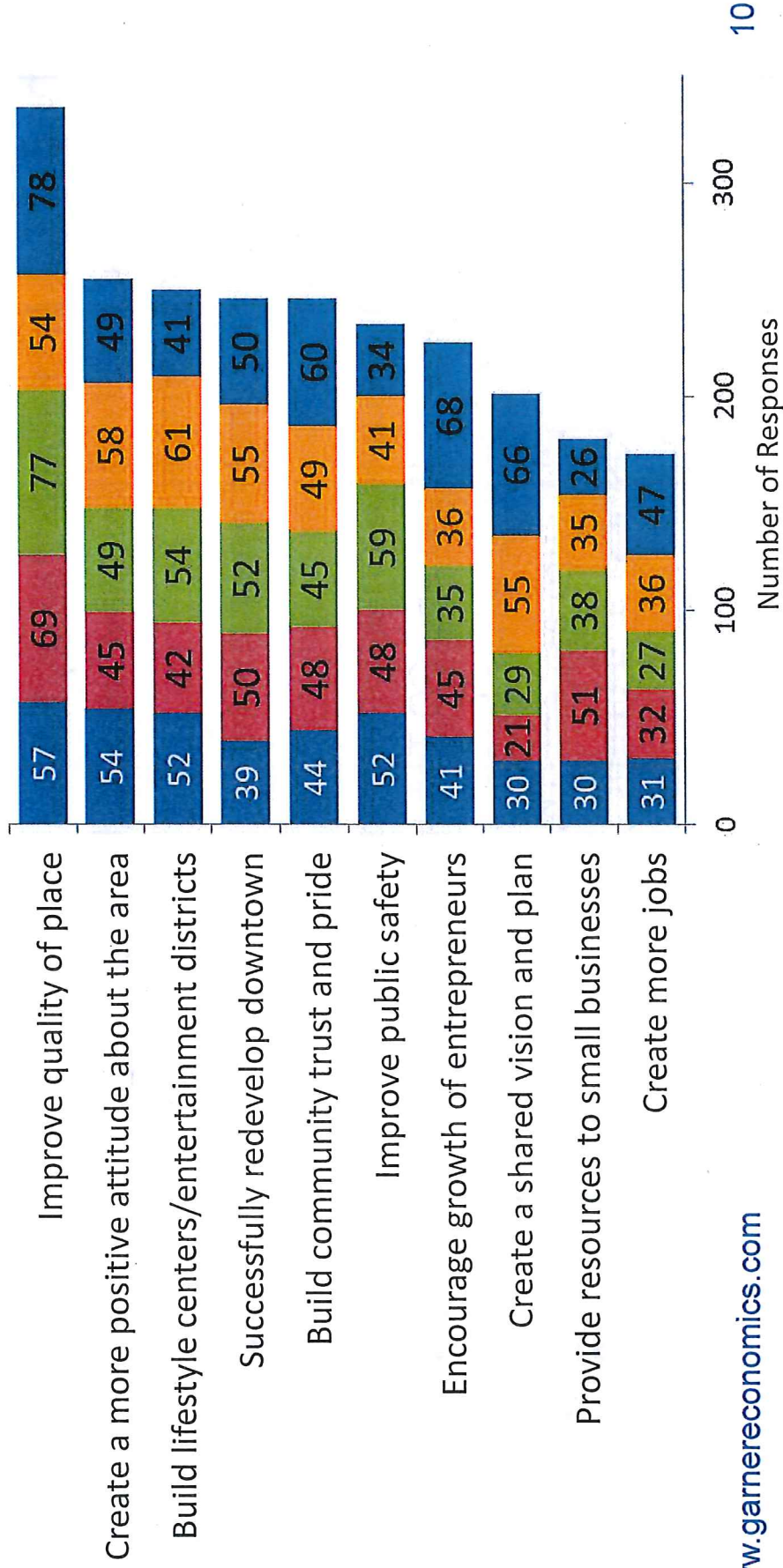
## KEY INHIBITORS TO TOPEKA'S SUCCESS

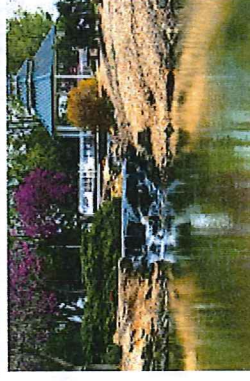
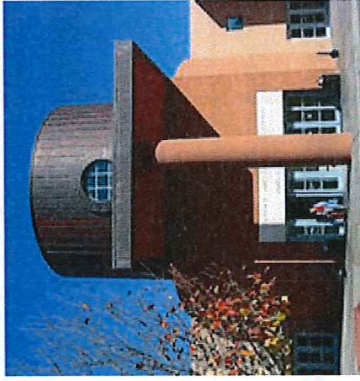
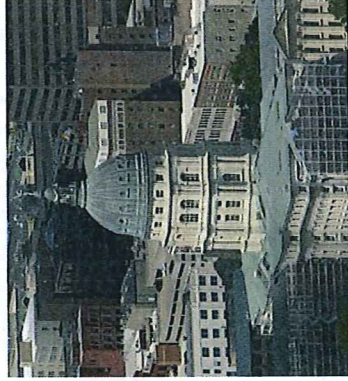




# What Citizens Want Topeka to Do

Top actions leadership could take to strengthen Topeka's ability to attract and retain quality companies and talent







# How Topeka Compares

- Conducted a **SITUATION ANALYSIS** to examine the economic position and competitiveness of Topeka from a site-selector perspective
- Compared the community to Linn County, Iowa; Minnehaha County, South Dakota; Hamilton County, Tennessee; the State of Kansas; and the United States



# Strengths and Weaknesses (22 variables analyzed\*)

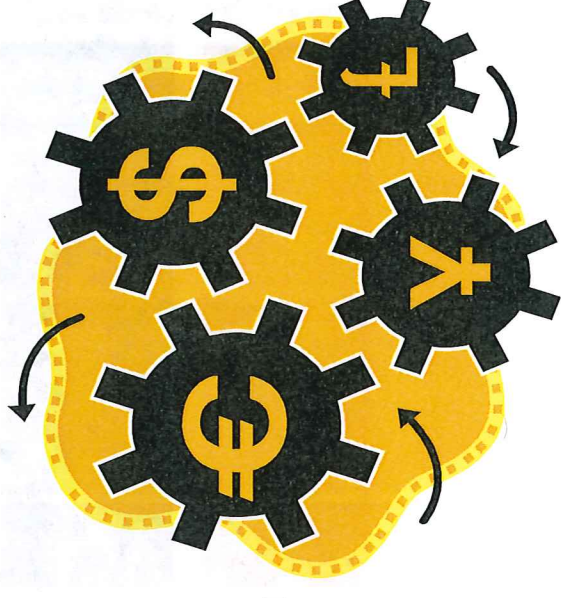
	 Strengths	 Weaknesses
Demographic Dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower growth rates</li> <li>• High crime rates</li> </ul>
Labor Dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median earnings among workers classified as "Self-Employed in Own Incorporated Business"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low percentage of "Self-Employed"</li> </ul>
Income & Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Cost-of-Living Index</li> <li>• Availability of cable access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low average weekly wages</li> <li>• Low average per capita income</li> <li>• High percent of population below poverty level (including those with less than a high school education)</li> </ul>

\*Neutral rankings not listed

# The Strategy: Our Philosophy for Achieving Success

Effective economic development strategies take a holistic approach

- Economic Development = wealth building
- How do you achieve economic development? First, build or strengthen the product. Then, create investment from:
  - ❖ Hunters (recruitment, including retail and tourism if applicable)
  - ❖ Gardeners (entrepreneurial)
  - ❖ Nurturers (support existing businesses)





Execute Effectively

Renew and Transform

Communicate Effectively

## Where Do We Go From Here?

- Topeka is currently seen as mediocre or average by many citizens
- Topeka needs to strengthen its quality of place to attract and retain world-class talent and the types of companies the community wants to build its economic future

## Observations, Conclusions & Recommendations

# Thirty-one recommendations built on three foundations

- # 1. Create an environment where high quality companies and talent will want to locate
- ## 2. Mitigate negative perceptions or challenges that deter increased investment
- ### 3. Better organize to execute economic development initiatives more effectively

[illegible]

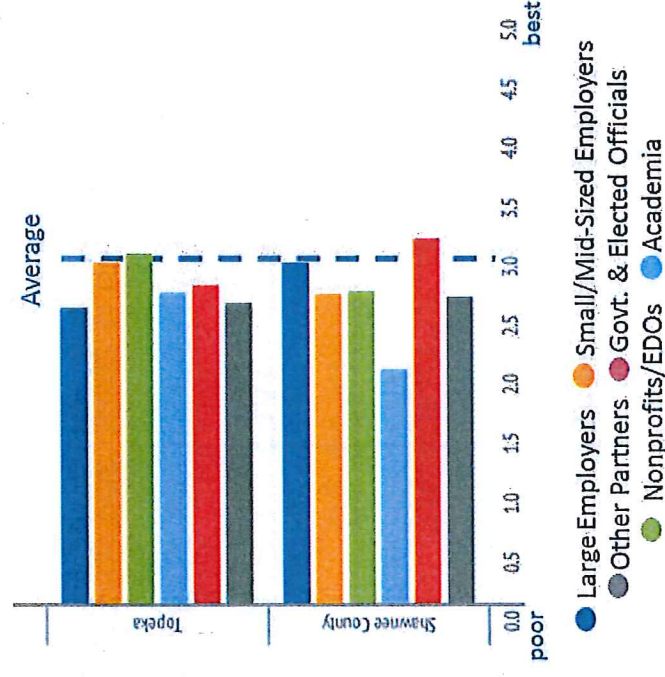


# Rationale and Proof Points

- “Average” won’t win new investment – or necessarily keep existing businesses
- The community has ample resources, but isn’t utilizing them properly
- Topeka’s quality of place is lacking

- **Missing infrastructure**
- **Several perceived and/or real needs**

TOPEKA SEEN AS AVERAGE BY ITS CITIZENS



# Execute Effectively

## Strategy/Goal

Build a *customer-friendly* and *highly effective economic development service delivery mechanism* for existing and potential businesses in the community and supplement JEDO's contractual/agent positions to focus on economic development needs.

In doing so, Topeka is better able to *attract and retain* the types of companies that will make it competitive for years to come and produce *wealth-creating opportunities* for its citizens.

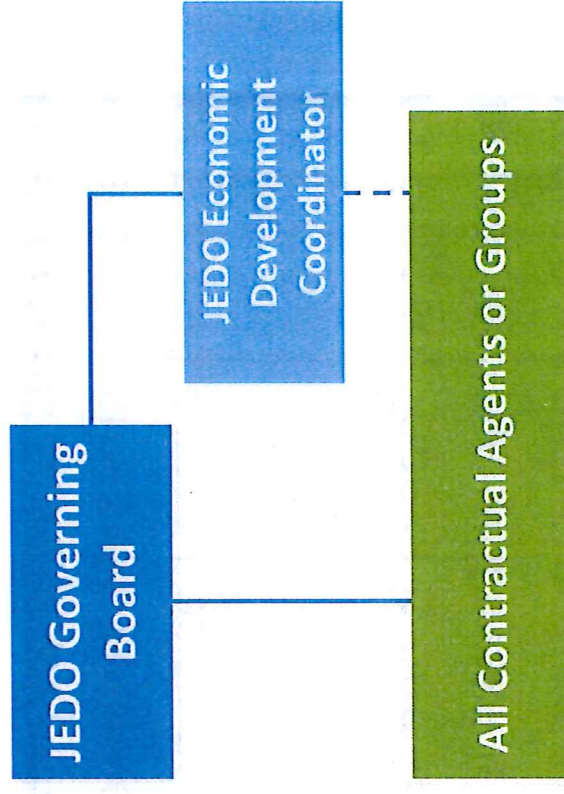


# Execute Effectively

## Actions

1. Develop a JEDO-specific mission statement to guide economic development efforts.
2. Hire a full-time JEDO economic development coordinator.
3. Encourage GO Topeka to be a standalone, autonomous organization.

Proposed JEDO Staffing



# Execute Effectively

fayobserver.com

News Sports Military Living Weekender Opinion Blogs Obituaries Weather

Opinion

EDITORIALS

## Our View: Reshaped board key to economic development

story Comments Post Print Font Size: A A A

Posted: Wednesday, November 10, 2015 12:00 am

Economic development in Cumberland County will take on a new face and name in just six weeks. We hope it will also take on a more vigorous life.

The Economic Development Alliance of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, a division of the Greater Fayetteville Chamber, will disappear on Dec. 31. It will return on Jan. 1 as the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Economic Development Corp., with a mostly new board of directors that will include a City Council member and a county commissioner.

While the concept of a public-private partnership for economic development is sound, tying it to the Chamber of Commerce was a mistake, making the chamber dependent on local government for funding, and robbing it of a strong, independent voice. Removing the Alliance from its organization chart should make the chamber a stronger, more effective advocate for economic development.

We'd like to see another chronic pain disappear too: With members of the council and Board of Commissioners on the Economic Development Corp. board, we hope there's a decrease in damaging, uninformed potholes.

City and county politicians have often complained about our lack of progress in recruiting new business and industry. What they missed is that they're part of the problem. Their failure to create a sufficiently safe, attractive community has been our biggest stumbling block.

The county commissioners decided this week that their chairman or his designee would serve on the Economic Development Corp. board. The council hasn't decided which member will serve. Keeping them at the table as recruitment efforts are conducted should involve both boards in development efforts - if the political designs keep their colleagues briefed. That should diminish finger-pointing and foster a more unified effort to lure new business here. The Alliance had seasoned, capable economic developers on staff, but they have suffered from a lack of political support. That needs to change on Jan. 1.

What won't change is the need for strong recruitment efforts and a continuing drive to add to Cumberland County's workforce. That especially includes success in passing the economic development-concentration bond referendum, which is one of the city's most attractive lures for businesses.

We still face tough competition in our search for more private-sector jobs, but the Economic Development Corp. appears better suited to find success.

Recommended 0 Tweeted 0 G+1 0 Share 1

## Advantages of autonomy

*“While the concept of a public-private partnership for economic development is sound, tying it to the Chamber of Commerce was a mistake, making the chamber dependent on local government for funding, and robbing it of a strong, independent voice. Removing the Alliance from its organization chart should make the chamber a stronger, more effective advocate for economic development.”*

—Fayetteville Observer Editorial, 18 November 2015



# Execute Effectively

## Actions

4. Create performance metrics to measure the community's health and operational success of JEDO's agents
5. Modify the JEDO/GO Topeka incentive policy.



**JEDO Scorecard**

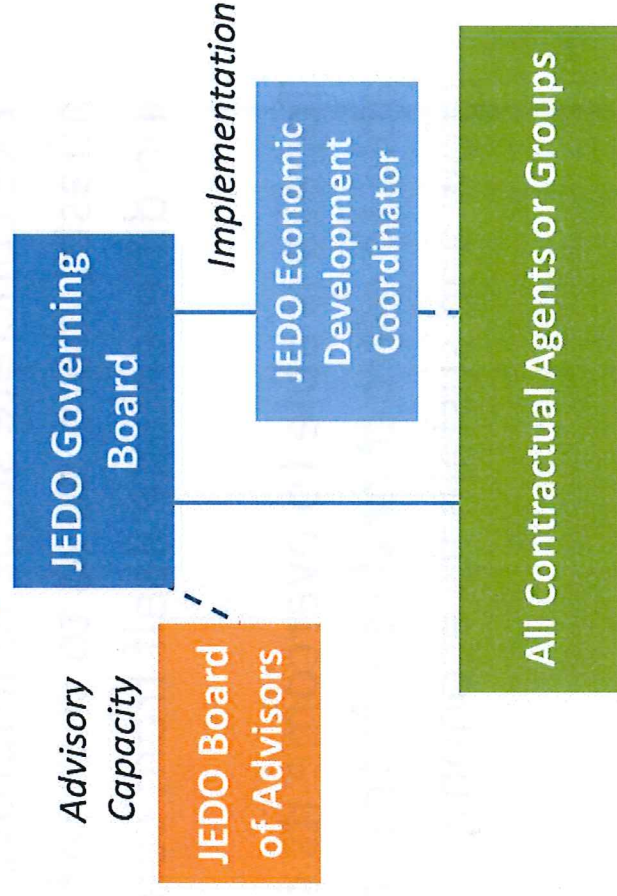
<b>ECONOMIC BENCHMARKS</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL BENCHMARKS</b>
✓ Population growth	✓ New jobs from attraction
✓ Sources of new residents	✓ New jobs from expansion
✓ Age	✓ Jobs retained
✓ Crime rates (violent & property)	✓ Capital investment
✓ Educational attainment (BA)	✓ Suspects (leads)
✓ Self-employment	✓ Prospects
✓ Startup firms	✓ Company locates
✓ Household income	✓ Annual, community satisfaction survey
✓ Weekly wage	
✓ Poverty rates	
✓ Covered employment	

# Execute Effectively

## Actions

6. Create a JEDO Board of Advisors
7. JEDO should institute new operational guidelines:
  - a. Transfer of land ownership and accountability
  - b. Incentive management
  - c. Funding of its agents
  - d. Fund balances
  - e. JEDO disbursements to agents
  - f. Performance contracts
  - g. Meeting protocol

## Proposed Board of Advisors







# Renew and Transform

## Strategy/Goal

Take concrete steps to improve the City and County's infrastructure, so as to *strengthen the area's quality of place* and differentiate itself from competitor regions.

Topeka is able to overcome its current shortcomings and better able to *attract and retain* the talent and companies it desires to grow and sustain its economy.

# Renew and Transform

## Actions

1. Invest in more quality of place projects that will enhance the competitiveness of the community and attract and retain talent:
  - a. Improve gateways into the City
  - b. Provide public free high-speed Internet access in certain areas
  - c. Create a “cool factor” in the core business district

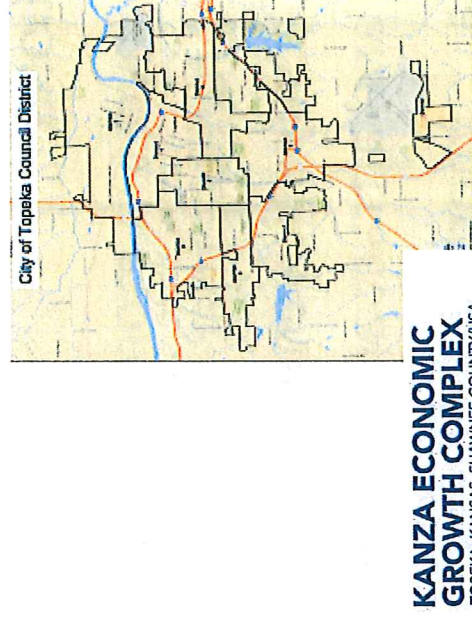




# Renew and Transform

## Actions

2. Conduct a countywide community improvement planning effort that looks at assets and neighborhood planning by City and County districts
3. JEDO should continue to acquire real estate for economic and growth opportunities



## KANZA ECONOMIC GROWTH COMPLEX TOPEKA, KANSAS, SHAWNEE COUNTY/USA





# Communicate Effectively

## Strategy/Goal

Proactively work to increase communications about JEDO's economic development efforts so as to grow support for long-term initiatives using the monies from the ½ cent sales tax, as well as differentiate Topeka in the perception of external audiences.

In doing so, JEDO is able to gain support for the initiatives it undertakes and supports, and Topeka becomes known as a vibrant location for high-quality business and world-class talent.



# Communicate Effectively

## Actions

1. Strengthen internal and external JEDO communications
  - a. Develop and enhance the JEDO website
  - b. Adopt an open-communications policy
  - c. Host a local/regional media tour
  - d. Conduct a community pride campaign
2. Explain the process to disclose Economic Development projects
3. Inclusion of community groups



# Communicate Effectively

## Actions

4. Change the name of GO Topeka
5. GO Topeka communications – internal



Non-Insiders	Insiders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretive</li><li>• Misunderstood</li><li>• Impotent</li><li>• Ineffective</li><li>• Perception issues</li><li>• Lack of transparency</li><li>• People don't understand what they do</li><li>• Community marketer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visionary</li><li>• Great listeners</li><li>• Ambassadors</li><li>• Optimistic</li><li>• Service provider</li><li>• Passionate</li><li>• Out of the box</li><li>• Progressive</li></ul>



# Communicate Effectively

## Actions

6. Strengthen branding around Topeka's value as a business location
7. Develop a prospectus for each targeted industry
8. Refresh the GO Topeka website
9. GO Topeka social media activity
10. GO Topeka trade show, conferences, and event activities



# This and That

## Should JEDO support/fund these efforts as noted in your RFP Resolution (opinion of Garner Economics)?

1. **Primary jobs only?** No, you should be engaged in what is necessary to enhance the community's competitiveness and quality of place.
2. **Retail?** Yes, but selectively.
3. **Workforce development?** More than 14 organizations in SC doing workforce service delivery and JEDO funded 8 of them this year through GT. There needs to be a separate analysis on what is being offered and who served in the WF service delivery side and its effectiveness.
4. **SBE?** Yes. Already being done with a \$479K a year budget through the EMBD program (well funded).
5. **Venture capital/early stage?** Yes, but risky and use caution. Need professional financial oversight.
6. **Minority Inclusion and Empowerment?** Yes, already being done by GT through the EMBD program (well funded).
7. **How much set aside annually for incentives (cash grants/closing fund)?** \$500,000 - \$<1mm
8. **How much for product improvement/quality of place?** \$1 mm per year
9. **Discretionary fund?** Yes, \$250K-500 annually



# Sample budget using \$5mm as the baseline

	Total	JEDO	Private Sector
GT (operating budget)	\$2.1mil	\$1.6mil	\$518K
Incentives (cash grants)	\$1.0mm	\$1.0mm	
Product Improvement (quality of place)	\$1.0mm	\$1.0mm	
Discretionary fund	\$500K	\$500K	
Total	\$4.6mm	\$4.1mm	\$518k

JEDO has a cash fund balance of \$10.3 million. Quality of place projects should be considered (minus committed obligations) from this balance.

# What's Next?

The status quo is not an option.

JEDO will need to:



- Increase transparency
- Operate as a \$260 million business
- Better deploy public monies
- Develop metrics to measure performance
- Invest in quality of place and basic infrastructure



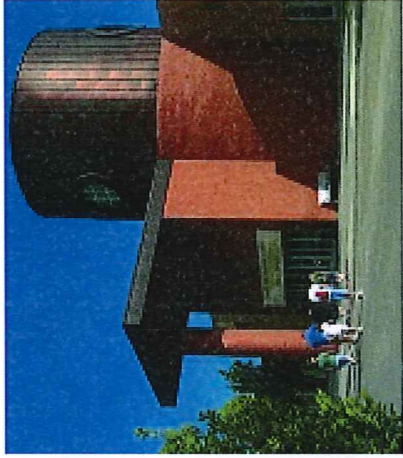
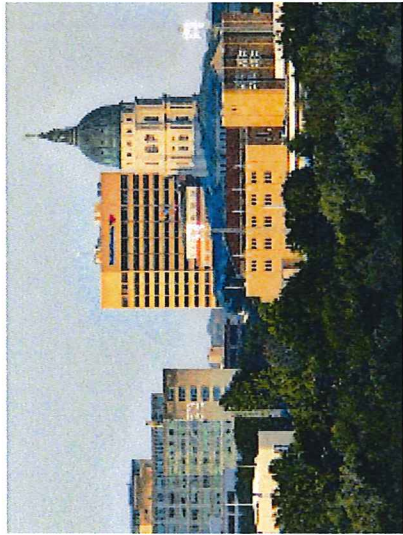
# Thank you!

The Strategy for Effective Economic Development Change initiative has benefited greatly from the professionalism and contributions of JEDO and GO Topeka, their leadership, and the many stakeholders who took part in the focus groups, survey and public listening session.

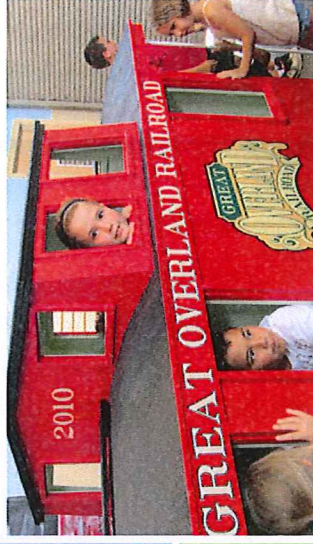
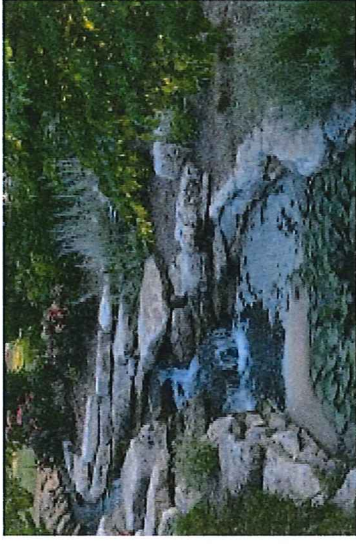
## Special thanks to:

- JEDO governing board
- City of Topeka
- Shawnee County
- GO Topeka
- 124 focus groups participants, 707 public survey respondents, and the 12 participants of the community listening session





City of Topeka & Shawnee County  
**JOINT  
 ECONOMIC  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 ORGANIZATION**  
*United For Growth*



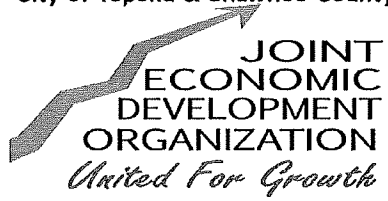
# Questions?

[jay@garnereconomics.com](mailto:jay@garnereconomics.com)  
[jim@brandaccel.com](mailto:jim@brandaccel.com)

**Garner** | **Economics LLC** | **BrandAcceleration**  
 solutions that work | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING



City of Topeka & Shawnee County



December 9, 2015  
JEDO Board Meeting  
6:00 P.M.

# HANDOUTS

## Editorial: Interlocal agreement may not be easy

Posted: November 8, 2015 - 7:48pm

By The Capital-Journal

The Topeka and Shawnee County Joint Economic Development Organization will meet Nov. 18 to discuss the allocation of revenue from a countywide half-cent sales tax dedicated to infrastructure and economic development.

Whether the city and county can reach an agreement at that meeting on how the funds will be used is unknown — there appear to be more worthy causes on the board than can be funded.

## Proposed economic development program would invest in buildings and people

Effort would seek to help Topeka's disadvantaged areas

Posted: October 10, 2015 - 4:14pm

By Tim Hrenchir

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com

Investing in Topeka's future from both a physical perspective and a human perspective.

That is what city manager Jim Colson proposes to do by setting up an "urban economic development" program.

The program would focus on helping parts of Topeka that "haven't participated in the economy as actively as other parts of this community," Colson said in an interview this past week.

## JEDO to hear from consulting firm that issued critical analysis of eco devo efforts

Meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Topeka City Council chambers

Posted: December 8, 2015 - 2:18pm

By Tim Hrenchir

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com

The board of directors of the Joint Economic Development Organization will hear a presentation Wednesday from a consulting firm that recently expressed criticism after analyzing the Topeka community's economic development efforts.

## Consultant's economic development report: 'Status quo is not an option'

Document says community failed to take suggested steps

Posted: December 4, 2015 - 5:48pm

By Tim Hrenchir

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com

A consultant's report speaks critically of the Joint Economic Development Organization and Go Topeka for neglecting for the most part to take steps suggested in 2006 to enhance this community's economic vitality.

Lazone Grays Handout



## CHAPTER 1: SITUATION ANALYSIS SUMMARY

A SITUATION ANALYSIS was prepared and presented at the end of September 2015, to document the work of the first phase of the engagement. The goal of the assessment phase was twofold: (1) to benchmark Topeka and Shawnee County<sup>2</sup> against a defined competitor group to ascertain how the area ranks as a potential investment location and (2) to assess the economic development service delivery system in place. Below is a brief summary of the SITUATION ANALYSIS.

*Seeing Where Topeka/Shawnee Stands*

When companies decide on where to locate, they do so by comparing options among different communities. Hence, it is best to know how Topeka compares to similar cities. For the benchmarking exercise, Garner Economics evaluated key demographic and economic indicators for the City and County. These indicators were compared to statewide and national-level data, as well as to competitor communities identified in consultation with JEDO and GO Topeka. The competitor communities were communities with which the area currently competes or regions that Topeka aspires to be more like. The communities were: Linn County, Iowa; Minnehaha County, South Dakota; and Hamilton County, Tennessee. The counties selected comprise the cities of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Chattanooga, Tennessee. The variables against which Topeka, Shawnee County, and the other benchmark counties, the nation, and the state were compared are listed below.

This analysis relies heavily on raw objective data collected by governmental or impartial third-party agencies that had similar data for all benchmarks. The main source for most demographic

information is the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey reporting annual data. For the SITUATION ANALYSIS, 2013 was the latest data available for most benchmarks.

As noted in the tables below and as reported in the SITUATION ANALYSIS, Topeka ranked neutral or average in a number of economic indicators. While the area is strong in incomes of self-employed workers, touts a lower cost of living, and can provide high speed Internet service in most of Topeka's service areas, the community falls behind peer communities in terms of:

- Population growth (lower than peers)
- Crime rates (higher than peers)
- Average weekly wage rates
- Levels of self-employment
- Higher poverty rates
- Lower levels of educational attainment

In all other measures, the community is neutral or average. Unless mitigated, such gaps will make it difficult to attract and retain companies and talent to the region, and it will be difficult for the area to differentiate itself as a place for new business investment.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reference further in the report to "Topeka" includes Shawnee County.

## II. Renew and Transform (Product Improvement)

Topeka's future success will rest upon its ability to shape its "product"—its infrastructure, quality of place, physical building stock, economic development service delivery, and regulations—in ways that leverage its unique features to attract the types of companies, investors, and talented workforce the community desires. Many other cities that compete with Topeka—regionally and nationally—have taken proactive measures to differentiate themselves and sell their unique qualities to potential companies. Topeka needs to play catch up.

### Strategy:

*Take concrete steps to improve the City and County's infrastructure, so as to strengthen the area's quality of place and differentiate itself from competitor regions.*

### Goal/Results:

*Topeka is able to overcome its current shortcomings and better able to attract and retain the talent and companies it desires to grow and sustain its economy.*

"If you want to have economic development, you need to create an environment where people want to live and businesses want to locate. Businesses look at things like having an educated workforce available, good schools, a reasonable cost of living, a city where its employees will want to live."

—Survey Respondent

1. Invest in more quality of place projects that will enhance the competitiveness of the community and attract and retain talent

**Observation:** In 2006, Garner Economics was part of a team engaged by JEDO and GO Topeka to conduct an economic development strategy for the community. Within this strategy, we offered 25 specific recommendations. One key recommendation made was the need for a more attractive community countywide, but clearly with a focus on the gateways into the community. This perception was made based on significant feedback from focus group participants at the time.

However, during this engagement eight years later, the same perceptions pervade the community (and are shared by the consulting team), yet the work done to improve this facet of Topeka is lacking. With the resources afforded to it thanks to the ½ cent sales tax monies, JEDO should advocate for a renewed effort to invest in infrastructure, enhance the blighted areas of the community (e.g., East Topeka), improve the scenic gateways, and successfully redevelop downtown to attract investment and fill the many vacant storefronts.

The Topeka City Manager has also identified this issue as an impediment to economic growth. In a memo to the JEDO Governing Board dated September 15, 2015, he offers the development of a new program called the "Urban Economic Development Fund," utilizing sales tax funds for specific quality of life/place projects and workforce service delivery needs. The purpose of the fund would be to rehabilitate blighted, derelict, and underutilized facilities and to invest in infrastructure that will attract economic development prospects. The consulting team reviewed this proposal and commends the City Manager for offering a much-needed approach to enhance the community's quality of place.



c. Create a "cool factor" in the core business district that will encourage families and young professionals to live, work, and play there.

Adopt ordinances that encourage landlords (local and absentee) to improve their properties and encourage homeownership—especially in the core business district—by enticing families and young professionals to move there and making infrastructure improvements to increase overall property values. One way to catalyze activity and growth in downtown areas is to encourage residential activity. The live, work, and play activity brought by residents serves the purpose of encouraging and sustaining other activities. Christopher B. Leinberger of the Brookings Institution detailed the best practices and critical path followed by other municipalities looking to revitalize their downtown. Encouraging residential growth is one of the early success factors of communities that have done well.

The City should enact incentives to encourage landlords to improve their stock. This could be in a combination of training and tools, rewards for improving properties, and working with neighborhood groups to encourage change. As an Entitlement Community for the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program, Topeka could better leverage requests and funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address these needs.

Additionally, incentive funds from JEDO, falling within the confines of economic development and quality of life, could be used as leverage to incentivize developers and property owners to rehabilitate and renovate properties. This also fits within the confines of the City Manager's Urban Economic Development Fund.

Lead organization for implementation: City of Topeka

Best practice examples:

- Ogden, Utah - [http://www.ogdencity.com/en/doing\\_business/business\\_license/good\\_landlord.aspx](http://www.ogdencity.com/en/doing_business/business_license/good_landlord.aspx)
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin - <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Landlordtraining>
- Boise, Idaho - <http://pds.cityofboise.org/planning/comp/neighborhood/neighborhood-reinvestment-grants/>



*Fast Company recently ranked Boise as the #2 Best City for Millennial Entrepreneurs (September 2015)*



**Provide public free, high-speed Internet access to enhance the visitor and resident experience in the core business district and in disadvantaged neighborhoods where access is limited based on affordability.**

Access to broadband infrastructure is critical to the development of distressed areas and is an enabling platform for rapidly growing business sectors such as e-commerce, social networking, online education, health IT systems, and delivery of public services. High-speed connections are increasingly becoming a fundamental infrastructure element rather than a luxury for an area.

The City of Topeka should take action to build a free, high-speed wireless node downtown and in distressed neighborhoods. This effort will show residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs that the community has embraced technology and supports a mobile workforce. By working with appropriate vendors to create an area downtown and in specific, disadvantaged neighborhoods that has access to free, high-speed wireless Internet connections, the City will not only create an amenity that will draw activity to the area, but will also provide an added utility and asset to some of the economically disadvantaged populations noted above. The Wi-Fi zone could be publicly sponsored or be supported by the provider.

**Lead organization for implementation:** City of Topeka working with private-sector providers and leveraging funds from the Kansas Department of Commerce:

<http://www.kansascommerce.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1003>.

**Best practice examples:**

- Alexandria, Virginia - <http://wirelessalexandria.com/>
- Amherst, Massachusetts - <http://amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=805>
- Anderson, Indiana - <http://www.cityofanderson.com/wifi.aspx>
- Ponca City, Oklahoma - <http://www.poncityok.gov/index.aspx?NID=417>
- Mountain View, California (in conjunction with Google) - [http://www.mountainview.gov/services/learn\\_about\\_our\\_city/free\\_wifi.asp](http://www.mountainview.gov/services/learn_about_our_city/free_wifi.asp).



*Public Hotspots*



## 2. Conduct a countywide community improvement planning effort that looks at assets and neighborhood planning by City and County districts

**Observation:** Each district of Topeka and Shawnee County is distinct and unique. Each has its own personality, and as such, they have all their own needs and demands that may be separate and distinct from other parts of the City and County. During community engagement sessions, feedback was received about the needs of East Topeka, downtown (especially vacant buildings), rural parts of Shawnee County with limited Internet access or speeds, and other examples of targeted economic development and quality of place needs.

**Recommendation:** Each member of JEDO should lead (facilitated and managed by the planning staff and the JEDO coordinator) a planning initiative for their respective district (County Commissioners should match up their districts with the respective City districts to avoid duplication) and conduct a long-term planning discussion of what quality of place amenities are needed to enhance the economic prosperity for these particular neighborhoods/districts. A charrette should be conducted for each session so that the respective planners could help visualize these quality of place enhancements. Topeka must plan first before it can act. This effort leads to a greater and more consensual long-term vision rather than those immediate needs noted in recommendation 1 above.

**Lead organization:** JEDO, with assistance from the respective planning departments of the City and County.

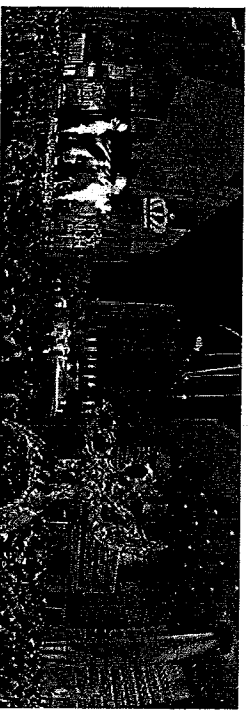
**Best practice examples:** Several cities of various sizes have undertaken such a process to envision their futures. By looking at select experiences, Topeka can get a sense of the process that is entailed and tailor on to fit the City's and County's needs.

- One example is PlaniTulsa, a citywide process to update Tulsa's Comprehensive Plan by creating a new vision for the City and setting forth guidelines for its physical development. Input was garnered from the entire community through public workshops, stakeholder interviews, and a public survey. The process also identified a set of guiding principles that will serve as the foundation for future planning efforts. The PlaniTulsa effort is run out of the Mayor's office with the City Planning Office being the lead. The effort also had a consulting team consisting of an urban and regional planning team, transportation experts, an economic development team, and a research arm.

-- <http://planitulsa.org/>

- Another example is Charlotte City Center. Facilitated by the Charlotte Center City Partners, the plan implements strategies to drive the economic, social, and cultural development of Charlotte's Center City. They work to create a Center City that is a sustainable, visitor-friendly place where residents want to live. The Partners tout the area's modern infrastructure, a tapestry of unique neighborhoods, and a diversity of thriving businesses.

[http://files.charlottecentercity.org/2020/Charlotte2020VisionPlan\\_1\\_Intro.pdf](http://files.charlottecentercity.org/2020/Charlotte2020VisionPlan_1_Intro.pdf)



*Charlotte City Center*

### 3. Inclusion of Community Groups

**Observation:** Looking to the future, it may be necessary to reassess the relationship between community groups and JEDO. As such, community groups were included throughout the research process.

**Recommendation:** Prior to JEDO meetings, provide the public with guidelines for productive discussion. Encourage the public to come with constructive suggestions for the future. If JEDO's response to questions and/or concerns requires a bit of time and research, communicate this. Convey to the audience that JEDO intends to look into the topic more and will be prepared to discuss it in more detail at a later date. Also, have a predetermined media strategy about how to address the media and public. JEDO needs to work more diligently to control the narrative. It is important for all parties to be heard. Hopefully, as JEDO works to make these changes, the community groups will mirror its efforts and find ways to be positive and helpful partners.

### Recommendations for GO Topeka

#### 4. Change the name of GO Topeka

**Observation:** Based on feedback garnered in Phase I, there is much confusion as to the relationship between JEDO and GO Topeka and suspicions around how GO Topeka is using the monies entrusted to it. Both GO Topeka and the Chamber (its parent organization) have a tainted image for economic development activities locally (see discussion under "Execute Effectively," pages 17-18). Moreover, most constituents do not differentiate between GO Topeka and the Chamber, nor are they aware of or understand the contractual relationship between GO Topeka and JEDO. Internally (community-based), the two organizations are polarizing. Externally, (outside of Topeka), GO Topeka has a benign image, which means the majority of site location advisors either have no strong negative perceptions of GO Topeka or have no awareness of the organization and what it does. In the site-selection world, having a benign image is better than having a poor reputation.

In assessing GO Topeka's economic development operations and comparing it to the best in class example in Alabama, the consulting team believes that GO Topeka operates efficiently, but could enhance operations if given sufficient staffing and oversight/direction by the JEDO Governing Board.

"GO Topeka brings a lot of envy from other entities in how it has been successful and how it operates. If we told our story better, we wouldn't be sitting here right now."

—Focus Group Participant



## JEDO – December 9, 2015 meeting

### Scott Griffith, GO Topeka Board Chair comments:

We appreciate the hard work of Jay Garner and his team and will review his report thoroughly. We will be prepared to discuss same with JEDO once we have had a chance to reflect on the recommendations and Mr. Garner's reasoning based on his research. In the meantime, we have already taken significant steps to resolve many of the issues raised in his report. Those include:

- An updated website for GO Topeka was recently launched and our marketing materials are being updated.
- A communications plan has been drafted to better tell our story locally and externally. We expect to finalize that plan and implement same in early 2016.
- The public posting of GO Topeka Board minutes and agenda began with our September Board minutes in October.
- Payrolls between the Chamber and GO Topeka will be separate effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Public Comment Handout.*

- GO Topeka Bylaws were amended with both Boards (Chamber & GO Topeka) approving same. Bylaws and governance of each organization are now separate & independent.
- GO Topeka's 2016 budget, business plan and program of work will be presented to JEDO next Wednesday. Based on your suggestions, it will include new workforce and business initiatives for your consideration of how we can address transportation, retail centers, broadband access, workforce development, small business incentives and other needs of our community.
- Three new standing committees are formed and in early stages of getting organized. One is our Projects/Incentives committee, the second is our Strategic Planning/Continuous improvement committee and the third is our Marketing/Communications committee. We believe these committees will help GO Topeka be more effective in our work and strategic in our long-term view.
- We are finding ways to better promote our economic development successes, including this



year's announcement of expansions for Mars, Alorica, a new company, Koch & Co. and the retention of the FHLBank Topeka.

### Conclusion:

When the boards of the Chamber and GO Topeka assessed the optimum structure for the two organizations last spring, we looked at strong business models for similar communities and having a single president and chief executive officer made the most sense for many reasons:

- Shared focus on economic development, talent recruitment and retention, and entrepreneurial and quality of life initiatives
- Cost savings (shared space, purchased services agreement for office equipment and administrative support)
- Better use of funds for taxpayers and Chamber members by maximizing resources.

During the last 6 – 7 months we have taken steps to create the autonomy that Jay Garner suggests and believe the hiring of a new president and CEO with

economic development experience will be beneficial for GO Topeka, The Chamber of Commerce and our entire community. Matt Pivarnik, who will join us January 11<sup>th</sup>, has worked for 16 years in a similarly structured organization with dual responsibility for chamber and economic development responsibility. We believe his expertise and experience will serve both the Chamber and GO Topeka well and build on the momentum under way for Topeka/Shawnee County while diffusing negativity.

We were impressed with Matt's 100-day plan and think that he will have great ideas for collaborative partnerships that will enhance our regional economic vitality. Thank you.

City Clerk

*State of the Family – 2015 Report  
Kansas Child & Family Well-Being Indicators  
Kansas State University - Kansas Department of Children & Families*

“Each year, the Kansas Department for Children & Families and researchers at Kansas State University develop a report on child and family well-being in the state of Kansas. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of state-level trends and a county-by-county comparison on a number of indicators of child and family well-being. This information could aid government officials, policymakers, community leaders, faith-based organizations, helping professionals, and Kansas citizens understand the state of child and family well-being in their local area and assist in helping local communities target specific areas for improving the health of children and families.”

\*Shawnee County (composite index score: 94 out of 105 counties)

**Eighteen indicators for child and family well-being:**

<b>Child Care Assistance (103)</b>	<b>Non-marital Births (95)</b>
<b>Child Poverty (84)</b>	<b>Parental Unemployment (82)</b>
Divorce	<b>Single parent Households (101)</b>
Free and Reduce Lunch Programs	<b>SNAP Enrollment (93)</b> <i>food stamps</i>
<b>High School Dropouts (102)</b>	<b>TANF Enrollment (102)+</b>
Infant Mortality	<b>Teen Pregnancy (86)</b>
Low Birthweight Babies	Uninsured Children
Medicaid Enrollment	Youth Binge Drinking
<b>Mothers without a High School Diploma (72)</b>	Youth Tobacco Use

*\*Composite Index takes all indicators and pools them together, giving each county one score that can be compared across counties.*

*Temporary Assistance to Needy Families+*

**Funding Available to Address Child & Family Well-Being:**

**Local Government**

City of Topeka – Youth & Social Service (CDBG)  
Shawnee County – Social Service  
Joint Economic Development Organization – JEDO  
*(10% of Sales-Tax for Economic Development)*  
*Other ???*

**Private/Individual**

Corporate Donors  
Community Foundations  
Individual Donors  
Small Business Concerns  
Economic Development Groups

**State of Kansas**

**Dept. of Children & Families (HOPE Act)**  
*(TANF, Voc. Rehab., Independent Living (youth))*  
**Dept. of Corrections (Juvenile Justice)**  
*Delinquency Prevention, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)*  
**Dept. of Commerce (Workforce Centers)**  
*Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)*

**COMMENTS:**

Various sources are used to collect this state and county-level data year by year, including the U.S. Census Bureau, KIDS Count, DCF, Kansas Dept. of Health & environment, Kansas State Dept. of Education, and other local resources.

**Prepared By:** Lazone Grays Jr., to be shared with: Topeka City Council, Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO), Kansas Advisory Group – Juvenile Justice (KAG)

July 21, 2015

Lazone Gray Handout



## Michael Gerson: The intricate knot of urban poverty

Posted: May 7, 2015 - 6:41pm

Police and prisons are the successful answer to a rather narrow question: Can overwhelming force and routine incarceration bring temporary order to impoverished and isolated urban communities?

## Urban issues take forefront in Topeka's priorities for 2016 legislative session

City's lobbyist to track state's budget, incursion on local control

Posted: November 17, 2015 - 8:37pm

By Luke Ranker

[luke.ranker@cionline.com](mailto:luke.ranker@cionline.com)

Urban issues are at the core of the city of Topeka's agenda for the 2016 Kansas legislative session.

Whitney Damron, the city's state lobbyist, briefed the governing body Tuesday on his projections for priorities for the upcoming session.

## Report: Kansas child poverty would double without government aid

Government assistance keeps child poverty rate down, report says

Posted: February 25, 2015 - 12:07am

By Jonathan Shorman

[jonathan.shorman@cionline.com](mailto:jonathan.shorman@cionline.com)

Twice as many Kansas children would be in poverty without government aid, a new report shows.

According to just-released data from Kids Count, a data project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, government programs have kept about 103,000 children out of poverty in the past few years. Kansas' child poverty rate, which stands at 15 percent under the Kids Count measure, would rise to 30 percent without assistance.

The data measures child poverty from 2011 to 2013. Kansas' standing is similar to the U.S. as a whole, which has an 18 percent child poverty rate.

## Kansas children's well-being ranking unchanged despite some progress

### 19 percent of children below poverty line

Posted: July 21, 2015 - 10:21am

By Megan Hart

megan.hart@cjonline.com

Kansas stayed at the same ranking on children's overall well-being in the latest Kids Count report.

The state was 15th on overall child well-being looking at families' economic well-being, community and family structure and children's educational progress and health. The report covered data from 2013, the most recent available.

## Topeka sees more short-term decline than improvement in 'neighborhood health'

### Official: Recession might be partly responsible for declines

Posted: March 16, 2015 - 8:09pm

By Tim Hrenchir

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com

The past four years brought Topeka more decline than improvement in terms of neighborhood health, city planning director Bill Fiander said Monday evening.

But the city's neighborhoods have seen more improvement than decline in the 15 years Topeka's city government has assessed neighborhood health by examining such factors as crime, poverty and home ownership, Fiander told the Topeka Planning Commission.

Fiander said his department has been working to create the city's 2015 neighborhood health map. The first such map was put together in 2000 by the Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Department. The maps use color coding, statistical data and medical analogies to characterize the health of the city's neighborhoods.

## Count shows 403 local homeless people in Topeka and Shawnee County

### Of that number, 66 percent were chronically mentally ill

Posted: June 22, 2015 - 9:22am

By Phil Anderson

phil.anderson@cjonline.com

More than 400 people in Topeka and Shawnee County were found to be experiencing some type of homelessness during the annual Point in Time Count, which was conducted Jan. 27 as part of a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## Topeka city staff want more than \$500,000 to mitigate problem of boarded-up homes

But District 1 Councilwoman Karen Hiller says 'we can't throw money at the problem'

Posted: May 30, 2015 - 4:33pm

By Luke Ranker

luke.ranker@cjonline.com

Faced with more than 130 newly boarded-up homes, Topeka city staff want more than \$500,000 in additional funding to tackle the issue.

As the city council mulls over the 2016 budget, the city's neighborhood relations department would like to boost the money spent on assessing vacant homes from \$100,000 to \$668,000. Those funds will pay for two new employees, demolition projects and better equipment — necessary additions for dealing with the city's more than 750 vacant homes, said Sasha Stiles, director of neighborhood relations.

## Editorial: Job training available for SNAP recipients

Posted: March 23, 2015 - 8:57pm

By The Capital-Journal

Job creation and a capable, trained work force are crucial to vital economies and the overall health of this country, its 50 states and their communities.

Kansas will receive help with the second part of that equation via a \$13.5 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture aimed at the state's food stamp (SNAP) recipients. The USDA grant program is spreading \$200 million across 10 states.

The Kansas Department of Children and Families now administers a jobs training pilot program in eight counties for people receiving benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The grant funding will expand that training program but be directed at SNAP recipients.

In addition to helping food stamp recipients find jobs, the program will work with partner organizations to move the trained people into the work force.

## Editorial: Growing entrepreneurs

Posted: April 5, 2015 - 5:33pm

By The Capital-Journal

A healthy economy requires a healthy job market for people wearing collars of different colors.

Studies show that large employers are important to a community's economic stability, but small businesses also make vital contributions.

Large companies such as Mars North America Chocolate don't come along every day looking for a place to build a new million factory. That's why it's important to encourage the growth of existing small businesses and the development of new ones. That, in turn, requires a blend of entrepreneurs with ideas and investors with capital.



# Shawnee County/Topeka Unemployment Rates By Race & Gender: 2000 - 2013

% of Total Civilian Labor Pool

## Male

Year	White*	African Descent**	Hispanic	Nat. American
2013	8.0% <u>44.5%</u>	16.2% <u>3.5%</u>	9.0% <u>4.2%</u>	9.5% <u>0.7%</u>
2012	7.4% <u>42.5%</u>	16.5% <u>3.4%</u>	9.2% <u>5.0%</u>	7.4% <u>0.6%</u>
2011	7.0% <u>41.9%</u>	17.5% <u>3.8%</u>	8.7% <u>4.9%</u>	7.9% <u>0.6%</u>
2010	6.5% <u>41.8%</u>	19.1% <u>4.0%</u>	9.9% <u>4.8%</u>	17.3% <u>0.6%</u>
2009	5.8%	17.4%	10.5%	5.0%
2008				
2007	5.5%	17.1%	10.1%	4.7%
2006	5.5% <u>45.5%</u>	17.1% <u>3.8%</u>	10.1% <u>3.7%</u>	4.7% <u>0.5%</u>
2005	5.5%	17.1%	10.1%	4.7%
2004	5.5%	17.1%	10.1%	4.7%
2003				
2002	4.3% <u>46.6%</u>	9.5% <u>3.3%</u>	5.4% <u>2.3%</u>	6.5% <u>0.5%</u>
2001	4.0%	8.8%	5.0%	6.0%
2000	3.8% <u>46.6%</u>	8.3% <u>3.3%</u>	4.7% <u>2.3%</u>	4.9% <u>0.5%</u>

## Female

Year	White*	African Descent**	Hispanic	Nat. American
2013	6.2% <u>42.2%</u>	12.5% <u>3.8%</u>	8.8% <u>4.3%</u>	8.4% <u>0.4%</u>
2012	5.8% <u>42.1%</u>	11.1% <u>3.8%</u>	8.6% <u>4.1%</u>	7.2% <u>0.6%</u>
2011	5.7% <u>41.9%</u>	12.6% <u>4.0%</u>	8.3% <u>4.1%</u>	9.5% <u>0.6%</u>
2010	5.2% <u>41.5%</u>	16.2% <u>4.0%</u>	7.8% <u>4.8%</u>	1.7% <u>0.5%</u>
2009	4.9%	12.9%	9.8%	15.7%
2008				
2007	4.6%	12.5%	9.4%	15.4%
2006	4.6% <u>43.4%</u>	12.5% <u>4.1%</u>	9.4% <u>3.9%</u>	15.4% <u>0.5%</u>
2005	4.6%	12.5%	9.4%	15.4%
2004	4.6%	12.5%	9.4%	15.4%
2003				
2002	3.5% <u>42.9%</u>	10.5% <u>3.3%</u>	9.6% <u>2.0%</u>	4.7% <u>0.5%</u>
2001	3.2%	9.8%	8.9%	4.3%
2000	3.0% <u>43.0%</u>	9.3% <u>3.3%</u>	8.4% <u>1.9%</u>	4.1% <u>0.5%</u>

Comments:

Source: Kansas Department of Labor



# Vendor Diversity Report

InvoiceDateFrom 01/01/2012 InvoiceDateTo 12/31/2012

AFRIC	90	\$386,537.57
ASIAN	11	\$45,524.00
DIS	12	\$49,358.59
FEM	694	\$1,425,456.63
HISP	20	\$10,336.03
NATIV	1	\$350.00
NONE	7,756	\$4,529,472.46
OTHER	14,878	\$56,136,715.64
SMALL	9,459	\$28,469,603.45

Total Number of Invoices 32,921 Total Invoice Amount \$91,053,354.37

---

InvoiceDateFrom 01/01/2013 InvoiceDateTo 12/31/2013

AFRIC	50	\$320,500.11
ASIAN	14	\$38,270.00
DIS	8	\$41,750.00
FEM	513	\$1,336,564.33
HISP	19	\$14,162.65
NATIV	1	\$840.00
NONE	5,825	\$2,978,943.29
OTHER	14,753	\$55,600,688.80
SMALL	7,460	\$29,134,477.77

Total Number of Invoices 28,643 Total Invoice Amount \$89,466,196.95

---



## Vendor Diversity Report

InvoiceDateFrom 01/01/2014

InvoiceDateTo 12/31/2014

AFRIC	28	\$89,961.66
ASIAN	14	\$44,148.00
DIS	1	\$2,243.88
FEM	436	\$702,925.20
HISP	20	\$11,223.67
NATIV	1	\$840.00
NONE	4,113	\$6,153,132.44
OTHER	13,785	\$54,303,882.69
SMALL	7,792	\$21,082,433.87

Total Number of Invoices

26,190

Total Invoice Amount

\$82,390,791.41



## Vendor Diversity Report

InvoiceDateFrom 01/01/2015

InvoiceDateTo 11/20/2015

AFRIC	26	\$90,956.74
ASIAN	16	\$39,323.00
FEM	525	\$804,515.44
HISP	28	\$11,002.42
NONE	3,254	\$2,028,321.39
OTHER	10,251	\$39,818,300.25
SMALL	7,116	\$24,464,248.39

Total Number of Invoices

21,216

Total Invoice Amount

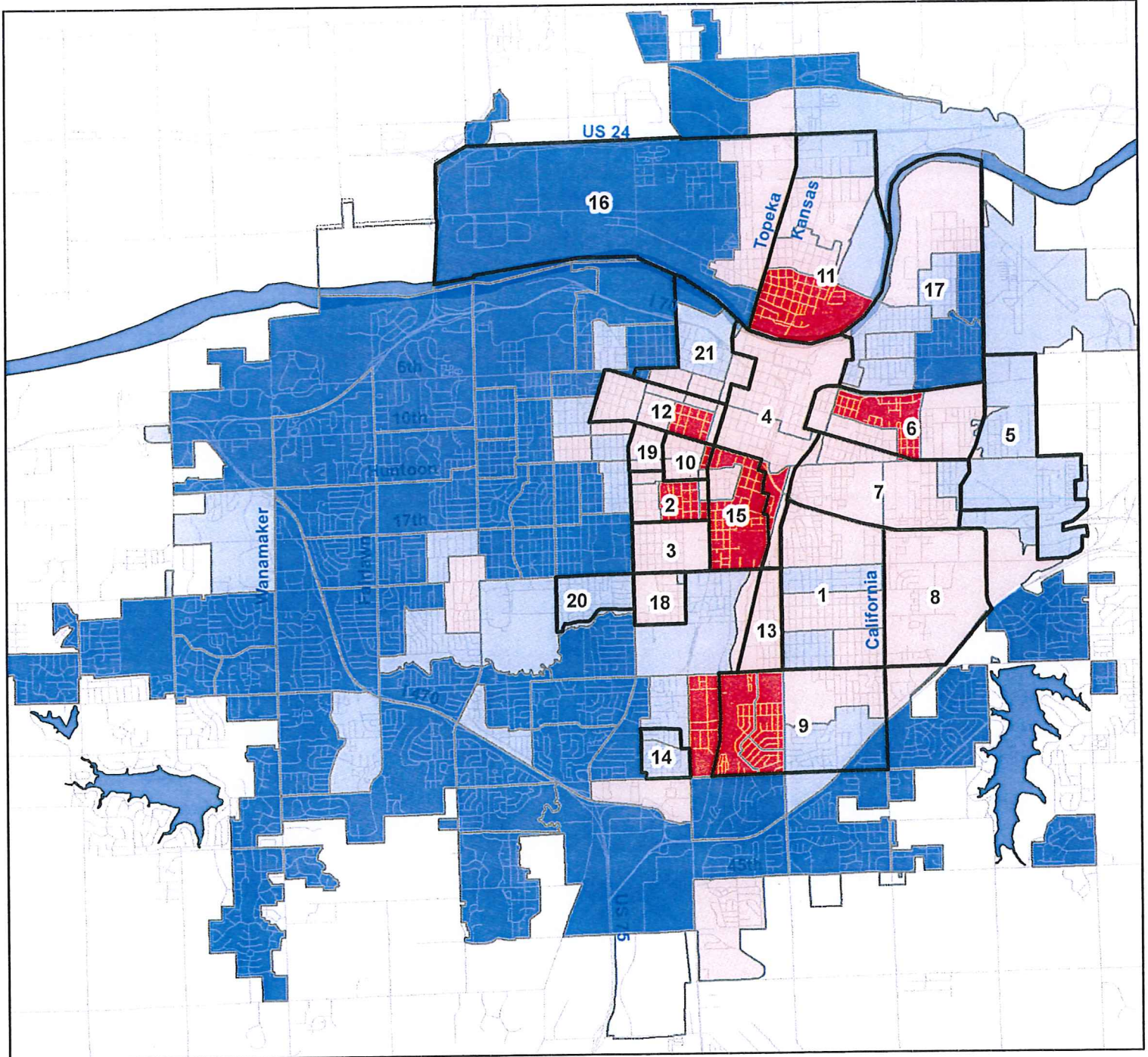
\$67,256,667.63





# City of Topeka Neighborhood Health 2014

## Composite Map



### NiAs

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Central Highland Park       | 12. Historic Old Town      |
| 2. Central Park                | 13. Jefferson Square       |
| 3. Chesney Park                | 14. Likins Foster          |
| 4. Downtown                    | 15. Monroe                 |
| 5. East End                    | 16. North Topeka West      |
| 6. East Topeka North           | 17. Oakland                |
| 7. East Topeka South           | 18. Quinton Heights Steele |
| 8. Highland Acres              | 19. Tennessee Town         |
| 9. Highland Crest              | 20. Valley Park            |
| 10. Historic Holliday Park     | 21. Ward Meade             |
| 11. Historic North Topeka East |                            |

### Health Status

- Healthy
- Out Patient
- At Risk
- Intensive Care
- City Limits

## 7 Editorial: Former offenders deserve a new start

Posted: April 27, 2015 - 8:34pm

By The Capital-Journal

The international Ban the Box campaign — which encourages employers to remove from job applications the box applicants are to check if they have a criminal record — is gaining strength and supporters.

## 4 Letter: Is debt of incarcerating criminals worth incurring?

Posted: October 26, 2015 - 7:39pm

I'm writing in response to a letter in which the author wrote he often hears the phrase that felons released from prison have "paid their debt to society."

I have been classified as an offender with the Kansas Judicial System for the past 25 years. Not once have I stated that "I have paid my debt to society." I feel just the opposite. I believe my extended incarceration has been a burden to the taxpayers.

## Officials to consider approving funding for mental health, substance abuse programs

Meetings set for Shawnee County Commission on Monday, Topeka City Council on Tuesday

Posted: November 28, 2015 - 5:19pm

*criminogenic*

By Tim Hrenchir

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com

Local governing bodies plan this coming week to consider approving funding amounts of \$600,000 for drug and alcohol recovery programs and more than \$1.6 million for mental health services.

## Topeka must decide how to use \$18.83 million in potential federal grants over the next five years

City housing programs largely funded through federal dollars

Posted: August 8, 2015 - 5:37pm

By Luke Ranker

luke.ranker@cjonline.com

Topeka has to decide how to use nearly \$18.83 million in federal funds for assisting low- and moderate-income residents over the next five years.



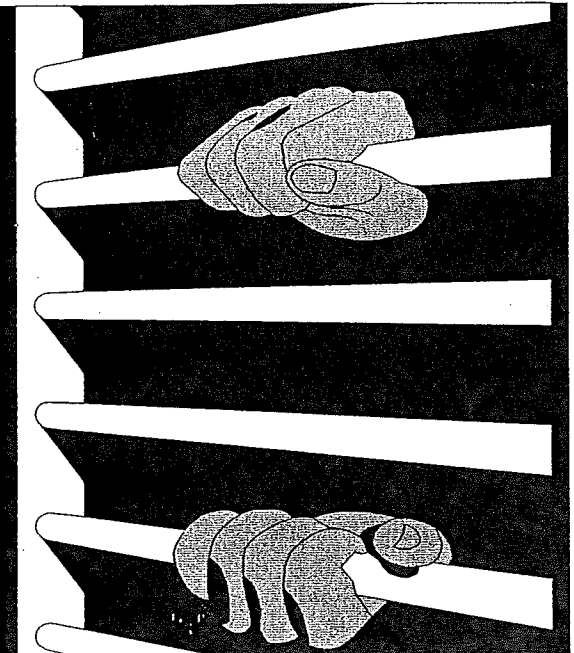


# History

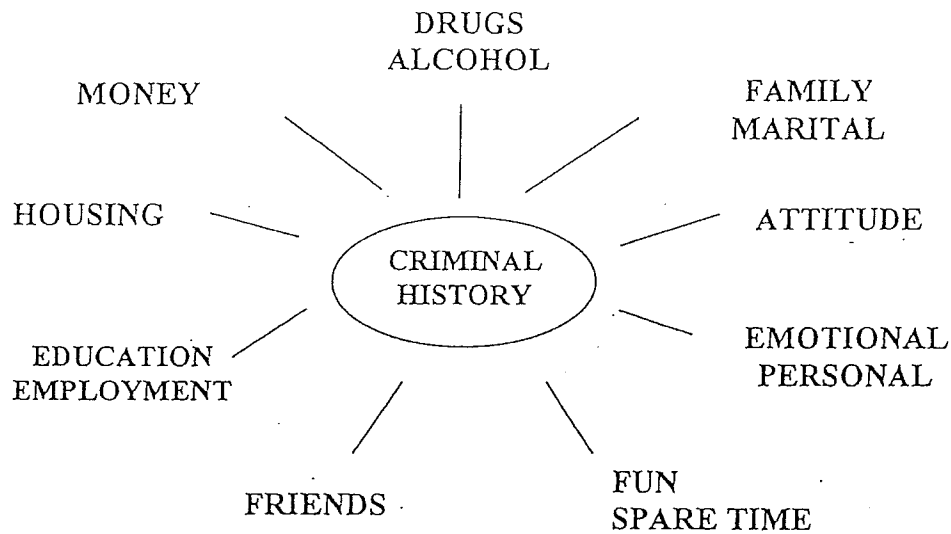
---

## ■ Court's frustration sending non-custodial parents to jail

- Costs taxpayers \$78/day/inmate
- Non-custodial parents cannot work in jail
- Jail does not address barriers
  - ◆ Alcohol and drug abuse
  - ◆ Lack of training and education
  - ◆ Lack of interviewing and job retention skills
  - ◆ Physical/mental/learning disabilities
  - ◆ Child care
  - ◆ Transportation








---

### CRIMINOGENIC RISKS--- WHY OFFENDERS RETURN TO PRISON

#### EMPLOYMENT

Those who make employment choices based on interests and skills will have a better chance of remaining employed. Without a way to support him/herself through legal means, an individual often returns to illegal behaviors to obtain money.

#### EDUCATION

Without at least a GED, higher paid jobs are more difficult to find.

#### FINANCES

Lack of financial resources may trigger the need to obtain money illegally "to get by".

#### FAMILY/MARITAL

Returning home to difficult or bad situations may increase stress where supportive families generate a more positive recovery.

#### HOUSING

Obtaining safe and affordable housing can be a challenge. Halfway houses, temporary emergency housing, or community release beds (CRB) are limited.

#### FRIENDS

Friends not interested in recovery or non-supportive to a positive life-style can lead to negative thinking and behavior.

#### LEISURE/RECREATION

Too much spare time or lack of positive, safe activities may lead to negative thinking and behavior.

#### ALCOHOL/DRUGS

Addiction problems count for more than half of the prison population. It's difficult to achieve goals of recovery, gaining employment and managing finances if addiction issues are not addressed.

#### EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL

Emotional issues or mental health problems must be managed for a successful reentry. Reaching recovery goals as well as getting a job or managing finances are nearly impossible if mental health is not addressed.

#### ATTITUDES

Negative thinking and lack of responsibility for crime, thus justifying criminal behavior and blaming others is considered anti-social thinking which is non-productive to recovery.

## Tasks the Topeka Neighborhood Task Force Will Perform

- Review of code enforcement policies and procedures.
- Review the code complaint process - Who follows through on code enforcement complaints and how long does adjudication typically take?  
*resolution*
- Seek to determine who is legally responsible for a property.
- Examine the code enforcement ordinance revisions – What are they; what is their status; how are they different from the current ordinances?
- ✱ • Explore the feasibility of creating employment training centers in LMI neighborhoods by partnering with Washburn Tech and other community stakeholders.

## **Neighborhood Task Force**

### **Purpose & Parameters**

1. The Neighborhood Task Force (NTF) is established to study and provide input on new and existing ordinances and policies to promote neighborhood health and safety.
2. The NTF shall meet on a regular basis for a period not to exceed 6 months.
  - a. The NTF shall meet at least monthly, within the potential of bi-weekly meetings, at a place designated by City of Topeka staff.
  - b. The NTF shall study and address priority topics and issues as established by participants of the 2013 Neighborhood Summits.
3. The membership of the NTF shall be established through a volunteer signup at the Neighborhood Summit, and other interested residents.
4. Members of the NTF shall select:
  - a. Chairperson: The chairperson shall preside over all regular NTF meetings. The chairperson shall ask for volunteers for committees established by the NTF. If no members volunteer, the chairperson may appoint members to committees.
  - b. Secretary. The secretary will be responsible for keeping records and minutes of the NTF meetings and assist the members in receiving and keeping their supporting records and copies of approved minutes. A copy of minutes and any supporting records shall be provided to the City of Topeka, Housing & Neighborhood Development no later than 10 days after said meeting.
  - c. Committees. The NTF, with consultation from the City staff, may establish committees, as deemed necessary or convenient to carry out the various duties and functions of the NTF.
5. Upon completion of its efforts related to the priority topics and issues, the NTF shall provide a written report to the City Manager within 30 days.





Published on *CJOnline.com* (<http://cjonline.com>)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local](#) > Study: Skilled training lacking

## Study: Skilled training lacking

By James Carlson

Created May 12 2010 - 5:24pm

The Topeka area needs to beef up its opportunities for two-year degrees or risk becoming unattractive to businesses, a new study reports.

Commissioned by Go Topeka, the study says a lack of certificate and two-year college training avenues in Shawnee County have led to a dearth of skilled tradespeople who prospective companies want to see before moving to an area.

It is a conclusion that scares people like Steve Jenkins, senior vice president of economic development for the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

"We've got to be aggressive in certificate and two-year programs, or we're going to find ourselves suffering," he said. "And we've got to do it soon."

How to do that is the bigger question. The study recommends changes in government funding of technical schools and expanded technical course offerings.

Jerry Farley, president of Washburn University, which runs the Washburn Institute of Technology, said those are good ideas but ones that face obstacles.

The Topeka area is well stocked with traditional four-year degrees, but the study says the area is far behind comparable cities in terms of its two-year-degree earners. Sioux Falls, S.D., for instance, graduated three times as many people with two-year degrees as Topeka did in 2008. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had nearly 20 times as many two-degree graduates as Topeka that year.

The study says site selectors view a community's ability to have a trained work force on-hand as a key asset in containing a company's costs. Washburn Tech is a good asset for the area but isn't producing the students needed, the study concludes.

"Whatever the reasons that have led to the current circumstances at Washburn Tech, the size of the student body served, the facilities and the breadth of the programs are not competitive with those available to companies in other communities," said study author Kate McEnroe Consulting.

That company, based out of Atlanta, is a site-selection consultant whose clients have included insurers and hospitality and telecommunications companies.

**Adult Build / Step-Up Apprenticeship & Transitional Job Program***Occupational Area: Carpentry, Drywall Applicator, Plaster, Painting, Plumbing, Etc.*

Standard Length 480+ Classroom Hours

Pre-Certification: Any Vocational Field or Coverage

<u><b>Adult Build / Step-Up Resources</b></u>		<u><b>Resource Provided</b></u>
<b>Kansas Apprenticeship Council</b> Loretta Shelley	[X]	Coordination, Tech assistance
<b>Topeka Housing Authority</b> ( <i>federal funds</i> ) John Johnston	[ ]	Referrals, Contracts, Advice, HUD funded projects, Contracts
<b>City of Topeka</b> ( <i>federal funds</i> ) Housing & Neighborhood Development Brad Reiff	[X]	Funding, Contracts, Referrals HUD funded projects, Lead-Safe Work Practices Certification
<b>Associated General Contractors of Kansas</b> Cloyis Bayless – AGCKS	[ ]	Apprenticeship placements, program development, technical assistance, NCCER curriculum, oversight, OSHA Safety Training,
<b>Kansas Contractors Association</b> Karen Wagaman	[X]	NCCER Instruct Training, technical assistance, industry connections
<b>Community Resource Council</b> Nancy Johnson	[X]	Classroom training location, referrals, availability of other programs/ courses
<b>Kansas Dept. of DCF</b> ( <i>state funds</i> ) Voc. Rehabilitation, TANF	[ ]	Training dollars, referrals, support services, special allowances
<b>Heartland Works</b> ( <i>federal funds</i> ) <u><i>FACET Program</i></u> Workforce Investment Act – One-Stop Operator	[ ]	Training dollars, referrals, support services, Work Keys Testing (\$20)
<b>Washburn Tech</b>	[ ]	Work Keys Testing (\$20) Follow-up programs and NCCER courses
<b>Joint Economic Development Organization</b> (JEDO)	[ ]	Workforce Training Funding from sales-tax for follow-up programs/ courses
<b>Kansas Dept of Labor</b> Bureau of Apprenticeship Training	[ ]	Coordination, Tech assistance
<b>Housing &amp; Urban Development</b> Regional Office	[ ]	Coordination, Tech assistance “Step-Up Partnership”
<b>Theresa Douthart</b>	[X]	CPR Training & Certification
<b>Linda Kinney</b> ( <i>YWCA Career Assistance Network</i> )	[ ]	Programming assistance,

## Occupational Skill Trade Training, Pre-Apprenticeship & Transitional Jobs Program

Occupational Area: Construction, Weatherization & Renovation Occupations

Standard Length 144+ Classroom Hours

Certifications: OSHA, CPR, NCCER, Lead-Safe Work Practices and Lead Abatement (*Worker*)

- I. **(Purpose)** The purpose of this program is to prepare neighborhood residents who have not otherwise had the opportunity to enter into an apprenticeable occupation or upward mobility re-employment. The program will include related instructions and paid on-the-job training, supervised by an employer, instructor and an agency.

The content shall include but not be limited to communication skill, leadership skills, human relations and employability skills, safe and efficient work practices, and skills needed to operate and maintain a variety of related equipment and tools.

This program focuses on broad, transferable skills and stresses understanding and demonstration of the following elements of the Apprenticeship industry: planning, management, finance, technical and product skills, underlying principles of technology, labor issues, community issues; and health, safety, and environmental issues.

- II. **(On-Hands Activities)** Activities provided through on-hands and/or on-the-job training are an integral part of the programs supervised job training plan. The training plan includes instructional objectives and a list of on-the-job & instructional learning experiences. OJT experiences will emphasize those skills that deal with “workplace know-how” and effective employment performance.

- III. **(Special Note)** Pre-apprenticeship participants may be registered with Kansas Department of Commerce, Workforce Center. The KS Apprenticeship Council and other identified co-sponsors that are appropriate entities for providing training experiences and reinforcing specific occupational skills. When provided, these activities are considered an integral part of this instructional program and the activities of the coalition or partners as they pertain to the HUD/DOL Step-Up Jobs Program requirements. Training fees may be subsidized for participants eligible for TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP) or WIOA.

*Cooperative Training- Training on local, state or federal funded projects is appropriate for this program.*

Whenever cooperative training is offered, the following are required for each participant: A primary case manager, job coach or employment counselor, and an employer which provides: instructional objectives and a list of on-the-job, instructional learning experiences via a workstation that reflects equipment, skills and tasks that are relevant to the occupation which the participant has chosen as a career goal. The participant may receive compensation for work performed or participate in lieu of subsidized public assistance and/or fatherhood programs. This program may be offered in courses to phase participants up to proficiency levels.

*Step-Up Jobs Program- Employment on local, state or federal funded projects is appropriate for this program.*

*Step-Up* is an apprenticeship-based employment and training program strategy initiated by HUD in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to address economic self-sufficiency needs of public housing residents as well as other Section 3 low income concerns. We choose this model because the program is already designed to creatively utilize federal construction assistance funding streams such as HUD’s housing and community development grants as employment and training sites. Step-Up programs utilize formal apprenticeship standards that are registered with DOL’s Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training or approved by DOL-recognized State Apprenticeship Councils.

- IV. **(Intended Outcomes)** After successfully completing the program, the participant will be able to:

### Occupational Completion Point- Data Code A (144+ Hours)

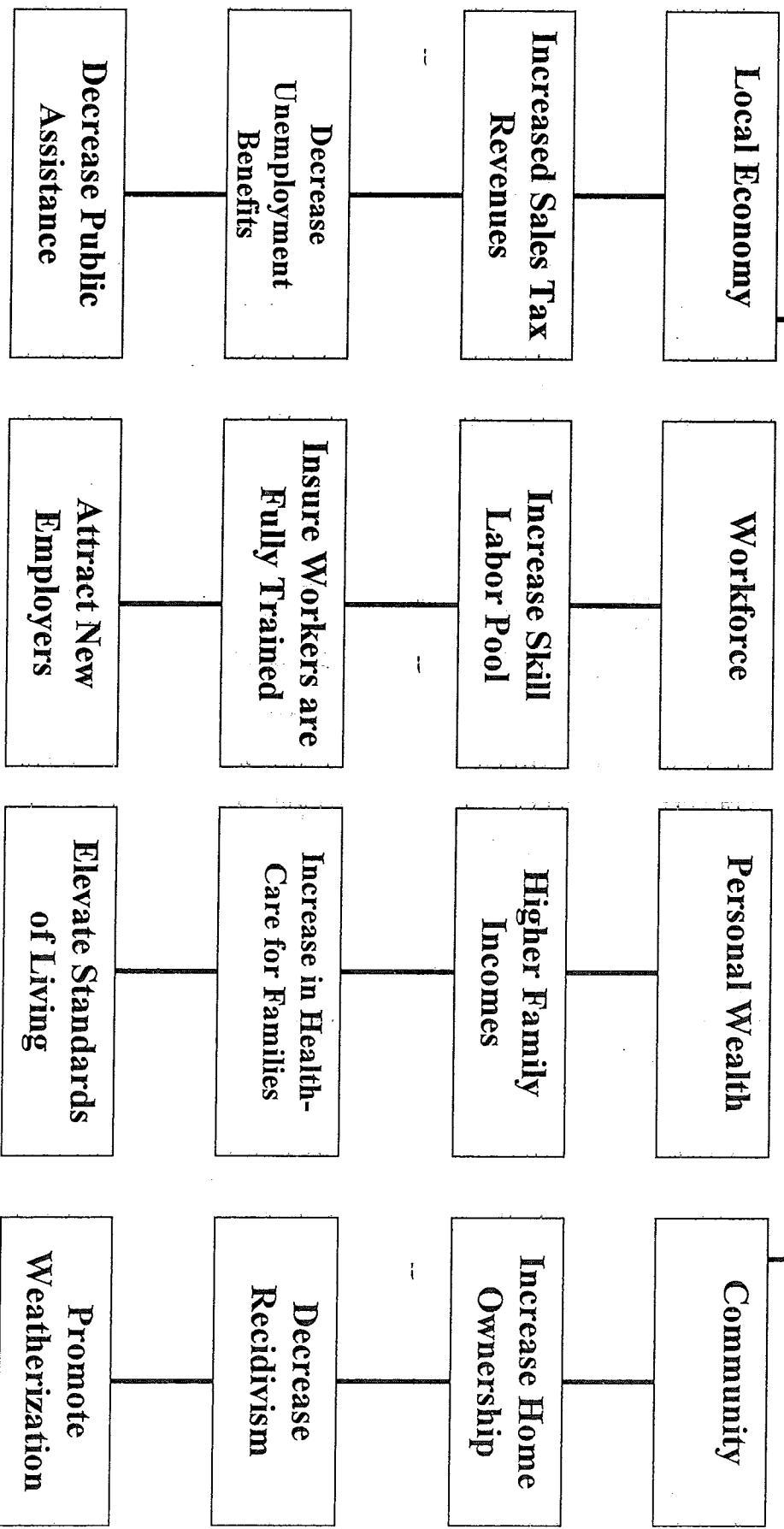
#### Pre-Apprenticeship I. - Industry Title

- 01.0 Identify apprenticeable occupations; including positions in “green” industries.
- 02.0 Identify and properly use subparts in OSHA (*Occupational Safety and Health Administration*)
- 03.0 Achieve certifications. (*NCCER, OSHA, Lead-Safe Work Practices, Lead Abatement Worker, CPR*)
- 04.0 Demonstrate appropriate communication skills.
- 05.0 Demonstrate and apply appropriate math and reading skills.
- 06.0 Identify awareness of drugs and drug-free workplace.
- 07.0 Use technology, tool, equipment and supplies safely and correctly
- 08.0 Read and interpret appropriate technical references and manuals
- 09.0 Apply designated occupational standards
- 10.0 Demonstrate an understanding of employability skills.
- 12.0 Demonstrate acquired skills through on-the-job training.
- 13.0 Demonstrate leadership and organization skills.
- 14.0 Develop a portfolio.

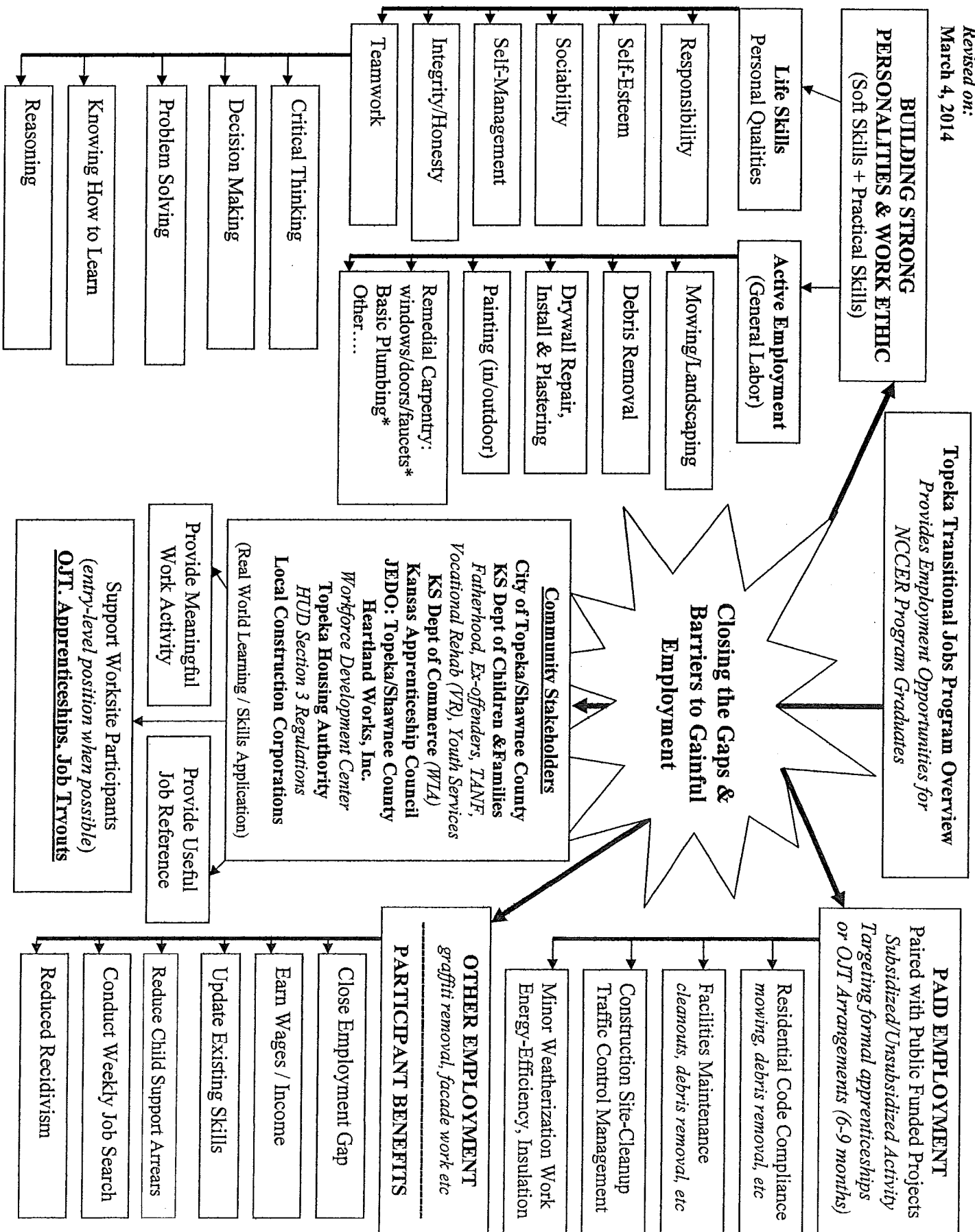
}



# Job Skill Training / Transitional Jobs Program Impact Tree



*Revised on:*  
March 4, 2014



# Participant Training & Program Expense (one-year)

## Job Skills Training - Pre-apprenticeship - Transitional Jobs Program

PRIMARY EXPENSES	PROGRAM EXPENSE	ANNUAL
Space \$500/mth		6,000.00
Space \$300/mth		3,600.00
Utilities \$100/mth		1,200.00
Phone/Fax \$40/mth		480.00
Marketing \$15/mths		450.00
Postage/Handling \$30/three-mths		270.00
Supplies \$50/mth		630.00
Student Tools \$303/student		10,908.00
Student Books \$234/student		8,424.00
Stipends \$500/student/mth		54,000.00
Instructor \$5,000/3-month		15,000.00
Certifications \$180/student		6,480.00
Audit (one-time yearly fee)		4,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>111,942.00</b>

12 students per 12-week class - Three class sessions per year - Approx. \$3,110 per student @ 36 students

