

# Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Package | Memo



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

From: Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-103-GP

Date: May 22, 2025

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

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 20 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-10. Page 10 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – 40101d application, pages 11-20.

## **Project Overview**

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for funding available through the SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid program for their Wheatland Electric Rooted in Resiliency project which includes undergrounding power lines, upgrading conductors, and replacing wooden poles with durable iron poles to strengthen system resilience.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 48.33% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$417,556.24 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$21,976.64. This request has the potential to unlock \$909,378.38 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$1,348,911.26.

The deadline was January 9, 2025, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on April 21, 2025.

## **Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation**

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on May 14, 2025 following a successful completeness check. The Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS APPROVAL** of Build Kansas Funding to the Build Kansas Advisory Committee for final advice.

# Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025

## Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2025-103-GP
Applicant Name	Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Application Date Received	4/21/2025
Project Name	Wheatland Electric Rooted in Resiliency
Project Description	Undergrounding power lines, upgrading conductors, and replacing wooden poles with durable iron poles to strengthen system resilience
Entity Type	Non-Profit
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	Great Plains Development, Inc.
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Energy
BIL Program	SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Implementation
BIL Application Deadline	1/9/2025
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$417,556.24
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided General TA and BKF Application Support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$417,556.24 will unlock \$909,378.38 in federal BIL funding, with a local cash contribution of \$21,976.64 for a total project cost of \$1,348,911.26
<b>Steering Committee Funding Recommendation</b>	<b>5/14/2025   Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation</b>	<b>5/22/2025   Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/></b>

Title	<b>Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.</b>	04/21/2025
	by <b>Brandon Barrett</b> in <b>Build Kansas Fund Application</b>	id. 50325934
	bbarrett@weci.net	

<b>Original Submission</b>	04/21/2025
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Score	n/a
Part 1: Applicant Information	
The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Project Name:	Wheatland Electric Rooted in Resiliency
Entity type:	Non-Profit
Applicant Contact Name:	Brandon Barrett
Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Director of Operations
Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+16202711618
Applicant Contact Email Address:	bbarrett@weci.net
Applicant Contact Address:	101 Main St.
Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
Applicant Contact City:	Scott City
Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
Applicant Contact Zip Code:	67846

Is the Project  
Contact the same as  
the Applicant  
Contact?

Yes

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Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Finney County

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

[Zip Code Percentage.xlsx](#)

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Part 3: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - Grant Application  
Information Please Note: This information is related to the federal  
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), commonly known as the  
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), funding opportunity to which you will  
apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

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

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

What is the funding agency for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? U.S. Department of Energy

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What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 81.254

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What is the federal application due date for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 1/9/2025

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Application Type: Implementation

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What is the federal fiscal year for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 2024

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Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity: \$909,378.38 for a total project cost of \$1,348,911.26

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Enter the total project cost: \$1,348,911.26

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Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 48.33%

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

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Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$417,556.24 for a total project cost of \$1,348,911.26

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Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$21,976.64 for a total project cost of \$1,348,911.26

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

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

[Kansas+DOT+table\\_V2.xlsx](#)

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

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

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Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match?

N/A

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

Wheatland will utilize current admin staff on project management and support efforts for the project, including providing the necessary payroll documentation to maintain DBA compliance and project management.

What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match?

N/A

Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project:

In exploring alternative funding sources for this project, Wheatland considered several options before concluding that they were not viable for our specific needs and circumstances. These options included (1) placing the project into the cooperative's 5-year workplan, (2) pursuing debt financing, and (3) implementing rate increases.

Firstly, placing the project into our 5-year workplan was initially considered, but we quickly determined that the timeline required for the project would not align with the workplan's schedule. Given the urgency of the project, it would not be feasible to wait several years for its inclusion in the plan, which could result in significant delays and missed opportunities for addressing critical needs in the community.

Secondly, debt financing is not a viable solution for this project. The cooperative is already carrying a substantial amount of existing debt (nearly \$200M in long-term debt obligations), and with limited collateral available to secure additional financing, this option was not a sustainable or viable path forward. The financial strain that would come from further borrowing could jeopardize the cooperative's long-term stability and ability to continue providing essential services to its members.

Finally, the cooperative considered the possibility of raising rates to generate additional revenue for the project. However, this option was ultimately deemed unfeasible due to the high per capita cost of these projects (nearly \$800 per member). The area is experiencing significant economic hardship with median incomes lower than both state and national averages by \$2,000 and \$5,000 per year and a higher than average poverty rate (15.6%). Implementing rate increases in this context would only exacerbate the financial difficulties faced by our members and could lead to a reduction quality of life, undermining the project's goals.

Given these challenges, we have been unable to identify other viable funding sources, which makes the support from this grant even more critical for moving the project forward.

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## Part 6: Additional Information

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

[Wheatland\\_40101d\\_App.pdf](#)

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Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional):	<p>Wheatland Electric Cooperative is seeking \$909,398.81 in 40101(d) funding through KCC and \$417,556.24 through Build Kansas for its “Rooted in Resilience” project, which aims to improve the resiliency and reliability of its electrical distribution system in Southwest Kansas. The initiative focuses on system hardening by undergrounding power lines, upgrading conductors, and replacing wooden poles with durable ductile iron poles. The project targets critical feeder sections along U.S. Hwy 400, serving both urban and rural areas, and is designed to mitigate power outages caused by severe weather events like high winds and ice storms.</p> <p>The project consists of four sub-projects: 1) undergrounding two miles of overhead lines serving Holcomb, 2) upgrading a 6-mile stretch of backup line with ductile iron poles, 3) enhancing the Fletcher Substation's line for Lakin, and 4) upgrading the Kansas Avenue line for Garden City. These improvements will increase system resilience, reduce outages, and enhance safety by minimizing weather-related damage.</p> <p>The initiative will provide long-term benefits, including reduced maintenance costs, improved response to outages, and enhanced public safety. The project will also support the region’s agriculture, healthcare, and public services, with specific benefits for critical infrastructure like hospitals, communication facilities, and public safety operations.</p> <p>Wheatland’s service area is economically disadvantaged, with median household incomes significantly below state and national averages, making it challenging to fund this project without external support. The Department of Energy’s 40101(d) funding is crucial for completing this initiative and ensuring continued service reliability, particularly for vulnerable communities and essential services in the region.</p>
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Part 7: Terms and Conditions

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Understanding of Fund Release Requirements:	checked
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Understanding of Use of Funds:	checked
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Understanding of Reporting Requirements:	checked
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Authority to Make Grant Application:	checked
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Persons and Titles: The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.	Brandon Barrett
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Position/Title:	Director of Operations
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Additional:	
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Position/Title:	
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Additional:	
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Position/Title:	
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Additional:	
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Position/Title:	
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Source	Amount	% of Project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$417,556.24	30.96%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$21,976.64	1.63%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$0.00	0%
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$909,378.38	67.42%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$0.00	0%
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$1,348,911.26</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Zip Code	% of project in zip code
67851	47.4%
67846	38.4%
67860	14.2%
	<b>100% In Kansas</b>

Title	<b>WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE_Rooted in Resilience Initiative</b>	01/09/2025
	by <b>Brandon Barrett</b> in <b>SECTION 40101(d) Second Round: Preventing Outages &amp; Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid</b>	id. 49283207
	bbarrett@weci.net	

Original Submission	04/10/2025
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Score	n/a
Section 1: Applicant Information	
Entity name:	Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Are you submitting a new application, or will you be resubmitting the application you submitted last round?	New Application
Entity Type:	Distribution Provider
Entity address:	101 Main St Scott City Kansas 67846 US 38.4867846 -100.9072573
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	48-0532188
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	Y3Q4KPB6G936

Please upload verification of eligible entity size and documentation of annual sales per year:  
[EIA\\_Submitted.pdf](#)

EIA Table  
[2023 Utility Bundled Sales to Ultimate Customers List.xlsx](#)

Project Manager name:	Brandon Barrett
Project Manager phone number:	+16202711618
Project Manager e-mail address:	bbarrett@weci.net
IRS Form W-9: <a href="#">03_2024_W9-signed.pdf</a>	
Latest financial statement and financial statement audit: <a href="#">Financials_and_Audit.pdf</a>	
Please acknowledge whether your entity has ever submitted an application, similar in nature, to the DOE under BIL Section 40101c, DE-FOA-002740, Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP):	Yes
If you selected yes, please describe the differences between the 40101(d) and 40101(c) applications.	Wheatland joined an application with a larger pool of applicants through KEC for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) opportunity. That application was not advanced, and the projects Wheatland would have received funding for through GRIP focused on regional tie-lines and substation upgrades that are separate from the proposed projects in the Rooted in Resilience Initiative.
Section 2: Project Description and Scope	
Project Name:	WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE_Rooted in Resilience Initiative
Project type:	Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, or other systems
Project description and scope:	<p>Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland) is seeking funding to support its “Rooted in Resilience” (the Initiative) project, an initiative designed to enhance the resiliency and reliability of its electrical distribution system. This project focuses on system hardening through the undergrounding of power lines, upgrading conductors, and replacing wooden poles with ductile iron poles, all with the goal of improving service reliability for its members in Southwest Kansas. Specifically, the project will address critical sections of Wheatland’s feeder system along the U.S. Hwy 400 corridor, between Garden City and Lakin, serving both rural and urban members.</p> <p>The overarching goal of the Initiative project is to improve the cooperative’s infrastructure and reduce power outages caused by severe</p>

weather, particularly high winds, ice storms, and other extreme weather events common to the region. These weather events have historically caused power disruptions, negatively affecting residents and businesses alike. By strengthening key feeder lines, upgrading poles, and converting overhead lines to underground lines, this project will improve the reliability and continuity of service to in a highly economically disadvantaged region of Wheatland's service territory.

The project involves four interconnected sub-projects designed to address specific vulnerabilities in the cooperative's feeder infrastructure:

#### Jones Substation Undergrounding - \$639,994 (est.)

Project #1 focuses on converting 2 miles of overhead line to underground along a double-circuit line that feeds the City of Holcomb. This area has experienced multiple outages during severe weather events such as ice storms and high winds, causing significant disruptions to service. By undergrounding this section of the line, Wheatland will eliminate vulnerabilities associated with overhead lines, which are highly susceptible to damage from falling trees, ice buildup, and strong winds.

Additionally, the project involves replacing several existing wooden poles with more durable ductile iron poles along the remaining other above ground portions of the line. The upgrades to ductile iron poles will increase the line's resilience, allowing it to withstand higher wind and ice loads, further reducing the likelihood of service interruptions. As a result, this project will directly address and mitigate the outages that have historically impacted the City of Holcomb, ensuring more reliable service during severe weather conditions.

#### Lowe East Ductile Iron Upgrade - \$374,478 (est.)

Project #2 will harden a 6-mile stretch of line that serves as a critical backup feed for both the City of Holcomb and the western part of Garden City. This line plays a crucial role in maintaining power continuity during planned maintenance or unplanned outages on the main feeder lines. Currently, the line is supported by wooden poles, which are prone to failure in extreme weather.

The line will be upgraded to ductile iron poles strengthening the line to better withstand the stresses imposed by high winds, ice accumulation, and other environmental factors. By fortifying this backup feed, the project will help ensure that critical services in Holcomb and Garden City remain operational even during weather-related outages on the primary feeder lines.

#### Fletcher Substation T2 4/0 & Ductile Iron Upgrade - \$190,748 (est.)

Project #3 focuses on the Fletcher Substation, specifically addressing the feeder line that serves the City of Lakin. This section of the system has experienced repeated issues during ice storms and high winds, resulting in service interruptions. To mitigate these challenges, Wheatland will enhance the feeder line by replacing the existing infrastructure with new T2 4/0 conductor and upgrading the poles to ductile iron.

The T2 4/0 conductor is a more robust and reliable option for the current and future load profile compared to the current conductor, and replacing the existing poles with ductile iron poles will provide added durability and resistance to the elements.

Kansas Avenue - \$163,691 (est.)

Project #4 centers on a critical feeder for Garden City, KS, which feeds the Kansas Avenue commercial corridor. This major commercial and residential hub serves hundreds of businesses and a large population, all of which rely on uninterrupted power. The existing overhead lines feeding this area are vulnerable to weather-related disruptions, making the continuity of service essential for economic and residential stability.

Wheatland will upgrade the line by replacing the current conductor with T2 4/0 conductor and replacing the wooden poles with more resilient ductile iron poles. These improvements will increase the capacity of the line and provide greater protection against outages caused by high winds and ice storms.

### Benefits of the Rooted in Resilience Project

Each of the projects in the Initiative play a crucial role in hardening Wheatland Electric Cooperative's system and making it more resilient to extreme weather events. By converting overhead lines to underground lines, replacing aging wooden poles with durable ductile iron poles, and upgrading electrical conductors, these improvements will strengthen the system and reduce the frequency and duration of outages. This enhanced reliability will have far-reaching benefits for the communities served by Wheatland, including Garden City, Holcomb, and Lakin.

Beyond improving reliability, the Initiative will also contribute to long-term cost savings by reducing the need for frequent repairs and maintenance caused by weather-related damage. It will improve the ability to respond to both planned and unplanned outages, ensuring that power is quickly restored to critical areas. Furthermore, the upgrades will enhance safety by minimizing the risks of downed power lines and electrical hazards, which can pose significant risks to public health and safety during severe storms.

The Initiative is a comprehensive project that addresses the immediate need for system hardening and long-term reliability improvements. Through strategic investments in undergrounding, pole replacement, and system upgrades, Wheatland Electric Cooperative will significantly enhance its service reliability, safeguard critical infrastructure, and protect the communities it serves from the impact of extreme weather. The project will improve resiliency, reduce outages, and ensure that Wheatland remains a reliable and essential energy provider in Southwest Kansas.

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### Section 3: Need for Funding

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Project funding need: Wheatland Electric Cooperative is requesting \$909,398.81 in funding through the Department of Energy's 40101(d) program to support the Initiative (estimated total cost of \$1,348,911).

The project is focused on addressing critical vulnerabilities in the service area. Specifically, an outage on one of the feeder lines included in this project would have a profound impact on the affected communities, which rely heavily on continuous power to support residential, municipal, and business needs. This includes the City of Lakin, where the municipal system is powered by a 34.5 kV line originating from Wheatland's Fletcher Substation. The completion of this project is crucial to preventing prolonged service interruptions that could severely disrupt daily life for over 1,700 cooperative members and 2,200 residents in the City of Lakin.

Wheatland is currently managing over \$5 million in other critical infrastructure projects, significantly stretching its financial resources. As a result, we are at capacity with regard to the number of projects we can pursue, making it impossible to fund this important project without external financial assistance.

The economic realities of our service area further amplify the need for this funding. The pro rata customer cost of the project is estimated to be \$795.35 per member. Given that this project is located in a highly rural and economically disadvantaged region of the state, this cost would impose a significant financial burden on many of our members.

The median household income in the project area is between \$2,000 and \$5,000 lower than the state average, and more than \$10,000 lower than the national average and is highly impoverished. The poverty rate in Census Tract 20093959100 is 15.6%, notably higher than both the state (11.2%) and national (12.5%) averages. This makes it especially difficult for residents in these areas to bear the full cost of this project.

In addition, the communities targeted by the Initiative are located in areas that are designated as disadvantaged by the Department of Energy's Energy Justice Screening Tool and the Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (census tracts 20055960600 and 20093959100). These underserved populations already face multiple challenges, and the successful completion of this project will significantly improve energy reliability and support economic stability in these vulnerable areas.

Without funding from the 40101(d) program, Wheatland will be unable to complete this critical project. The financial burden on our members, combined with the current economic challenges facing the region, makes it clear that external support is essential to ensuring the continued reliability and resilience of our electrical infrastructure.



Provide historical and post project estimated interruption frequency and duration data, if known.	<p>Since 2016, the impacted feeder lines have experienced 20 outages resulting in more than 2 million customer outage minutes. Because these are feeder lines providing power to more than 5% of the cooperative's membership, each of these 20 outages were a significant outage event:</p> <p>Fletcher Substation Feeder (serves City of Lakin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 significant feeder outages since 2016</li> <li>• 226,938 customer outage minutes</li> </ul> <p>Kansas Ave Feeder (serves 796 cooperative meters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 significant feeder outages since 2019</li> <li>• 172,622 customer outage minutes</li> </ul> <p>Jones Feeder (serves 579 cooperative meters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 significant feeder outages since 2016</li> <li>• 1,391,368 customer outage minutes</li> </ul> <p>Lowe Feeder (serves 321 cooperative meters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 significant feeder outages since 2020</li> <li>• 231,542 customer outage minutes</li> </ul> <p>Wheatland has prioritized these projects based on criticality of service and anticipates that the project will significantly reduce outages to these feeders and therefore significantly reducing the number and duration of outages to its affected members.</p>
Provide pro rata customer impact of total project cost.	<p>The Initiative will directly impact roughly 1,700 meters and 2,200 residents in the City of Lakin, which operates its own municipal system from Wheatland's 34.5kV feeder line out of the Fletcher substation. With a total project cost of \$1,348,911, the pro rata cost to impacted members is \$795.35, representing a substantial burden to the impacted members.</p> <p>With aid through the 40101(d) project, the pro rata cost would drop to a more manageable, but still high, \$259.15 per impacted member.</p>
Provide number of customers to be impacted by the project and percentage of impacted customers to total customers in the disadvantaged or underserved community.	<p>The Initiative will impact 1,696 cooperative members directly, and 2,200 additional residents in the City of Lakin who are not direct customers of the cooperative. This represents about 5% of the cooperative's total membership.</p> <p>This is a highly rural region of the state and is significantly economically disadvantaged. The median household income of the region ranges from \$65,000 to \$68,000 annually, \$2 to \$5k lower than the state and about \$10,000 less than the national average. On average, the region's poverty rate is much higher than national and state averages sitting around 15% (11.2% for Kansas and 12.5% for the U.S.).</p> <p>Furthermore, the majority of impacted individuals reside in disadvantaged census tracts per the Department of Energy's Energy Justice Screening Tool and the Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (census tracts 20055960600 and 20093959100).</p>

#### Section 4: Complete Budget and Narrative

Award amount requested: 909378.38

Matching funds to be provided: 439532.88

Budget (Total Costs):

[Budget Template DRAFT.xlsx](#)

Project budget upload (optional):

[Wheatland\\_40101d\\_Project\\_Budget\\_-\\_FINAL.xlsx](#)

Project budget narrative: TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$1,172,966  
15% CONTINGENCY: \$175,945

ROOTED IN RESILIENCE PROJECT COST: \$1,348,911

The Initiative is a system hardening project that focuses on conductor undergrounding, conductor upgrades, and ductile iron pole replacements on key feeder lines serving the Cities of Garden City, Holcomb, and Lakin. The project will occur on four separate lines including:

Jones Substation Undergrounding - \$639,994 (2.75 miles)  
Lowe East Ductile Iron Upgrade - \$374,478 (6 miles)  
Fletcher Substation T2 4/0 & Ductile Iron Upgrade - \$190,748 (1.5 miles)  
Kansas Avenue - \$163,691 (1.5 miles)

Each section of these lines has experienced outages due to ice and wind loads in the past, and these improvements will directly reduce future outages.

Cost match commitment letter:

[Commitment\\_Letter\\_-\\_Signed.pdf](#)

#### Section 5: Project Timeline

Project timeline: Assuming Wheatland receives funds through the 40101(d) program, it anticipates completing the project within 24 months of receiving funding.

#### Section 6: Bids and Estimates

Bids and estimates:

[System\\_Hardening\\_2024\\_Estimates\\_FINAL.xlsx](#)

#### Section 7: Community Benefit

Community benefit narrative: The Initiative will provide far-reaching community benefits that extend well beyond the direct advantages to Wheatland's members, communities, and other area cooperatives. This project will positively impact multiple sectors critical to the region's economic and public well-being, from

communications to agriculture, public services, and healthcare.

One of the key beneficiaries of the Initiative will be the Sunflowers System Control Communication Backup Center, a critical telecommunications facility for the regional generation and transmission provider. The project will also support several other critical communication infrastructure elements, including multiple radio and microwave communication towers that provide essential connectivity to rural areas. These improvements will bolster the region's communication resilience, ensuring reliable systems for both emergency and routine operations.

In the agricultural sector, the Initiative will provide substantial benefits to several major operations that serve as the backbone of the local economy. Notable examples include the Kearny County Feedyard, a large 40,000-head feedlot operation, and Garden City Coop River Valley Terminal, a critical grain transportation hub that supports the region's farmers. Additionally, major agricultural businesses such as Brookover Cattle Co. and Jones Cattle Co. Feedyard will benefit from the enhanced reliability of the power supply, which is essential for their operations.

The Initiative will also provide significant benefits to the public sector, directly impacting essential services throughout the region. The City of Holcomb's sewer lift stations, fire department, EMS, and police rely on consistent power from Wheatland's system to maintain public safety and health. The Wheatland Water Plant, which serves multiple communities, will also benefit from the increased grid resiliency, ensuring the continuous provision of water to local residents.

Similarly, the City of Lakin, which depends on Wheatland's power for its water wells, sewer lift stations, fire services, EMS, and the Sheriff's office, will see major improvements in its ability to serve the public effectively and without interruption. These enhanced services are vital for the region's overall safety and well-being.

The Kearny County Hospital, located in Lakin, is another critical beneficiary of this project. As a critical access hospital, it serves as the primary health center for the surrounding area, and uninterrupted power is essential to the facility's ability to provide life-saving medical services. The project will ensure that this healthcare facility, and others like it in the region, are able to operate smoothly, even in the face of potential power disruptions.

The initiative will have widespread positive impacts across multiple sectors. It will enhance the reliability of critical infrastructure that serves agriculture, communications, public safety, and healthcare, ensuring a more resilient and connected region overall. The benefits to businesses, public services, and the health sector will create a stronger, more sustainable community, benefiting not only Wheatland's members but also the broader region.

Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the targeted areas of each proposed project.	The 4 feeders targeted in the Initiative have experienced 20 outages since 2016 resulting in more than 2 million customer outage minutes. Because these are feeder lines, each of these outages represents a significant outage event, underlining the importance of these projects.
Provide expected changes to the historical data as a result of each proposed project.	Wheatland expects the Initiative to have a significant impact on the number of outages on these lines. The majority of the outages on these lines occur due to heavy ice and wind loads during significant storms and other weather events. Undergrounding lines and reinforcing sections of the feeders with ductile iron poles reduces the most vulnerable failure points of these lines and will significantly reduce the number of outage events.
Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the entire system to determine whether the project is in an area that has, on average, more frequent or longer duration outages.	Annual SAIDI - 183.9 (2021), 184.8 (2022), 360.9 (2023) Annual SAIFI - 1.24 interruptions (2021), 2.38 interruptions (2022), 1.27 interruptions (2023) Annual CAIDI - 150 (2021), 75 (2022), 380 (2023)
Provide age of system or line segments to be replaced or repaired, type of equipment that failed, and the number of annual outages for the project area.	<p>On average, the impacted infrastructure is relatively modern ranging from 20 to 36 years old. However, Wheatland formed its Initiative based on criticality of infrastructure rather than the age, or even overall number of outages. Other lines on the system have higher frequencies of outages, but many of these are either (1) already being addressed in other active projects, (2) are shorter outages, or (3) impact significantly fewer members.</p> <p>Jones Feeder – infrastructure installed in 1998 Lowe Feeder – infrastructure installed in 1996 Kansas Ave Feeder – infrastructure installed in 2004 Fletcher Substation Feeder – infrastructure installed in 1988</p> <p>Despite being significantly newer than other infrastructure on Wheatland’s system, these feeder lines experience a disproportionately larger number of outages due to significant weather events and therefore must be replaced.</p>
Provide a number of protective devices (fuses or breakers) that have operated more than once in a rolling 12-month period.	184 protective devices have operated more than once in the last 12 months.

Provide a number of customers impacted by project and the percentage to total customers served in Kansas.	<p>The project will directly impact 1,696 cooperative members and 2,200 residents of the City of Lakin, which operates its municipal system from a 34.5kV line provided by the cooperative.</p> <p>Of Wheatland's 32,467 members, 32,411 are located within the state of Kansas. The Initiative will impact 5.23% of Wheatland's membership base located in the state.</p>
Description of efforts to attract, train, and retrain a skilled workforce for this project.	Wheatland has a 4-year lineman apprenticeship program as well as substation and metering apprenticeship programs. We also send several groups of linemen to KEC and Mesa hotline schools each year. We have also provided instructors for KEC's meter and transformer training and we are looking to provide similar internal training based on this program this year.
Provide an estimate of job creation due to this project.	Wheatland does not plan to create any new jobs as a result of this project.
Identify any plans to partner with training providers to support workforce development.	Wheatland is always exploring opportunities to grow and upskill its workforce. While there are no new initiatives under development, Wheatland plans to continue working to develop talent locally through its apprenticeship programs and partnering with KEC's training programs by providing instructors for its programs.
Provide any other metric(s) that indicates potential community benefit.	None
Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Davis-Bacon Act requirements.	Yes
Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Buy America Requirements.	Yes
Confirmation that the applicant will submit an environmental questionnaire (NETL Form 451.1-1-3), if required, for each work area proposed in the application.	Yes