

Barber County Accepted into NetWork Kansas eCommunity Partnership Program

Barber County has been accepted into the **NetWork Kansas eCommunity Partnership Program**, a statewide initiative that helps rural communities strengthen entrepreneurship, expand business opportunities, and build long-term economic vitality through locally driven leadership.

The successful application was developed through a partnership between **Barber County Development (BCD)** and **Barber County United (BCU)**. Together, the organizations combined their strengths in economic development, community engagement, strategic planning, grant development, and implementation to establish a framework that supports entrepreneurs and strengthens Barber County's future.

As part of the eCommunity program, Barber County will gain access to technical assistance, statewide entrepreneurial resources, networking opportunities, and business financing tools. The county will also establish an **eCommunity Leadership Team** to guide local strategy and a **Financial Review Board** that will evaluate business loan applications through the NetWork Kansas revolving loan program, ensuring local lending decisions remain in local hands.

Unlike traditional economic development efforts focused primarily on business recruitment, the eCommunity model invests in entrepreneurs, local leadership, innovation, and community collaboration to create lasting economic growth.

Over the coming months, Barber County Development will begin organizing the leadership teams, establishing local processes, and introducing new entrepreneurial resources throughout Barber County.

Read the complete announcement below to learn more about this exciting new partnership and what it means for Barber County's future.