The Kansas Rural Preservation program will provide grants to owners of historic properties in rural Kansas communities. This sub-grant program was funded in 2020 through a $500,000 grant to the Kansas Historical Society from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program, administered by the National Park Service.

What properties are eligible for funding?
Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as a contributing property in a National Register-listed historic district or properties determined eligible for listing may benefit from this grant. The property must be within a community with a population of less than 30,000 according to the 2010 U.S. Census and provide justification of their rural location as part of the application. To confirm eligibility, you may search online at www.kshs.org/14638 to see if your property is listed in the National Register or contact the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at 785-272-8681, ext. 240; or kshs.shpo@ks.gov.

Who is eligible to apply?
The grant applicant must own the property. If the property has more than one owner, the application must include proof of agreement by all parties to apply. Property owners may not be the State or Federal Governments.

How much can a grantee receive for one project?
Grantees can receive between $5,000 and $50,000. The grant reimburses 90 percent of eligible project activities up to the award amount and grant recipients shall provide 10 percent of the cost of eligible project activities as match. In-kind services and indirect costs are not accepted as a matching share. Please note that the applicant’s cash match is eligible for rehabilitation tax credits if that amount exceeds $5,000.

What work items are eligible for funding?
All work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards & Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. Eligible activities include professional services (architect and engineering fees) and projects involving the preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of an eligible property. Preparation of architectural/engineering plans and specifications cannot exceed 20% of the total construction cost. Repairs involving building components such as walls, partitions, floors, ceilings, doors, windows, stairs, chimneys, roofing, and fire escapes are eligible activities. Projects involving the preservation or restoration of historic non-building properties such as archeological sites, parks, cemeteries, bridges, and monuments are also eligible. Because this grant is supported by funding administered by the National Park Service, projects must follow federal project requirements including competitive selection of contractors and consultants. In addition, an easement will be placed on the property following the project completion.

What are the grant deadlines?
Final applications are due March 1, 2021 by midnight. Grants will be awarded May 8, 2021.

Grant Workshops
The SHPO staff will offer a workshop specific to this program in December 2020. Staff will discuss the application process, approaches to writing the application, and answer questions about the program. Contact the SHPO at 785-272-8681, ext. 240; or kshs.shpo@ks.gov to be notified when the date and time for this workshop is announced. Workshop information will also be posted at www.kshs.org/20430.

Applications and detailed program information are available upon request.