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**CPRG IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS COMPETITION
COVER PAGE FOR APPLICATION**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization	North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC)
Primary Contact Name	Keegan Bailey, Housing Director
Phone Number	785-738-2218
Email Address	housing@ncrpc.org

TYPE OF APPLICATION ☒ Individual Applicant ☐ Lead Applicant for a Coalition
If lead applicant for a coalition, provide a list of the coalition members below.

FUNDING REQUESTED: *Provide total EPA CPRG Implementation Grant funding requested.*

\$ 3,000,000

APPLICATION TITLE: *Provide the title of your proposed project.*

NCRPC Moderate Income HVAC Emission Reduction Program & Weatherization
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GHG MEASURES: *Describe each GHG reduction measure contained in the application (1-2 sentences each).*

The GHG reduction measures are aimed to reduce the amount of emissions through replacement of more Energy Efficient HVAC systems addressing the pollutants that may be currently dispersed. The Weatherization Gap funding will allow additional flexibility to assist with the energy efficiency of the weatherization program that NCRPC administers.

SECTORS: *Identify the sector(s) associated with the GHG reduction measures included in the application.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial and Residential Buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity Generation | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste and Materials Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) | <input type="text"/> |

EXPECTED TOTAL CUMULATIVE GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS

For all proposed measures combined, provide the estimated cumulative GHG reductions:

Estimated cumulative GHG reductions for 2025-2030 (in metric tons)

240

Estimated cumulative GHG reductions from 2025-2050 (in metric tons)

6,000

LOCATIONS: *List the primary location(s) where the proposed measures will be implemented*

City 12 counties: Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline, and Washington

State; Territory; Federally recognized Tribe Kansas

APPLICABLE PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN(S) (PCAP) ON WHICH MEASURES ARE BASED

PCAP Lead Organization(s): Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

PCAP Title(s): Kansas Emission Reduction and Mitigation Plan

PCAP Website link(s) (if applicable): <http://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2071/> and https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36022/Kansas_PriorityActionPlan_Final

List of GHG reduction measures and PCAP page reference for each measure:

Buildings (residential)-Page 12

ERAMP-Supporting Documentation

NCRPC Housing Initiative

In Kansas, where temperature extremes are a norm, the necessity for more energy-efficient HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) units is paramount. With scorching summers and bitter winters, the demand for indoor climate control is constant, leading to substantial energy consumption. Energy-efficient HVAC units not only reduce electricity bills but also alleviate strain on the power grid, contributing to overall environmental sustainability. In a state where both residential and commercial sectors heavily rely on HVAC systems, transitioning to energy-efficient models promises significant savings and a reduced carbon footprint. Embracing these technologies in Kansas isn't just about comfort; it's a crucial step towards a more resilient and environmentally conscious future.

The NCRPC is seeking CPRG/ERAMP funding for two (2) specific housing programs (Weatherization Gap Funding, and Moderate-Income Housing HVAC Rehabilitation). The timeline would be over a five (5) year period beginning at a time of award with the moderate-income housing rehabilitation to the twelve (12) county NCRPC Service area. Or as quickly as the funding would be expended within each of the counties. The weatherization gap funding will be available to all 41 counties that NCRPC serves. The NCRPC Housing Department will allocate the funds to the NCRPC Weatherization Program as needed per communication with inspectors and Weatherization Director. The funds will be available until they are exhausted. NCRPC staff will oversee the planning, implementation, and administration/facilitation of each program.

In 2021, the state of Kansas completed a statewide housing assessment. One of the major goals that Kansans needed to address within the assessment was the strengthening of the already existing housing stock to ensure affordability and safety. One of the biggest housing rehabilitation needs has been documented through the work of the NCRPC is efficient and environmentally safe heating and cooling.

The NCRPC has staff members that will be assigned to this project that possess over 50 years of combined experience working with federal and state funded housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs. The NCRPC is fully capable of performing the tasks needed to aid in the implementation of a successful program. The NCRPC housing staff has developed various methodologies that address time and distance issues, which has allowed this agency to deliver the Kansas weatherization services over a 41-county area within north central and north western Kansas. These same methodologies have proved successful in providing housing inspection, lead assessment and asbestos inspection services to a number of cities within a broad geographic area in Northwest, Southwest and North Central Kansas. In addition, the past two years, the NCRPC staff has developed and administered a similar program of rehabilitation (on a wide scale rehab project base) and weatherization gap project funding with a private funder within Northcentral/ Northwest Kansas. We believe with the reporting and past performance of these pilot programs has set the framework for an easy implementation and execution.

Moderate Income Rehab Pilot:

The moderate-income rehabilitation program will allow under-served housing stocks by other programs to be preserved by this program. Homeowners will then have a viable home with upgraded HVAC system that will reduce air pollution (HCFCs) and lower energy costs. The program details are as follows:

- a. Offered to twelve (12) counties (Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline, and Washington).

- b. Each county will be eligible for up to \$216,650.
- c. A minimum of 20 grants for each County administered as follows:
 - i. Grants up to \$10,000 to help with HVAC;
 - ii. Homeowner must provide 10% match of grant funds or up to \$1,000;
 - iii. Homeowners must sign a letter of intent which includes their commitment to provide the 10% match, as well as pay any costs above and beyond the \$10,000 grant.
 - iv. The NCRPC will provide a reimbursement after proof of payment to the contractor, financial institution, or material supplier has been received.
 - v. Each property owner must provide a completed application to reserve their spot to obtain the funds. Once a completed application is received and verified; notification will be sent to the property owner. This will reserve their slot within the program.
 - vi. Any HVAC unit 10 years or older, much be replaced with ENERGY STAR certified equipment. New furnaces shall be a minimum of 92 or better percent efficient. Air conditioning units should have a SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating of 14 or better.
- d. NCRPC will oversee the program distribution.
- e. Owner must provide proof of completion of the project from the contractors and photographs of the improvements to receive the grant funding.
- f. If the self-help (a HVAC contractor who works on their own home) option is utilized rather than hiring of a contractor, material only will be reimbursed and proof of payment will be required.
- g. Proof of the household income will be determined from the last annual tax form 1040. No tax extensions will be allowed. The income limits will be the following:

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
Maximum Income	\$96,300	\$109,950	\$123,750	\$137,550	\$148,500	\$159,600	\$170,550	\$181,500
Minimum Income	\$38,520	\$43,980	\$50,000	\$61,000	\$71,000	\$81,000	\$91,000	\$102,000

- h. Rental owners/property are not eligible for this program.

Weatherization Gap/Readiness Program Pilot:

The NCRPC currently serves as the program director for weatherization services in all 41 counties of Kansas through a partnership with the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Clients deemed eligible typically receive new furnaces, window sealing or new windows, weather stripping, insulation, and other work to make their homes more energy efficient. However, homes that have leaky roofs, knob and tube wiring, or other substandard structural problems, cannot be benefited from the weatherization program. These structural problems create a service gap that needs addressing; residents who qualify for weatherization services are low-income individuals and have difficulty finding funding to make such improvements. The consequence is that NCRPC has to defer most of these clients, and they are the most in need.

We ask that a grant fund be established, open to all 41 counties that NCRPC serves, which could provide these low-income residents financial assistance to rehab their homes to a point that they can receive weatherization services. Overtime, we feel this will greatly improve the housing stock of the region. Also, since NCRPC has already income qualified clients before doing the initial inspections on their homes, we will know for sure anyone receiving this additional grant funding will be low income.

1. We propose \$100,000 be set aside annually for low-income grants for specific housing improvements.
2. This funding will provide a minimum of 20 - \$5,000 grants to low-income residents. Not every client will need the full \$5,000 to complete their improvements. NCRPC reserves the right to issue a waiver to go above the \$5,000 cap, should the need be necessary.
3. NCRPC's Housing department in conjunction with the Weatherization program will oversee the distribution of this grant funding throughout the 41 counties. It will be easily implemented into our existing process.
4. NCRPC will locate and hire local contractors to provide estimates and complete the rehab work. Contractors will invoice NCRPC directly.
5. NCRPC will work with the weatherization department to determine the specific list of improvements which will be covered by this grant funding.

Implementation Timeline:

Year 1 to Year 5:

October 2024-Hopeful award announcement, program adjustments, if determined necessary by EPA

January 2025-Launch programs if approved

January 2025-December 2029- Program operation and required reporting

December 2029- Final reporting

Synopsis and Benefit:

If our pilot programs are funded, the funds will be utilized for grants for the Weatherization and MIH HVAC Rehab clients. The funds will also be used for staff time and overhead to ensure that the programs are properly completed and that reports are issued in a timely fashion.

This funding will be used to expand and support such projects as listed in this application and can provide greenhouse gas reductions of approximately one metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions per home annually according to the U.S. Department of Energy¹. Based on this estimate, the magnitude of GHG reduction for a 5-year period would be a reduction of 1,200 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions for the estimated number of units to be served/upgraded. The magnitude for a 25-year period would be 6,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emission reduction. If a HVAC unit is more than 10 years old, it could save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs, therefore also reducing greenhouse gases³.

The NCRPC hopes to make an impact of 240 homes through the moderate-income housing HVAC rehabilitation initiative. The Weatherization pilot estimates that there will be 20 homes that will need the assistance to ensure that the home can be weatherized. The funds will be available until they are exhausted.

The moderate-income rehabilitation program will allow under-served housing stocks by other programs to be preserved by this program. Homeowners will then have a viable home with upgraded HVAC system that will reduce air pollution (HCFCs) and lower energy costs.

Nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, volatile organic compounds, and trace amounts of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter (pages 8-9)². Greenhouse gas reduction quantifications will vary by age and type of appliance being replaced but can be tracked and calculated easily on a case-by-case basis of project completed. NCRPC will utilize an formula that is already utilized by NCRPC to determine the analysis of the mechanical equipment/HVAC.

This initiative will help benefit the housing stock of north central/north west Kansas by HVAC rehabilitation of moderate-income housing, and assisting homes to gain weatherization assistance. These efforts will add value to the housing stock, safety of the community, and assist in energy efficiency.

¹U.S. Department of Energy, Weatherization Assistance Program factsheet,
https://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/wap_factsheet.pdf

²Kansas Emission Reduction and Mitigation Plan: KDHE ERAMP Priority Action Plan
https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36022/Kansas_PriorityActionPlan_Final

³Energy Star, When is it time to replace fact sheet,
<https://www.energystar.gov/saveathome/heating-cooling/replace>

Budget Narrative/Justification

Personnel

Keegan Bailey – Housing Director at NCRPC will contribute 60% of her time to Project management which will include general project leadership, convening participating households, processing of applications and data associated with emissions and all reporting responsibilities for the project.

\$53,339/year for 60 months X 60% = \$160,017

Pepper Roberg – Office Manager at NCRPC will contribute 5% of her time to managing the project financial requests and distributions and coordinate with the audit firm.

\$62,609/year for 60 months X 5% = \$15,652.25

Lori Thielen – Communications Specialist at NCRPC will contribute 15% of her time to publishing results of the project and coordinate with the project manager to aid in development additional social media/newspaper/web site presence to highlight the project.

\$44,246/year for 60 months x 15% = \$33,184.50

TOTAL - \$208,853.75

Fringe/ Supplies/Travel/Overhead

Fringe benefits are calculated at 39% for all the above staff including a prorated share of health insurance, vacation, sick leave, federal withholding, workman's compensation etc.

TOTAL - \$208,853.75 X 39% = \$81,452.96

Supplies/Travel/Overhead

Consumables for office and also hosting meetings with partners and participating counties

TOTAL - \$9,893.29

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS: \$300,200.00

Project Grant Amounts

Moderate Income Housing HVAC Rehab

Total- \$2,599,800

Weatherization Readiness/Efficiency

Total- \$100,000.00

Project Local Match Amounts:

Moderate Income Housing HVAC Rehab Match

Total-\$259,980.00

GRAND TOTAL PROGRAM COST: \$3,259,980.00

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2024 ERAMP APPLICATION BUDGET

ERAMP Demonstration Budget					ERAMP Impacted Numbers		
Program	Annual Allocation per County	Annual # of Counties	Total Annual Funding		Units per County	Annual Target # of Households Impacted	Cost per Household
2 Moderate Income Rehabilitation	\$ 216,650	12	\$ 2,599,800		20	240	\$ 10,833
Subtotal: Resident Investment	\$ 216,650		\$ 2,599,800				
Weatherization							
1 Home energy efficiency improvements	N/A	41	\$ 100,000		N/A	20	\$ 5,000
NCRPC Staffing MIH Program							
NCRPC Overhead			\$ 200,000				
			\$ 100,200				
Subtotal: Administration			\$ 300,200				
Total ERAMP Investment			\$ 3,000,000				

Technical Appendix

By implementing energy-efficient technologies in residential homes, these measures will comprehensively and swiftly work towards a more sustainable future for generations to come. The replacement of the inefficient HVAC housing infrastructures, will help meet objectives in regard to the reduction of climate pollution. The data listed below explains the assumptions and methodology for the estimated GHG emissions.

The formula utilized will be:

$$\text{Old Unit} \div \text{New Unit} = X$$

$$1-X=\text{Reduction of GHG Emissions Rate}$$