

F.O.R.G.E. Grants

FOSTERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH, GROWTH, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Kansas Fostering Opportunities for Research, Growth, and Entrepreneurship (FORGE) program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, is designed to support and accelerate innovation activities within state universities to create New economic activity in Kansas.



Mission: To cultivate a dynamic culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across Kansas driven by our state's higher education institutions.

Key Sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace & Defense
- Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation
- Food and Agriculture
- Animal Health and Biosciences
- Transformative Technologies, including EV batteries

Scoring Rubric for FORGE Grant – Capital Improvement

	EXEMPLARY (5 PTS)	ADEQUATE (3 PTS)	MARGINAL (1 PTS)	MISSING (0 PTS)	SCORE	COMMENTS
PROJECT NEED	Provides a clear and thorough explanation of project need.	Provides an adequate explanation of project need.	Provides an unorganized explanation of project need.	Explanation of project need missing.		
GOALS AND OUTCOMES	Provides clear goals and outcomes that align with the organization's vision and goals and those of the greater community.	Provides goals and outcomes that align with the organization's goals or the goals of the greater community, but not both.	Provides goals and outcomes that are insignificant to the organization's goals and the greater community.	Goals and outcomes not provided.		
SUSTAINABILITY	Evidence presented that project, or its impact, can be sustained locally beyond grant period, if results warrant.	Project is temporary, designed to end when grant ends, or some effort to secure commitment beyond grant period is presented.	Plans for future are stated as assumptions without supporting arguments or evidence.	No meaningful plans for future beyond funding term appear in proposal.		
EVALUATION	Presents clear explanation of how the grant will have a measurable impact on the business.	Presents an adequate explanation of how the grant will affect the business.	Presents an unclear explanation of how the grant will affect the business.	Impact of the grant is missing.		
CONTRIBUTION	Applicant's contribution to the project exceeds the required 5:1 match.	Applicant's contribution to the project meets the required 5:1 match.	Applicant is unable to meet the required 5:1 match but can match some funds.	Applicant is unable to provide any matching funds.		