

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: Matthew A. Volz, PE, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-098-NCRPC

Date: April 11, 2025

Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, 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 10 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – executive summary, pages 9-11.

Project Overview

The Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. seeks funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funding available through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for their Load Centers and Transmission Line project which involves installing steel and concrete poles to strengthen transmission lines against high wind events and replace aging infrastructure with modern load centers for improved reliability.

This opportunity is a discretionary IJA program with a local match requirement of 25% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$950,000.00 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$50,000.00. This request has the potential to unlock \$3,000,000.00 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$4,000,000.00.

The deadline to is to be determined and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on October 21, 2024.

Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on April 9, 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	2025-098-NCRPC
Applicant Name	Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
Application Date Received	10/21/2024
Project Name	Load Centers and Transmission Line Project
Project Description	Install steel and concrete poles to strengthen transmission lines against high wind events and replace aging infrastructure with modern load centers for improved reliability.
Entity Type	Non-profit
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	NCRPC
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Resilience
BIL Program	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Implementation
BIL Application Deadline	Paused - TBD
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$950,000.00
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided general, BIL Application, and BKF Application support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$950,000.00 will unlock \$3,000,000.00 in federal IIJA funding, with a local cash contribution of \$50,000.00 for a total project cost of \$4,000,000.00.
Steering Committee Funding Recommendation	4/9/2025 Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>
Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation	4/16/2025 Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/>

Title	Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.	10/21/2024
	by Kathleen O'Brien in Build Kansas Fund Application	id. 48591748
	kmobrien@nemaha-marshall.coop	

Original Submission	04/01/2025
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Score	n/a
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Part 1: Applicant Information

The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
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Project Name:	Load Centers and Transmission Line
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Entity type:	Non-Profit
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Applicant Contact Name:	Kathleen O'Brien
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	General Manager
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17857362345
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	kmobrien@nemaha-marshall.coop
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Applicant Contact Address:	P O Box O
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	402 Prairie Street
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Applicant Contact City:	Axtell
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip Code:	66403
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Is the Project Contact the same as the Applicant Contact? Yes

Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

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? Nemaha 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](#)

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.

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

What is the funding agency for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity? 97.047

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

Application Type: Implementation

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

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity: \$3,000,000.00 for a total project cost of \$4,000,000.00

Enter the total project cost: \$4,000,000.00

Enter the required non-federal match percentage: 25%

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.

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$950,000.00 for a total project cost of \$4,000,000.00

Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$50,000.00 for a total project cost of \$4,000,000.00

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

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](#)

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

What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? \$0

Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match? \$0

What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each. \$0

What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match? \$0

Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project: We have previously applied for funding through the KCC 40101d program and was not selected for an award. We have also applied for an RUS Loan to cover any unfunded project costs.

Part 6: Additional Information

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:

[BRIC_Executive_Summary-Load_Centers.docx](#)

Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional): The total estimated cost for the project is \$4,000,000, which includes equipment procurement, installation, engineering, and metering: for example, a substation transformer alone costs over \$350,000. The cost of the transmission pole replacement has not been bid, but we used our historical pole replacement cost in estimating the total cost of this project.

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Understanding of Fund Release Requirements: checked

Understanding of Use of Funds: checked

Understanding of Reporting Requirements: checked

Authority to Make Grant Application: checked

Persons and Titles: Kathleen O'Brien
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Position/Title: General Manager

Additional: Patrick Holthaus

Position/Title: Line Superintendent

Additional: Justin Burdick

Position/Title: Accountant

Additional: Kimberly Broxterman

Position/Title: Office Manager

Source	Amount	% of Project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$ 950,000.00	23.75%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$ 50,000.00	1.25%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$ -	
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$ 3,000,000.00	75%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$ -	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 4,000,000.00	100%

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

Zip Code	% of project in zip code
66404	25%
66415	25%
66538	25%
66518	25%
	100% in Kansas

Executive Summary for The Build Kansas Matching Fund Application

October 31, 2024

BRIC Grant Application Project Title: Transmission Pole Replacement and Load Centers
Applicant Organization: Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
Location: P.O. Box O; 402 Prairie Street; Axtell, Kansas 66403
Phone: 785-736-2345
Email: kmobrien@nemaha-marshall.coop

Introduction

In recent years, our service territory in Jackson, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, and Washington counties has seen an increase in high wind events. These wind events have caused extended outages to critical infrastructure needed for the safety of rural residents and rural water districts, railroad signals, etc. To mitigate these risks, we propose the installation of steel and concrete poles on our transmission line that directly feeds over six hundred homes and indirectly 2,700 homes through interconnections. These steel and concrete poles address climate resiliency by using poles that withstand higher climate impacts and last longer than traditional wood poles. In 2024 alone, we have had three instances of high wind affecting this line. At the same time, we also propose removing two Evergy substations, all the fencing and bus work and replacing them with load centers that are basically a padmount transformer with associated regulating and protective equipment. We believe these projects align with FEMA's goals of providing resilience in infrastructure while prioritizing safety, reliability, and community protection.

Background

Historically, our service territory has experienced several high wind events, one becoming a FEMA disaster from December 2021. These events have exposed a risk to our transmission line that directly feeds over six hundred homes and indirectly 2,700 homes through interconnections. In 2024 alone, we have had three instances of high wind affecting this line. The first was April 30th when a tornado took out poles. The second was June 26th when we had a high wind event. And the third was October 30 with another high wind event causing more poles to be broken. With the increase in severity of wind events we are proposing this project that replaces wood poles with steel and concrete poles to withstand increased wind speeds and have at least double the life span of a traditional wood pole. Steel and concrete poles are designed to last 80-100 years while a modern wood pole is projected to have a lifespan of 35 years. This hardening of the line will mitigate risks of power outages to critical infrastructure, especially the numerous water wells, railroad signals, gas pumping stations, and other emergency services. The load centers will help us continue to provide service to delivery points that Evergy is planning to alter or abandon due to aging facilities. This will put control of the delivery of power to rural residents in the ownership and reliability control of Nemaha-Marshall. The Evergy assets are definitely end of life. We believe these projects provide resilience in infrastructure while prioritizing safety, reliability, and community protection.

Project Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of this project is to prevent the loss of life and property through hardening of sixteen miles of transmission line and building two load centers to replace aging Evergy delivery points. The objectives include:

1. **Installation of Steel and Stressed Concrete Poles:** Install galvanized steel poles and stressed concrete poles along D Road in Nemaha County. These poles have 2-3 times the life of a traditional wood pole.
2. **Enhance Electric System Reliability:** Infrastructure improvements reduce outages and improve resilience to climate impacts.
3. **Mitigate Wind Event Risks:** Significantly decrease the instances of outages to nearly 2,700 rural homes and other critical infrastructure.

Project Implementation

This project will use existing staking sheets that have identified the best places for steel poles and stressed concrete poles along D Road in Nemaha County. Simultaneously we will collaborate with landowners to secure land for the load centers and work with our engineer on design of the load centers. As such, we will:

1. **Procure Equipment:** Acquire galvanized steel poles from Valmont and stressed concrete poles from a concrete pole manufacturer in Atchison, Kansas, and order padmount transformers using the same specifications as other local utilities thereby having ready spares in the event of equipment failure.
2. **Installation:** We will use our qualified linemen to install the transmission poles in the same holes as the old poles and remount the wires to the new poles. After load center design work is done by a qualified engineer then our linemen will build the new load centers.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** We will monitor and evaluate the reduction in outages to gauge our improved resilience by utilizing our outage management system.

Budget and Funding

The total estimated cost for the project is \$4,000,000, which includes equipment procurement, installation, engineering, and metering: for example, a substation transformer alone costs over \$350,000. The cost of the transmission pole replacement has not been bid, but we used our historical pole replacement cost in estimating the total cost of this project. We are seeking funding through the FEMA BRIC grant program and matching funds through the Build Kansas Matching Fund to cover these expenses. We also have access to a Rural Utilities Service loan program if necessary.

Conclusion

The installation of steel and concrete poles provides a large step toward improving our resilience to high wind events and helps the local economy by purchasing concrete poles manufactured in Atchison, Kansas and steel poles that are galvanized in Salina, Kansas. By building our own load centers we are improving the reliability and safe delivery of power to nearly 2,700 rural homes and other critical infrastructure. These projects not only protect lives and property but also aligns with FEMA's vision of fostering sustainable and resilient infrastructure. We are committed to implementing this project and look forward to the opportunity to partner with FEMA and the Build Kansas Matching Fund Committee to enhance our area's safety and resilience.

Contact Information:

Kathleen M. O'Brien
General Manager
Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative
P O Box O, 402 Prairie Street
Axtell, Kansas 66403
785-736-2345
kmobrien@nemaha-marshall.coop