



Harvey
County
Economic
Development

Collaborative • Global • Growth

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

LEADERSHIP

Ken Knepper | President

Newton Chamber of Commerce

Tim Sweigart | Vice-President

City of Hesston

Ron Lang | Treasurer

Newton Chamber of Commerce

Carl Harris | Executive Member

City of Newton

Jason Jones | Executive Member

City of Hesston

Karl Matlack | Executive Member

City of Burrton

Rod Kreie | Executive Member

City of Newton

MEMBERS

Bob Myers

City of Newton

Dan Hartman

City of Sedgwick

Dennis Travis

City of Halstead

Ethan Reimer

City of Halstead

Jeremy Ashby

City of Walton

Joel Gaeddert

City of North Newton

Dr. Jon Gering

City of North Newton

Kenneth Mullins

Harvey County

Kim Ryan

The City of Burrton

Kyle Nordick

City of Sedgwick

Melvin Schadler

Harvey County

Terry Scott

Harvey County

Tony Wheeler

City of Walton

EX-OFFICIO

Andrea Braker

Hesston Chamber of Commerce

Bradley Harris

City of North Newton

Daniela Rivas

City of Newton

Jason Thrasher

City of Hesston

Kevin Frymier

Harvey County

Marla Villanueva

City of Walton

Pam Stevens

Newton Chamber of Commerce

Message from HCEDC President Ken Knepper

Gratitude is the word that comes to mind as I prepare to step down as your Harvey County Economic Development President. I'm grateful for the trust you placed in me and for your support in what we accomplished together.

Serving as president over the past year has been tremendously rewarding. And I'm filled with optimism about the long-term success of our efforts.

We continued to build a sense of community through friendships and support of each other. Together, it helped sow the seeds of success with construction underway on GAF's manufacturing facility in our county's logistics park; construction that nears completion at Hillsboro Industries new truck bed manufacturing building; and a metal fabrication expansion at CD Customs. We welcomed a new company, Olympus Filters, into our county and we saw expansion at existing manufacturers Avcon Industries at the City/ County Airport, Stinger, Inc. in Burrton, and Midwest Transformers in Hesston. Beth and her team also responded to regional, national and international industry inquiries about our county almost daily.

To the members of our EDC board of directors, thank you for your dedication to growing the industrial sector in Harvey County. The experience and wisdom you bring to each board meeting is invaluable and I hope you continue your work in shaping a bright future for the Harvey County Economic Development Council.

To Executive Director Beth Shelton and Jennifer Mueller, our retention and expansion manager, your work is paramount in our county's growth. We're fortunate to have you as representatives and most importantly ambassadors to Harvey County and I am confident you will continue growing relationships locally and regionally in support of our mission.

And finally, to our incoming president, Tim Sweigart, your business acumen is a tremendous asset as our incoming president, and I look forward to seeing our successes multiply under your leadership. I've served on the board of directors since 2016 and while I'm stepping down as president, I remain committed to our mission. Economic development achievements take the work of an active board of directors, participation by our city and county governments, as well as input from an engaged public.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Harvey County's future. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president.

Ken Knepper

Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
The Citizens State Bank



BUSINESS GROWTH

Recruitment, retention, and expansion are core components of our work at Harvey County Economic Development. We currently have over 28 projects in our pipeline and are continually searching for new opportunities to compliment our thriving manufacturing sector. Through collaborative efforts and dedication, we are pleased to report continued growth in 2025.



\$8.6M

**TOTAL CAPITAL
INVESTMENT**

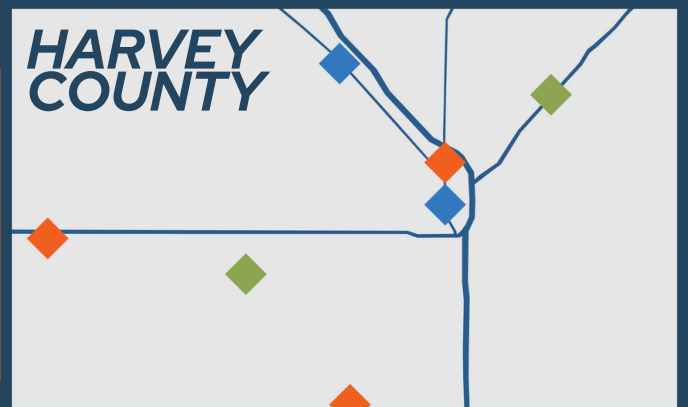
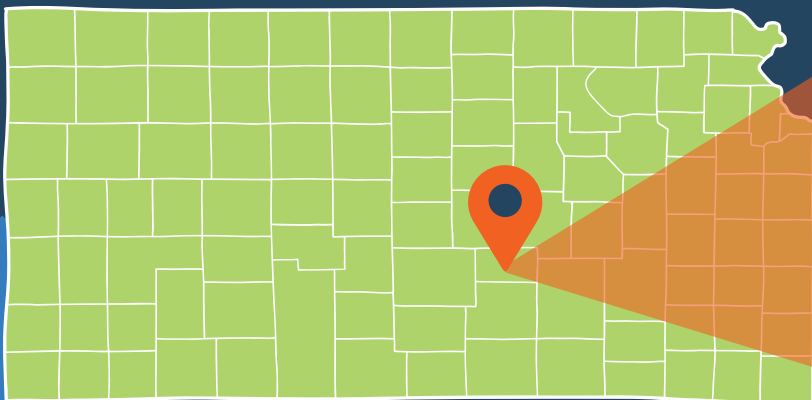


75

**NEW JOBS
CREATED**



The following companies expanded or located in Harvey County:



BUSINESS RETENTION

HCEDC's formalized retention program was created to support the thriving manufacturing base in Harvey County. Through our partnerships, we assist manufacturing, whether they're growing or facing challenges. Our goal is to help companies succeed through intentional and consistent engagement. Business services provided include:



Economic Incentive Assistance



Workforce Solutions



Global Marketing Support



Strategic Connection



Export Training

71

RETENTION VISITS YTD

34

LOCAL COMPANIES ASSISTED YTD



A LOOK TOWARD 2026...

The landscape of economic development is ever changing and HCEDC works hard to stay in tune with site location needs as they evolve. We are excited to review the Garner Report presented today and implement recommendations to help us achieve our goals of making Harvey County not only an outstanding place to work but also live. With the industrial success of the past few years, 2026 will be a time to invest in thoughtful industrial product development. Harvey County collectively has positioned itself well with rail served, infrastructure ready land options and we will continue to build upon that strength, while evaluating new growth opportunities.

TOP 10 CURRENT SITE LOCATION FACTORS: YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON *Source: Area Development Corporate Survey

2024

Labor Costs

Skilled Labor

Environmental Regulations

Tax Exemptions

ICT/Broadband

Right to Work State

Quality of Life

Energy Costs

Corporate Tax Rate

Highway Accessibility

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

2025

Labor Costs

Quality of Life

Energy Availability

Energy Costs

Skilled Labor

Responsiveness

ICT/Broadband

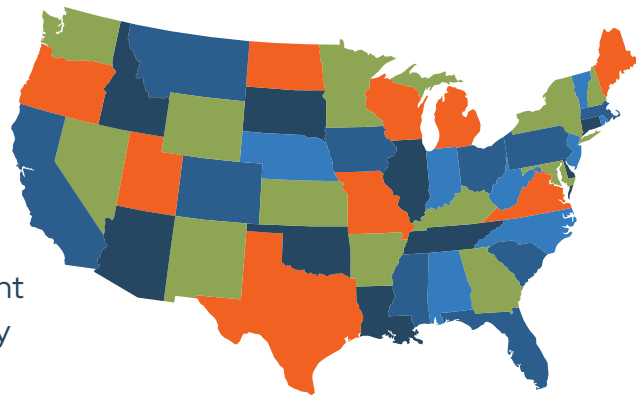
Environmental Regulations

Construction Costs

Property Tax

GLOBAL MARKETING

Marketing events and site selector engagement opportunities allow HCEDC to build relationships and showcase Harvey County to the world. These events are a way to keep our industrial assets top of mind for site selectors and businesses evaluating location decisions. The HCEDC staff also attends professional development conferences throughout the year, keeping in tune with a constantly changing industry, and connecting with our peers.



SEP. 2024

Marketing Events

IMTS | Chicago, IL

Professional Development

KEDA | Manhattan, KS

OCT. 2024

Marketing Events

Fabtech | Orlando, FL
NBAA | Las Vegas, NV

Professional Development

AEDL | Kansas City, MO

NOV. 2024

Marketing Events

Economix | SLC, NV
Pack Expo | Chicago, IL

DEC. 2024

Marketing Events

SLP | New York City, NY



FEB. 2025

Marketing Events

IME West | Anaheim, CA

Professional Development

KEDA Legislative Day | Topeka, KS

MAR. 2025

Marketing Events

Promat | Chicago, IL



MAY 2025

Marketing Events

Site Selector 1:1 | Atlanta, GA
Automate | Detroit, MI

Professional Development

Team Kansas Governor's Reception | Topeka, KS

JUN. 2025

Professional Development

BREI | Cheyenne, WY
IEDC | Great Falls, MT

JUL. 2025

Marketing Events

IFT | Chicago, IL





GROWING REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Our partnerships strengthen everything we do at Harvey County Economic Development. It has been our motto for years and remains a core belief...**we are stronger together**. The strength of our organization comes from engagement by our local community, our neighbors in the region, and our State as a whole. Together we are creating an environment for businesses to locate and thrive.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Choose Newton
Halstead Chamber of Commerce
Harvey County E-Commerce Leadership
Harvey County Parks Board
Kansas Economic Development Alliance
Strategic Advisory Team, Greater Wichita Partnership
South Central Kansas Economic Development District
YMCA, Newton Advisory Council

MEMBERSHIPS

Business Retention and Expansion International
Halstead Chamber of Commerce
Hesston Chamber of Commerce
International Economic Development Council
Newton Chamber of Commerce
Southern Economic Development Council
Team Kansas for the Kansas Department of Commerce
Wichita Chamber of Commerce

HCEDC STAFF



Beth Shelton

Executive Director

800-648-7759

Beth@HarveyCoEDC.org

Jennifer Mueller

Retention & Expansion Specialist

316-283-6033

Jennifer@HarveyCoEDC.org



Connect with us!

Harvey County Economic Development
500 N. Main, St. 109 | Newton, Kansas 67114
(316) 283-6033 | harveycoedc.org

