

CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Molly Hadfield, Director of Media Relations 368-0991,
mhadfield@topeka.org

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

City of Topeka Achieves Silver Certification What Works Cities Certification

Topeka Recognized as One of the Best American Cities at Using Data and Evidence to Improve Residents' Lives

TOPEKA, KS –The City of Topeka is proud to share that it has again been recognized for achieving 2021 What Works Cities Certification, the national standard of excellence in data-driven city governance. What Works Cities Certification evaluates how well cities are managed by measuring the extent to which city leaders incorporate data and evidence in their decision-making.

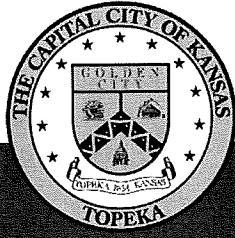
Topeka, has been certified at the silver level as part of WWC's Certification program. What Works Cities is a national initiative launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies to help cities use data and evidence more effectively to tackle their most pressing challenges.

"I'm proud of our city for being the only city in Kansas to be What Works Cities certified," said Mayor Michelle De La Isla. "The hard work and dedication by staff has paid off and you can see it in every aspect from the city from the quality of our streets improving to the transparency of our processes."

What Works Cities Certification assesses cities based on their data-driven decision-making practices, such as whether they are using data to set goals and track progress, allocate funding, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and achieve desired outcomes from contracts with outside vendors. The program also measures whether cities are publicly and transparently communicating about their use of data and evidence.

Over the past year, Topeka has demonstrated measurable progress on these foundational data practices. Some notable examples of the city's use of data include:

- Performance Management
- Grant Applications
- Transparency
- Street improvements through Pavement Condition Index data collection



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

The 16 new cities that achieved Certification this year include four cities at the Gold level (Austin, TX; Chattanooga, TN; Detroit, MI; and Gilbert, AZ) and 12 cities at the Silver level: Baton Rouge, LA; Bellevue, WA; Fort Collins, CO; Glendale, AZ; Irving, TX; Little Rock, AR; Madison, WI; Minneapolis, MN; Norfolk, VA; Portland, OR; San Antonio, TX; and Syracuse, NY.

Additionally, three cities that had previously been certified advanced to the next level of Certification: Cambridge, MA (Gold); Memphis, TN (Gold); and Phoenix, AZ (Gold). Four cities renewed their Certification this year: South Bend, IN (Silver); San Jose, CA (Silver); Tempe, AZ (Gold); and Topeka, KS (Silver).

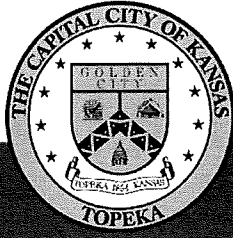
“City leaders are using data to understand and support the needs of residents like never before,” said Michele Jolin, CEO and Co-Founder of Results for America, the lead partner in the What Works Cities initiative. “Throughout the COVID crisis and a historic reckoning with racial injustice, mayors have relied on data to identify and narrow racial gaps, and to make smarter investments that increase opportunity for all their residents. These cities are testing new solutions and measuring what works, rebuilding trust in government by engaging with their residents, and using evidence and data to drive faster progress on their toughest challenges.”

Cities that have achieved Certification in previous years include: Arlington, TX (2020 Gold), Boston, MA (2020 Silver), Boulder, CO (2020 Silver), Cambridge, MA (2020 Silver), Charlotte, NC (2020 Silver), Cincinnati, OH (2020 Silver), Kansas City, MO (2020 Gold), Los Angeles, CA (2020 Platinum), Louisville, KY (2020 Platinum), Memphis, TN (2020 Silver), Mesa, AZ (2020 Silver), New Orleans, LA (2020 Silver), Philadelphia, PA (2020 Silver), Phoenix, AZ (2020 Silver), San Diego, CA (2020 Silver), San Francisco, CA (2020 Gold), San Jose, CA (2020 Silver), Scottsdale, AZ (2020 Silver), Seattle, WA (2020 Gold), South Bend, IN (2020 Silver), Topeka, KS (2020 Silver), Tulsa, OK (2020 Silver), and Washington, DC (2020 Gold).

Jennifer Park, founding director of What Works Cities Certification, shared, “Since Certification was first introduced, cities have made tremendous progress in their ability to build the data capacity and skills needed to drive their decision-making with data and evidence. This year, cities used data and evidence to guide their response to COVID, address budget shortfalls, reimagine public safety, advance equity, and much more. Data wasn’t just a valuable tool for city leaders – it was a necessity.”

What Works Cities Certification was developed by a team of experts from Results for America in close consultation with the [What Works Cities Certification Standard Committee](#). To evaluate cities, these experts conducted a rigorous validation process of cities' Certification assessments and participated in site visits to the highest-performing cities to determine the city's Certification level.

The program has inspired a movement of cities that are doubling down on their commitment to building the most well-managed local governments possible and using Certification as a roadmap for doing so. More than 200 cities have completed a [Certification assessment](#) to have their practices benchmarked against the national standard. The assessment is the first step to receiving exclusive support from What Works Cities to continue building a more effective local

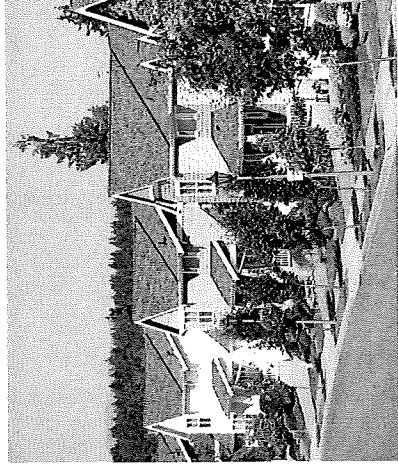
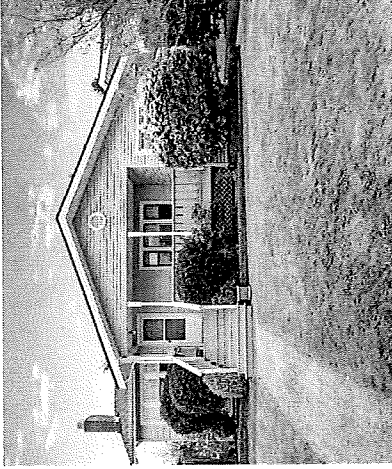


CITY OF **TOPEKA**

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

government. To learn more about the program and how to participate, visit www.whatworkscities.bloomberq.org/certification/.



KEEP YOUR HOME

COVID-19 MORTGAGE PAYMENT RELIEF

Struggling to keep up with mortgage payments on your FHA-insured mortgage because of COVID-19? Take action now to keep your home. Work with your mortgage servicer to get the help you need. Or, contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to understand your options. Find out more at <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners>

**together to collect supplies for
Valeo's Mobile Shower & Laundry Facility.**

Items needed:

**Travel sized soaps,
shampoos and
conditioners.**

**Deodorant
Insect Repellant
Bottled Water**

July 19 - 23

Drop off locations:

***Either of the
Valeo lobbies
located at
330 SW Oakley***



Valeo





PRESCHOOL APPLICATION

Apply in person July 13, & August 3, 8am-4pm

- Sheldon Head Start, 1155 SW Seabrook Ave
- Please wear a mask, social distancing will be available

The preschool application process has moved online!

Visit www.topekapublicschools.net and click the 2021-22 Registration link

For Assistance call 785-438-6899.

Please upload required documents during the application process, or you may:

EMAIL DOCUMENTS TO:
preschool@tps501.org

MAIL DOCUMENTS TO:
Preschool Enrollment Coordinator
1155 SW Seabrook Ave
Topeka, Kansas 66604
Phone: (785) 438-6899
Fax: (785) 438-4551

APPLYING FOR:

**SHELDON HEAD START • SCOTT DUAL LANGUAGE • COMMUNITY ACTION HEAD START
• PINE RIDGE PREP • PRESCHOOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM • STATE PRE-K •
TUITION BASED AT SHANER (OPEN TO ALL SHAWNEE COUNTY RESIDENTS.)**

PLEASE PROVIDE THESE DOCUMENTS

- Child's immunization records
- Child's legal birth certificate
- Parents drivers license or I.D.
- Current physical exam
- 2020 tax return/W-2
- Child's medical insurance card

In general, please provide 12 full months of income documents including child support, scholarships, grants, TANF, SSI, W-2s/all employers, 2020 tax return.

- *Transportation is program-specific.*
- *These institutions are equal opportunity providers.*





APLICACIÓN PARA PREESCOLAR

Días de solicitud en persona 13 de Julio, & 3 de Agosto, 8am-4pm

• En Sheldon Head Start, 1155 SW Seabrook Ave

• Use una máscara, el distanciamiento social estará disponible

El proceso de solicitud de preescolar se ha movido en línea!

Visite www.topekapublicschools.net y haga clic en el enlace de registro 2021-22

Si necesita ayuda, llame al 785-438-6899.

Por favor, suba los documentos solicitados durante el proceso de inscripción. Usted podrá:

ENVIAR LOS DOCUMENTOS POR EMAIL A:
preschool@tps501.org

ENVIAR LOS DOCUMENTOS POR CORREO AL:
Coordinador de la Inscripción de Preescolar
1155 SW Seabrook Ave
Topeka, Kansas 66604
Teléfono: (785) 438-6899
Fax: (785) 438-4551

RECIBIENDO SOLICITUDE PARA:

SHELDON HEAD START • SCOTT DUAL LANGUAGE • COMMUNITY ACTION HEAD START
• PINE RIDGE PREP • PRE-K ESTATAL • PROGRAMA DE INTERVENCIÓN PREESCOLAR •
EL PROGRAMA DE MATRÍCULA EN SHANER (ABIERTO A TODOS LOS RESIDENTES DEL CONASO SHAWNEE)

PROPORCIONE ESTOS DOCUMENTOS, POR FAVOR

- Registros de vacunación del niño
- Certificado de nacimiento legal del niño
- Licencia de conducir de los padres o indentification
- Examen físico actual
- Declaración de impuestos 2020/W-2
- Tarejeta de seguro médico del niño

En general , peoporcione 12 meses completos de documentos de ingresos inuyndo manutencion infantil, becas subcenciones, TANF, SSI, W-2/de todos los empleadores, declaración de impuestos de 2020

- *El transporte es para programas especí.*
- *Estsas instituciones son proveedores de igualdad de portunidades*

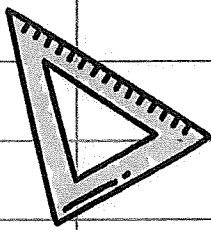


The Salvation Army Topeka
presents

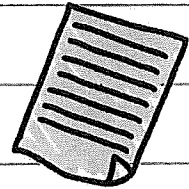
Wednesday,
July 21
at 09AM



BACK
TO
SCHOOL



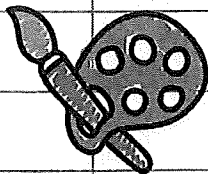
DOING THE
MOST GOOD®



SportClips
HAIRCUTS

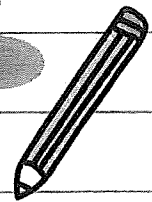
Papa Murphy's
TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA

The Salvation Army
1320 SE 6th St, Topeka, KS 66607



Join us for our annual Back To School Fair
on July 21st from 9am to noon and 1 to 3pm

For more information,
call Shelley Robertson at
(785) 233-9648



Back To School Fair Application



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The 2021 Back To School Fair

Please bring this form with you the day of the event: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 from 9a to noon and 1p – 3p.

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email _____

Student's Name	Grade Entering	School

To be completed by a Staff Member of The Salvation Army or Designated Representative

Received by: _____

Income Types: None Wages Soc Sec SSDI SSI TAF Child Support Other _____

90-Days Income: \$ _____ Annual Income \$ _____ Household # _____

Verified: Paystubs Benefit Letter Payment Record Print-Out Self-Declaration* Other* (*explain below)

KS Residency: KS-Issued ID/DL Current Utility Bill in Applicant's name Current Lease in Applicant's name Other

I attest that the information provided was done voluntarily, and that it will be used for eligibility determination and reporting non-identifiable demographic information. I certify that the information provided is correct and complete, and understand that any false statements could result in service/denial.

Applicant Signature

Date

I attest that I have reviewed the required income and Kansas residency documentation.

Receiving by Signature

Date

K-State Research and Extension - Shawnee County Master Gardener Program Application Letter

Dear Prospective Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener,

Your expressed interest in the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener program is appreciated. We have a great organization with many active participants and look forward each year to adding to our group.

Here are a few things to know and do:

1. Complete the Master Gardener application (found online at <https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/extension-master-gardener.html>).
2. Return completed application to the Shawnee County Extension Office, 1740 SW Western Ave., Topeka, KS 66604, or email to lhayward@ksu.edu by July 23rd, 2021, before 5:00 pm.
3. Attend a required pre-acceptance orientation session on August 5th, at 9:00 am – 11:00 am, or 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Please indicate on the 'Commitment' page which session you will be attending.
4. Applying *does not* mean acceptance. Your interest and availability play a big part. Horticultural skill and knowledge are secondary.
5. SCEMG required trainings begin Thursday, September 2nd, and continue each Thursday through December 16th. Coursework can be completed within a 7-day window with the option to join live sessions online or watch a recording.
7. All trainings will be held online via Microsoft Teams with additional orientation sessions over Zoom.
8. Trainings will be given by Kansas State University Research and Extension Specialists, County Extension agents and recognized horticultural leaders in the community.
9. The class fee is \$100.00 and is due by August 16th. This fee includes a Master Gardener polo shirt and name tag upon successful completion of training. **Fees are non-refundable.**

I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Ariel Whitely-Noll
K-State Research & Extension
Shawnee County
Horticulture Agent
arielw@ksu.edu
785-232-0062 Ext. 104



**National Night Out
Saturday, August 7, 2021**

Neighborhood Registration Form

Neighborhood Name: _____

Location of Event: _____

Event Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Event Theme: _____

Estimated number to attend: _____ First Event _____

Coordinator: _____

Name

Coordinator's Address: _____

(not event address) Street Address

City

Zip

Telephone: _____ (cell) _____

E-mail: _____

City Council District # _____ Outside Topeka in Shawnee County _____

Is there a neighborhood organization in your area (NIA/NA or neighborhood watch)? _____

Are you working with them on this event? _____*

**Please note that dependent upon your answers, notification of an award may be delayed if possibility of overlapping/competing events exists.*

WAIVER

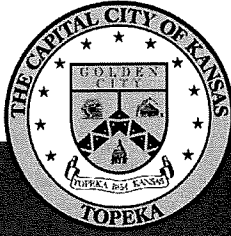
Judith Ann Wilson will sign a Hold Harmless Agreement with the City. To protect ourselves legally, a form is provided to all NNO neighborhoods requesting the legal right for Judith Ann Wilson to sign the Hold Harmless Agreement for them. Each neighborhood needs to provide the form to Safe Streets stating they are okay with you doing so.

"I _____, give Judith Ann Wilson, National Night Out Program Coordinator,
(print name)

permission to sign the Hold Harmless Agreement for _____".
(neighborhood)

I agree to hold harmless the City of Topeka and Safe Streets from all liability for the
National Night Out Event in our neighborhood.

(Signature)



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Molly Hadfield, Director of Media Relations 368-0991,
mhadfield@topeka.org

Wednesday, July 07, 2021

HUD Mortgage Relief Program

TOPEKA, KS – Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working to help people struggling to keep up with FHA insured mortgage payments due to COVID-19 until July 31st, 2021. Currently, there are 194 FHA borrowers in Topeka. Anyone with a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insured mortgage who can't pay their mortgage because of financial struggles due to COVID-19, can ask for mortgage payment relief (forbearance). Mortgage forbearance is when you have worked with your mortgage servicer to temporarily pause or reduce your monthly mortgage payments.

Until July 31st, 2021, individuals with a FHA mortgage can ask their mortgage servicer to temporarily pause or reduce their monthly mortgage payments. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all homeowners with FHA insured loans can ask for forbearance without any penalty. When working with your mortgage servicer:

- State that you are having a hardship related to COVID-19. You are not required to provide documentation of this hardship.
- Request COVID-19 forbearance for your mortgage payments.
- Ask your servicer to confirm the details of your forbearance agreement in writing.

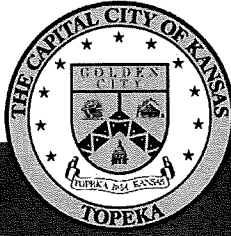
You are eligible for FHA's COVID-19 forbearance (mortgage relief) if:

- Your mortgage is insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).
- You can't make your payments because you were affected by COVID-19.

If you have a reverse mortgage, also known as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, you should contact your mortgage servicer for options available to you.

If you are unsure if your loan is insured by FHA? You can find this information on your mortgage statement or you can call the FHA Resource Center at **1-800-CALL FHA (1-800-225-5342)** or email answers@hud.gov.

You can find more information on FHA mortgage relief on the HUD website at https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/resources_for_homeowners



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

For Immediate Release

Contact for further information: Molly Hadfield, Director of Media Relations 368-0991,
mhadfield@topeka.org

Thursday, July 15, 2021

City of Topeka Selected as a Kansas Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative Grant Recipient

TOPEKA, KS – The City of Topeka is one of four nonprofit organizations selected as grant recipients of the Kansas Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative.

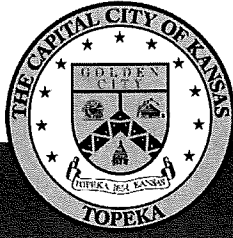
The City of Topeka has received \$250,000 in funding. The first year of funding is spent planning and engaging with the community, and the second and third year will be spent implementing community-based plans and policies.

"This grant funding is an important step in creating digital equity for our community," said City Manager Brent Trout. "This is the first step to eliminating the digital divide and creating better educational, economic and health environments for everyone in Topeka through digital access and literacy."

This grant will support multi-sector community collaboratives to develop and advocate for policies, programs and services that promote greater digital access, adoption, literacy and inclusion among families of color, low-wage worker households and other Kansans experiencing systemic barriers. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the digital divide, especially in low-income communities of color, rural and other under-resourced areas of Kansas as health services and schooling became remote.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to address any local digital divide issues we face through the support from the Kansas Health Foundation. A great team from across our community worked together to get us to this point, and each bring an individual strength, expertise and a dedicated commitment to using this moment to build out a sound strategy towards delivering digital equity & inclusion in Topeka and Shawnee County," said Lazone Grays, a member of the digital equity work group.

"We are so very appreciative of the Kansas Health Foundation and their decision to award this grant for the Kansas Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative. Our team of advocates from the City of Topeka and several community partners is so very proud to be help our neighbors access digital resources and to empower them with learning opportunities and support to use those resources for the benefit of their families. Healthcare, Education, Shopping, Employment, Finance, and other opportunities will soon be available to every family in Topeka, and our community will be better for it!" said Scott Gowan, Chief Information Officer for Topeka Public Schools.



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

To help Kansas families attain the best possible educational, economic and health outcomes, high-speed digital access and literacy is necessary. This initiative will focus on a two-generation approach, so more Kansas children and adults have the opportunity for digital success in the future.

The Topeka Digital Equity Inclusion Partnership Program will create part-time technical and digital navigator positions to collect and share community-based resources and provide digital literacy training, equipment and basic technical support for minority and low-to-moderate-income communities within 31 Topeka neighborhoods.

Initial policy focus and activities will include:

- Advocacy for policies that support the collective vision of the community and local businesses;
- Advocate for digital equity policies and plans targeted to underserved Topeka residents, including low-income families and people of color;
- Implementation of policies and plans that align efforts with existing federal agency initiatives.