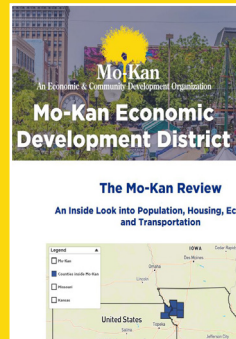


# 2019 Annual Report

# Mo-Kan

An Economic & Community Development Organization



Mo-Kan Regional Council (Mo-Kan) is a designated regional planning commission and economic development district, recognized by the states of Kansas and Missouri and the federal government. Mo-Kan provides community and economic development services to northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

Services include long-range community planning, grant procurement and administration, business loans, hazard mitigation, GIS, transportation planning and homeland security.

► [www.mo-kan.org](http://www.mo-kan.org) ◀

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**Job Seekers Served in 2019 — **8,100**Job Seekers Who Also Received Training, Search Assistance, & Eventually Jobs — **6,108****TOP HIRING COMPANIES IN 2019**

(in no particular order)

**Manufacturing/Production Jobs:**

- » Claris (Johnson Controls)
- » Daily's Premium Meats
- » Alorica
- » Triumph Foods
- » Lifeline Foods
- » Land O' Lakes

**Workforce Services Go Mobile**

Since 2008, Mo-Kan has contracted with the Northwest Missouri Workforce Development Board (WDB) to provide services to adults seeking employment and/or training in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb counties through Missouri Job Center in St. Joseph.

These valuable services are going mobile. The mobile job center, a joint venture between Missouri Western State University and Mo-Kan Regional Council, will roll out its services to job seekers in rural areas of the region in the coming months.



The mobile job center is housed in Missouri Western State University's traveling Biotechnology Lab and is equipped to provide all the services of the job center in St. Joseph, including resume and cover letter writing, mock interviewing sessions, computer-based training, and application assistance. A new decal wrap will highlight available mobile services.

**Transportation Work Recognized Nationally**

The Safety and Innovation Mobile Lab and NW Transportation Planning Partners Meeting both received national awards of excellence from National Association Development Association (NADO).

Mo-Kan staff also presented at NADO's Regional Transportation Conference in Columbus, Ohio and participated on the statewide com-

mittee for updating the Blueprint for Roadway Safety document, which guides safety strategies for reducing roadway fatalities. Two "hOUR Project" presentations were arranged, which is aimed at strengthening workplace roadway safety policy and culture.

Mo-Kan has a portable event sign, speed radar trailer and traffic counter available for communities to use.



2019 Roadway Safety Assessment, DeKalb County



Message Board with Speed Radar Capabilities

**Annual Transportation Activities**

- » Facilitate the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
- » Coordinate Trainings & Meetings, including Traffic Incident Management (TIM), the Freight Summit and NW Transportation Planning Partners Meeting
- » Conduct Roadway Safety Assessments
- » Update the Regional Transportation Plan



## CDBG PROJECTS



Mo-Kan provides grant writing services for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and other funding sources to member communities.

▶▶ Mo-Kan partnered with Community Action Partnership to apply for grant funds to renovate the 11,000 square foot former hospital building in Cameron to operate as a Head Start early childhood center. The early learning facility, which includes four classrooms and indoor and outdoor playgrounds, opened in fall 2019. There are plans to expand services in the future. Per CDBG requirements, at least 51% of the students will be from low-to-moderate households.

▶▶ The City of Cameron is also the site of another CDBG project underway with the help of Mo-Kan. The South Orange Street road improvements and flood mitigation project should be moving forward soon.

▶▶ Planning has also begun for water system distribution improvements CDBG project for the City of Clarksdale.

Pictured above: The Cameron early learning center has four classrooms and is equipped to serve more than 30 children.

## BROWNFIELD ACTIVITIES

Mo-Kan helped the Village of Agency complete a Brownfield project in 2019, which involved removing an old convenience store canopy, underground gas tanks. In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mo-Kan assists communities with cleaning up Brownfield properties through the Revolving Loan Fund Grant to revitalize and reuse otherwise blighted properties.



## ▶▶ HOMELAND SECURITY ◀◀

Since 2006, Mo-Kan has led the Region H Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RH-SOC), which is in charge of allocating Office of Homeland Security (OHS) grants and regional disaster planning.

In 2019, Mo-Kan helped facilitate the update of the Threat, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) regional disaster planning tool, which is updated every three years under the direction of OHS.

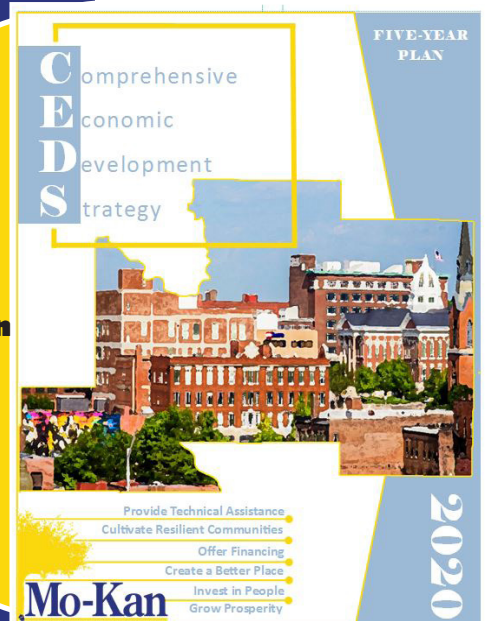
## 2020 CEDS PLAN

Every five years the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires an update of Mo-Kan's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as part of the EDA grant program. The CEDS is the guiding document for all of Mo-Kan's economic development activities for the next five years.

The CEDS process requires community and stakeholder involvement in regional economic planning. Regional meetings were held in the cities of Troy, Cameron and St. Joseph to solicit opinions about our region through (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis. Community members discussed each of the topics to determine the current economic state of the region. From this data and the last CEDS, Goals, Objectives, and Actions were determined.

Staff has nearly completed the Plan. Once reviewed and accepted by EDA, the final CEDS will be available on the Mo-Kan website.

### 2020 CEDS Cover Design



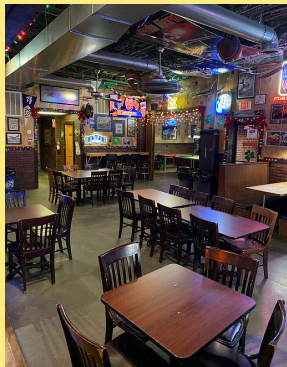
## BUSINESS FINANCING

For almost 30 years, Mo-Kan has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide commercial loans to area businesses in an effort to strengthen the region's economy and workforce.

Other gap financing programs have also been utilized over the years to fill the financing gap between what local banks are able to provide entrepreneurs and what the borrower has available for a down payment.

In 2019, Mo-Kan worked helped Ridge and Tyler Morgan

secure funding to purchase Norty's Bar and Grill in St. Joseph. The Morgans have already made upgrades to the popular establishment, including new restrooms.



**Norty's Bar & Grill  
in St. Joseph**

### BUSINESS\$ LOANS\$ IN 2019:

Loan Activity.....	5 loans totaling \$800,000
Capital Investments.....	\$2.1 million (including other financing & owner equity)
Job Creation.....	12
Job Retention.....	10

» [www.mo-kan.org](http://www.mo-kan.org) «

# Mo-Kan

An Economic & Community Development Organization

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St. Joseph, Missouri 64501  
Phone: (816) 233-3144  
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## INVESTING IN HAZARD MITIGATION PAYS OFF

Two Presidential Disaster Declarations were issued in 2019 affecting Andrew and Buchanan counties in Missouri.

To be eligible to apply for FEMA mitigation funds that became available due to these declarations, jurisdictions had to be a participant in a hazard mitigation plan. Fortunately,

the jurisdictions requesting mitigation grant funds participated in the plans.

It is estimated that investing in mitigation saves \$6 for every \$1 spent.

Mo-Kan Regional Council is available to assist communities and counties in pursuing mitigation funds and updating hazard mitigation plans.

**Missouri  
River  
flooding  
near St.  
Joseph, MO**



### NEED DATA?

In the fall of 2019, Mo-Kan launched a new feature on its website in cooperation with mySidewalk titled "Data Portal."

The portal contains Mo-Kan community and county data. Staff can also create customizable reports for participating members.

### MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

#### BOARD OFFICERS

Nic Hutchison - Chair  
Leah Johnson - Vice-Chair  
Bob Caldwell - Treasurer  
Tim Wymes - Secretary

#### MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF

Jon Ecker - Executive Director  
Gary Miller - Fiscal Officer  
Rebecca Thacker - Community Planner  
Linda Laderoute - Community Planner  
Hayley Howard - Community Planner  
Kleci Moss - Loan Officer  
Kassie Taylor - Program Assistant

### GOVERNANCE

The voting membership of the Mo-Kan Regional Council consists of 32 persons, 16 each from Missouri and Kansas. Kansas members are named directly to MKRC by Atchison and Doniphan Counties and the municipalities of Atchison and Morrill. Missouri members are first named by the counties and municipalities to the ABCD Planning Commission, which then holds a caucus to name the 16 who will be MKRC voting members.