

# 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

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

<b>Original Submission</b>	04/01/2025
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Score	n/a
Part 1: Applicant Information	
The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
Project Name:	Load Centers and Transmission Line
Entity type:	Non-Profit
Applicant Contact Name:	Kathleen O'Brien
Applicant Contact Position/Title:	General Manager
Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17857362345
Applicant Contact Email Address:	kmobrien@nemaha-marshall.coop
Applicant Contact Address:	P O Box O
Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	402 Prairie Street
Applicant Contact City:	Axtell
Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
Applicant Contact Zip Code:	66403

Is the Project  
Contact the same as  
the Applicant  
Contact?

Yes

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Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

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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](#)

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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

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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](#)

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

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

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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: The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.	Kathleen O'Brien
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)	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*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%
	<b>100% in Kansas</b>

## **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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> when a tornado took out poles. The second was June 26<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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General Manager  
Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative  
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Axtell, Kansas 66403  
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kmbrien@nemaha-marshall.coop