



# Small Town, Big Results

How Caney Leverages the Kansas Infrastructure Hub  
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## Facts About Caney:

- **Origin:** Founded in 1869, the town was named after the numerous wild cane brakes lining the nearby Caney River.
- **Early Development:** It served as a border trading post and grew significantly with the arrival of railroads in 1887.
- **Population:** 1,698 (2026), with a median age of 35.7 years.
- **Median Household Income:** Roughly \$39,000.
- **Industry:** The area is still associated with energy, with CVR Energy operating pipelines for transporting crude oil to nearby Coffeyville.
- **Cost of Living:** A 2024 analysis found that average household bills in Caney are significantly lower than the national average.
- **Housing:** High rate of homeownership among residents.
- **Government:** Operates under a Mayor-Council-Administrator form of government.
- **Schools:** The town is served by the highly rated Caney Valley Unified School District.
- **Environment & Health:** The EPA has historically conducted cleanup operations for lead-contaminated soil in some residential areas.

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## The Small-Town Challenge

- **Staffing Gap:** Small municipalities often face limited capacity to research, write, and manage complex federal grants.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Critical needs in water and sewer systems often exceed local budget capabilities.
- **The "Match" Barrier:** High federal match requirements (often 20% or more) can disqualify small towns from applying for transformative funds.



# What is the Kansas Infrastructure Hub?

• **Central Resource:** Established in 2022 to help Kansas communities maximize opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

• **Key Services for Caney:**

- **Technical Assistance (TA):** Free, hands-on support for grant coaching and project research.
- **Build Kansas Fund (BKF):** Provides the necessary state matching dollars for BIL grants.
- **Grant Assistance Program (GAP):** Specific support for grant writing and administration for cities with populations under 10,000.



## •Resources Offered by the HUB

- Free Technical Assistance and Coaching:** The Hub offers hands-on, one-on-one support for, including grant research, application development, and compliance reporting.
- The Build Kansas Fund (Match Funding):** The Hub manages the Build Kansas Fund, providing up to \$150 million to help local communities meet the matching requirements for federal IJA grants.
- Significant ROI (Return on Investment):** The Build Kansas Fund has helped turn over \$36.6 million in state matching dollars into over \$104.6 million of federal grant awards for projects across the state, with \$100M+ available for matches.
- Expanded Infrastructure Development:** The Hub helps fund crucial, long-term upgrades for water systems, roads and bridges, broadband, electrical grids, and airport infrastructure.
- Regional Collaboration:** The Hub connects state agencies, local governments, and tribal nations to improve project speed and align resources for projects.
- Specialized Project Support:** Dedicated team members are available to help identify local needs and guide projects through the entire lifecycle



## Success Story – Water Infrastructure Progress

- **The Idea:** Reduce Caney's risk to ensure water sustainability.
- **The Project:** Regional collaboration to connect Caney to Coffeyville's water system via 14 miles of pipeline.
- **The Goal:** Modernize Caney's aging water system and secure long-term water stability.

### •Hub-Supported Wins:

- Awarded approximately 20 million dollars in grants since January 2025
- Awarded a **\$1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** for water stability.
- Completed critical environmental and cultural studies required for switchover, with a projected completion of 2027.
- Secured additional federal support, totaling over **\$4 million** for distribution system rebuilding.



## Caney Success Stories Continued:

- Departments have separate goals, policies, and procedures that fit their staff's capabilities and numbers. (Grant strategic Plan)
- All departments worked together to create grant applications, with proof-reading and brainstorming ideas, while reengineering the City.
- Regular meetings standard to go over our current funding amount and what we are applying for next.
- We welcome opinions from all employees regarding grant ideas and changing policies/procedures.
- We have successfully gathered over \$17 million in funding
  - Kansas Water Office Grant: \$1.5 million
  - CDBG Grant: \$1 million
  - Presidential Appropriations: \$5.5 million
  - KDHE Lead Service Line Grant: \$1 million
  - SRO and other police grants
- Encourages staff to find new ways of thinking and problem solving
  - This is needed when we have issues with the mass meter swap we have completed, with grants for the water project, with funding for new equipment, and more.
- Caney completed a mass meter swap in house in the span of a year to ensure accurate and consistent water meter reads for more accurate billing
- Our Accounts Payable department has created a new process that ensures all vendors are being paid consistently and accurately



# Strategies for Strengthening Project Readiness

**1. Engage Early with TA:** Use the [Hub Capacity Extension Team](#) to find the right grant before the deadline.

**2. Prioritize Regionalism:** Funders favor projects like the Caney-Coffeyville partnership that improve infrastructure for multiple communities.

**3. Secure Your Match First:** Apply to the [Build Kansas Fund](#) before submitting federal applications to ensure the 20% match is guaranteed.



## Pursuing New Funding Opportunities

- **Identify Sectors:** The Hub targets five key areas: Water, Transportation, Energy, Broadband, and Resilience.
- **Utilize Dashboards:** Regularly check Open Grant Opportunities on the Hub website for new BIL programs.
- **Braiding Funds:** Combine Hub resources with other state programs like KDHE small town grants or CDBG to fully fund large projects.

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## Conclusion – Turning Opportunity into Results

• **Small Capacity, Big Results:** With Hub support, Caney is overcoming staff limitations to build infrastructure that will last for generations.

• **Next Steps for Your Town:**

- Visit the [Kansas Infrastructure Hub](#) website.
- Contact the [Regional Technical Assistance Team](#).
- Start your application for the [Build Kansas Fund](#)



## Closing Thoughts:

- Utilize the HUB for grant auditing assistance
- Communication and regular scheduled touch base meetings for grant reviews and opportunity reviews
- Have team member involved from across departments in your origination
- Outreach is important
- Never give up and stay positive!!!!
- Consistency wins!!!

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