



“We Have Tomorrow – Bright Before Us, Like A Flame.” *Langston Hughes*



Pictured above: Campers at one of the many summer camps hosted by our Parks, Recreation and Culture department. Summer Camp Registration opens on February 17! Be sure to check out the options and sign up online: lawrenceks.gov/prc

Pictured right: The ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Delmar Place, a new affordable housing community for seniors that is located southwest of the Clinton Parkway and Iowa St. intersection.



2026 Affordable Housing Trust Fund recipients

The City of Lawrence has allocated \$1,200,000 in funds to nine projects as part of the 2026 grant cycle.

Projects include new affordable housing development, affordable housing repair and rehabilitation, accessibility modifications, housing vouchers, and affordable housing community engagement. These projects advance the City’s strategic commitment to strong, welcoming neighborhoods with access to safe and affordable housing.

Housing Tax Credit/market rate multifamily development. Funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will be used to replace some existing HVAC Units, replace the sewer line, and perform necessary masonry repairs on the exterior of the building.

Floret Hill: \$500,000

Floret Hill is a new construction rental community project for seniors and families. This development would consist of three-story multifamily units, two-story residential townhomes with garages, and two-story townhomes. It is currently proposing 121 affordable units with a mix of one-, two-, and three- bedroom units and targets area median income levels between 30% and 60% AMI. It would be one of the first and largest affordable housing developments on the west side of Lawrence.

Independence, Inc. | Accessible Housing Program: \$75,000

The Independence, Inc. Accessible Housing Program seeks to assist seniors and people with disabilities with qualifying incomes in Lawrence, Kansas to make needed accessibility modifications in order to stay safely and independently in their homes. The program would be available to

The following has more information on the nine organizations and projects selected to receive funds in 2026.

Douglas County | Housing Stabilization Collaborative: \$150,000

The HSC program operates year-round with continuous intake, offering rental and utility assistance to cost-burdened renters who have received eviction notices or who have disconnected utilities, as those applicants are in great danger of eviction and potential homelessness. This work will contribute to reduced evictions, fewer emergency shelter intakes, and stronger partnerships with landlords and utility providers – directly supporting the City’s strategic plan goals to decrease both housing stress and homelessness.

Flint Hills Holdings | Poehler Lofts: \$20,000

Poehler Lofts is an existing Low Income

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OUR MISSION
We create a
community where
all enjoy life and
feel at home.

City information is available at lawrenceks.gov and on cable Channel 25.

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both homeowners and renters. Common modifications include, but are not limited to: entry ramps, accessible showers, accessible shower heads, grab bars, widening of doorways for walker/wheelchair access, and ADA height toilets.

Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority | Tiny Homes: \$180,000

The LDCHA, in partnership with Peaslee Tech, proposes the development of two fully furnished tiny homes in a vacant lot owned by LDCHA. These units will be permanently affordable and added to LDCHA's Expanded Housing portfolio, rented on a sliding-scale basis according to household income. The project will be completed in 2026, with Peaslee Tech constructing and furnishing the homes at a cost of no more than \$90,000 each.

Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority | New Horizon Housing Vouchers: \$75,000

The New Horizons Transitional Housing Program is a rental assistance and case management initiative serving families experiencing homelessness in Douglas County. Participants receive up to 24 months of rental assistance and comprehensive case management, followed by a permanent Housing Choice Voucher for those who meet program requirements.

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity | Critical Home Repairs: \$100,000

Lawrence Habitat partners with homeowners in our community to complete necessary home repairs, like new roofs, ramps, plumbing, and heating and cooling systems, to ensure affordable housing remains affordable and homes are safe, healthy, and decent for years to come. Their approach is now more holistic and homeowner focused. Instead of making one repair at each household, they are working with local contractors to assess the homeowner's complete needs, evaluating which repairs will make the biggest impact on their housing stability, and connecting with community partners to ensure a long-term solution to the overall housing quality for every homeowner.

Lawrence Tenants | An Educator for Everyone: \$75,000

This program is a tenant rights education initiative designed to serve low-income renters in Lawrence, with focused outreach to populations disproportionately impacted by housing instability, including low-income tenants, seniors, families, people with disabilities, and communities of color. Through direct outreach like door-knocking, workshops, and community events, the program aims to educate over 3,000 tenants on their rights while recruiting and training 25 new volunteers in 2026.

Senior Resource Center | Safe Accessible Housing for Low-Income Seniors: \$25,000

SRC receives calls from low-income seniors who need assistance with repairs,

and/or accessibility modifications to keep them aging-in-place safely in their homes. SRC will use these funds for 6-10 projects that are outside the scope of other currently available programs and will allow low-income seniors to remain safely in their home, preventing or delaying more expensive (or unavailable) alternate housing.

Delmar Place: A Recently Completed Affordable Housing Project

Another affordable housing project that deserves celebration is Delmar Place, a new senior housing community from Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority.

The \$4.7 million project adds 32 accessible one-bedroom units to our community. Funding came from a \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act grant from the Douglas County Commission, \$1.4 million from LDCHA reserves and \$150,000 from the City of Lawrence Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Delmar Place was designed to help residents age in place. It offers accessibility features, including six units that are fully wheelchair-accessible. The building also incorporates safety measures for tenants with visual or hearing impairments. Residents will benefit from supportive services such as transportation, food delivery, recreation opportunities, and on-site technology labs.

The complex is named in honor of longtime LDCHA employee Delmar Jackson.

We Have a Theory: Connection Builds a Stronger Lawrence

We have a theory — and it's backed by decades of research.

When people are in community around any activity or interest they share with others, something powerful happens. They know more people. They feel more connected. They show up more often. They care more deeply about where they live and the people around them.

Data tells us that communities with strong social connections — often called social capital — experience better outcomes across the board. People are healthier. They're more civically engaged. They trust one another more.

Or, simply put: They feel a stronger sense of belonging and responsibility for the place they call home and the neighbors who surround them. And when that happens, we begin to love more things about Lawrence.

To explore this idea together, **the City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Arts Center are partnering to host a community screening of the documentary *Join or Die* on Friday, February 27, 2026**, with the

location to be announced soon.

The film brings research to life, examining how participation in clubs, organizations, faith communities, volunteer groups, and social circles strengthens not only individual well-being, but entire communities. It asks a simple, urgent question: What happens when people stop joining — and what's possible when they start again?

The evening will also include the Lawrence Connection Fair, a welcoming space designed to help people discover ways to get involved in the community. The fair will take place for 30 minutes before the screening and for 30 minutes afterward, offering an easy, low-pressure opportunity to meet local groups, explore shared interests, and spark new connections.

This isn't about signing up for everything — or anything — on the spot. It's about curiosity. It's about remembering that belonging doesn't require perfection, expertise, or a long-term commitment. Often, it starts with a conversation about a film you watched with others and a shared

interest in making us more connected.

Whether you're new to Lawrence, want to find your people or simply wondering what else might be out there, this event is an invitation to learn more—about the research, about our neighbors, and about the many ways people build connection across our city.

Strong communities don't happen by accident. They're built when people show up, join something meaningful, and invest in one another.

We hope you'll join us to explore the theory—and maybe find a new group of people to get to know along the way.

Event Details

Date: Friday, February 27, 2026

Time: Film screening at 7 p.m. with the connection fair beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Free; registration encouraged

More info: Location information and a link to register is on our website: lawrenceks.gov