

Shooting Range Grant Program

Hunting and shooting have always been favorite outdoor activities among Kansans. Reasonable access to safe places to sight-in rifles or pattern shotguns prior to hunting, and to learn, practice, and enjoy recreational shooting is an important need. Youth shooting programs, such as those supported by the Department's "Pass It On" program, are increasingly popular, and require places to shoot. In addition, there is a need to provide live-fire training during hunter education classes throughout the state, to better train new hunters.

In response to the need for safe, convenient places to shoot, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has implemented the Shooting Range Grant Program, which provides funds for the construction, development and improvement of shooting ranges and associated facilities. These funds will be allocated on a cost-share basis to cooperating organizations and individuals through an application process. The intent of this program is to develop basic, "no frills" shooting ranges in areas of the state where the need for public shooting facilities is greatest. Partners provide a minimum of 25 percent of the construction costs, and in return agree to operate and maintain the ranges, and to keep them open to the public, and to the department for special events and programs.

Applications for this program are due no later than December 1. The applications will be evaluated and rated by a committee of KDWP personnel based on factors including proximity to other shooting range facilities, local population and demand, and site suitability.

This grant program is similar to one that the Department administered several years ago. Under that program the department entered into shooting range grant agreements with 20 different partners. Two of the largest grants went to the cities of Garnett and Horton, each of which built fully-baffled rifle and pistol ranges. The ranges are open to the public and are manned by certified range officers.

Partnerships developed under this grant program will allow us to stretch the dollars available and enable the construction of nice facilities. The public will have more places to shoot, and our partners in the grant program will take care of range operation and maintenance.