

Application Form

Program Title: KanView, Kansas Taxpayer Transparency Act

If applicable, identify Partner(s): Information Network of Kansas/Kansas Information Consortium

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Summary

KanView (<http://www.kansas.gov/kanview/>) is the state's online financial transparency program which allows instant access to information about state revenues and expenditures. KanView was developed in response to the Kansas Taxpayer Transparency Act (KTTA) passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2007. The requirement of the KTTA was to provide a simple mechanism for public access to financial data. To meet this challenge, the Act established a new Public Finance Transparency Board, charged with the development and oversight of a searchable Web site for state agency expenditures and revenues, bonded indebtedness and other budgetary information (<http://www.governor.ks.gov/news/NewsRelease/2007/nr-07-1102a.htm>). The result was the KanView Web site, which is easily accessible on the Kansas.gov portal. The Board meets on an ongoing basis to review the site and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Administration on ways to expand the available information and improve its operation.

Leveraging information from the State's Statewide Accounting and Reporting System (STARS), KanView includes:

- Annual Expenditures:
 - Agency disbursements
 - Bond debt payments
 - Salary and wages
 - Contractual services
 - Commodities
 - Capital outlay
 - Debt service
 - Aid to local units of government
 - Assistance and benefits
 - Capital improvements
- Annual Revenues: (representing agency receipts and deposits into funds established within the state treasury)
 - Taxes
 - Agency earnings
 - Revenue from the use of money and property
 - Gifts, donations, and federal grants
 - Other revenues
- Annual Bond Indebtedness
- A variety of other general information on the State's finances, including ongoing improvements requested by the Secretary of Administration in consultation with the Public Finance Transparency Board.

The use of technology provided a mechanism to aggregate and present information that was previously difficult for the public to obtain. The current KanView Web site is the first step in providing accountability, efficiency, and transparency for state financial decisions.

Questions

1. How long has the program been operational?

The Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Government Efficiency and Technology sought to improve efficiency and increase the accountability of the state finances by making state government financial data and information more accessible to Kansas citizens. The committee introduced and supported the Kansas Taxpayer Transparency Act (KTTA) which was passed by the 2007 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kathleen Sebelius. The KTTA authorized the Secretary of Administration to develop a single searchable Web site accessible to the public at no cost, to bring better visibility, openness, and accessibility to state government financial activity for Kansas taxpayers.

Faced with deploying this Web site quickly, the state turned to, the Kansas Information Consortium (KIC), its private-sector partner responsible for managing the state's official government Web site, Kansas.gov. KIC staff worked with the Department of Administration to gather requirements and establish design specifications for the service – termed “KanView” – which went live on February 29, 2008. The site offers an abundance of information about the state's financial activities, including annual expenditures, annual revenues representing agency receipts, deposits into funds established within the state treasury, and annual bond indebtedness.

2. What was the program's start-up cost? Provide detailed information about specific purchases for this program, including staffing needs and other expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.

The Department of Administration teamed up with KIC, which operates under a self-funded model. This model provides the state portal infrastructure and development of eGovernment services to the state without tax appropriations. KIC spent more than 900 hours (a value of nearly \$100,000) on initial implementation of the project at no cost to the State of Kansas.

3. What are the program's operational costs?

Annual maintenance (posting of year-end data), hosting and technical support is provided to the State of Kansas at no cost through KIC's self-funded model.

4. How is the program funded?

KIC maintains the KanView Web site at no cost to the State of Kansas through KIC's self-funded model.

5. How do you calculate actual savings, i.e., short-term and/or long-term?

KIC maintains the KanView Web site at no cost to the State of Kansas. Additional development is planned for 2009 to include searchable salary information. We estimate that this effort will provide \$22,000 in savings in development and annual maintenance to the state through KIC's self-funded model. Opening up the state's finances to direct citizen access also has a benefit in reduced costs to citizens for inquiries about this information that can now be answered online.

6. How do you measure this program's success? Provide quantitative benefits realized by service recipients, taxpayers and/or state agencies?

Since launch on February 29, 2008, the site has received:

Site Performance

- Unique Page Views: 28,737
- Avg Time Spent on Page: 2:55 min

Search/Page Performance

- Top searches:
 - Agency Expense, Vendor Expense, & Agency Revenue
- Top pages:
 - KanView Home Page (Search button), State Expenditure Graph Page, & KanView Reports (State Revenue Graph)

Feedback Emails:

- Total Count: 74
- Topics: Employee Compensation: 26, NTU Employee Compensation = 15 (a reference to e-mails generated by the National Taxpayers Union), KanView Implementation/Cost = 10, State and Local Tax Questions = 7, KanView Functionality = 6, Student Inquiries = 2, & Miscellaneous Others = 8

These key metrics are tracked and monitored on a monthly basis and drive future business decisions for the KanView Web site.

7. How has the program grown or changed since its implementation?

The Department of Administration is currently undertaking a project to install a new statewide Financial Management System. This system will provide the functionality and data to add new methods of disclosure for state government financial activity. The state operates on a fiscal year basis which is defined as July 1 through June 30. KanView is currently populated with data for fiscal years 2006 through 2007 and each completed fiscal year thereafter. Annual data will be updated no later than August 14 following the close of each fiscal year. Fiscal year data will be retained on KanView for not less than 10 years. With the implementation of the new financial system, the site will potentially be updated more frequently and will include more detailed information.

8. Describe the program's applicability to other states/local/federal governments?

Kansas was one of several states to pass state transparency legislation in 2007. Many states are working to provide online access to government expenditure and revenue information, and they have turned to Kansas to emulate the legislation and site development.