

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THOMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2023

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

Section 2. Thomas County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2021, the County population was 7,702 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Section 3. Thomas County Commissioners hereby obligate Thomas County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

Section 4. Thomas County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

Section 5. Thomas County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

Section 6. The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Thomas County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

Section 7. Thomas County shall allocate \$0.00 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. Thomas County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30th each year. Thomas County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this ¹⁹30 day of December 2022 by the Board of Thomas County Commissioners, Thomas County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Mark Boyko, Chm
Bruce Ferguson
Brian Zwick

ATTEST: Keesa Mariman



Keesa Mariman, Thomas County Clerk