



Kansas Legislative Research Department

Providing nonpartisan, objective research and fiscal analysis for the Kansas Legislature since 1934

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September 14, 2021

To: Legislative Coordinating Council

From: J.G. Scott, Director

Re: Authorization of Legislative Agencies to Staff the SPARK Advisory Panels

The SPARK Executive Committee met on September 8, 2021, to create the organizational structure and staffing of the executive committee and the process to develop recommendations for expenditures totaling up to \$1.3 billion from the federal Coronavirus State Recovery Fund.

The SPARK Executive Committee intends to hire a program coordinator to assist the committee, and the committee will be assigned a consultant contact. Four priority areas were approved, each with panels of 8-10 experts selected by the Executive Committee. The priority areas are economic revitalization, health and education, connectivity, and efficiency and modernization. The proposed staffing of the advisory panels is a joint effort, including staff of the Legislative Research Department and the Office of Recovery. President Masterson and Speaker Ryckman both recommended the advisory panel staffing be approved pending authorization by the Legislative Coordinating Council for legislative agencies to staff these non-legislative panels.