



# City Innovation Snapshot WICHITA, Kansas, USA

## Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Brandon Whipple
- ▶ **Term:** 2020–2024
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Michael Barnett
- ▶ **Population size:** 385 000
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

## What is the organisational structure?

Wichita’s innovation work is sprinkled throughout the municipal administration. The administration believes that every municipal staff member should be involved in enhancing the city’s innovation capacity.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data Scientist
- Strategic Communications
- Engineer
- Designer
- Community Engagement



## Spotlight

Wichita established an innovation fund in 2019 to support the implementation of pilot projects. The city hopes these projects will generate savings that can be reinvested into the fund, helping establish a sustainable system of innovation that can bring efficiencies to government and improved service delivery to citizens. The city has partnered with Wichita State University to define, organise, and structure its data management, while also building data expertise within the community.

## What is the city’s innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Wichita has no a **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Experimentation, pilots and prototyping**
- **Human-centred design**

## What is the city’s innovation approach?

Similar to 20% of cities surveyed, Wichita approaches innovation capacity **from a holistic / macro level**.

## What innovation partnerships exist?

Wichita has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents / resident associations.

To **improve data use**, the city has also developed data partnerships with the private sector, private philanthropy, academia and think tanks to collect and analyse data.



## City Innovation Snapshot WICHITA, Kansas, USA



### What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Wichita has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **Municipal budget** (city council approved fund / operating budget)
- **Other:** Savings from implemented innovation projects

Wichita's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **paying for third-party services**, **investing in digital systems** and **physical infrastructures**.



### How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ Improving internal government operations
- ✓ Improving service delivery
- ✓ Gaining efficiency within the public sector

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding**, a **focus on metrics**, a **culture of innovation within the municipal administration**, and **leadership from the Mayor**.



### How is data used?

Wichita currently uses Key Performance Indicators to **align budget process with its strategic priorities** and to measure progress towards attainment of goals. Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include a **lack of technical infrastructure**, **insufficient staff capacity to collect and analyse data**, and that **data are seldom shared among agencies**.

Wichita **maintains a comprehensive data inventory** that is not openly shared to the public. The city also **publishes open data online** and **provides clear how-to guidance** to help residents access and use city data.



### How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

*NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.*