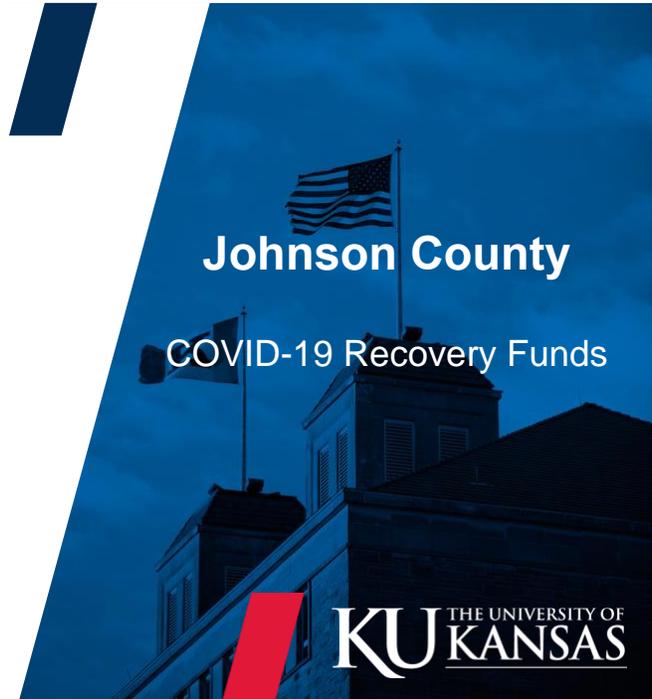




**Community
Reinvestment
Process**

September 2020



Executive Summary

During the first three weeks of September 2020, about 80 Johnson County stakeholders came together in a virtual process to determine how to allocate \$35 million in federal funds intended to help Johnson County emerge stronger from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) was enacted on March 27 and appropriated \$150 billion to states, counties and cities. Johnson County received a direct allocation from the federal government totaling \$116,311,034. Additionally, the State of Kansas received nearly \$1 billion and allocated \$400 million to Kansas counties, including about \$7 million to Johnson County. Regardless of the source of allocation, the deadline for these funds to be spent is December 30, 2020.

Johnson County established a three-phase plan to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in its community. The three phases are:

- Phase 1: 40% - 50% of the allocation, focuses on the needs of local governments and other taxing jurisdictions within Johnson County.
- Phase 2: 30% - 50% of the allocation, focuses on community re-investment.
- Phase 3: 10% - 30% of the allocation, focuses on administrative and audit costs, contingency funds, additional re-investments in local government and the community, and accounting for any unused funds.

After an intensive engagement process in which the problems were identified, solutions were brainstormed and proposals were developed, a Community Reinvestment Committee (CRC) recommends 14 proposals for Board of County Commission (BOCC) consideration. A table with the CRC recommendations appears on the following page. Thereafter, a detailed description of the process is provided.

Community Reinvestment Committee
COVID-19 Relief Funds
Phase 2 Recommendations

Full proposals can be found beginning on Page 7.

Small Business Assistance	
Direct Grants to Small Business	\$ 13,500,000
Direct Grants to Cultural Arts Businesses	\$ 135,000
Small Business TOTAL	\$ 13,635,000
Workforce	
School Age Remote Learning and Child Care Program	\$ 4,800,000
Short-term Workforce Skills Training and Workforce Supports	\$ 5,000,000
Workforce TOTAL	\$ 9,800,000
Housing	
Rent, Utility, and Mortgage Assistance	\$ 3,316,000
Emergency Housing Solutions	\$ 400,000
Housing TOTAL	\$ 3,716,000
Digital Access	
Direct Assistance for Household Internet, IT upcycling and project management	\$ 1,000,000
Rural Johnson County Fiber Service	\$ 375,000
Digital Navigators	\$ 334,000
Digital Access TOTAL	\$ 1,709,000
Aging	
Visitation Structure/Space for Senior Care Organizations	\$ 860,000
Social Isolation Virtual Programming	\$ 174,000
Transportation to support Health, Workforce and Food Access for Seniors	\$ 280,000
COVID Rapid Testing Machines targeted to older adult facilities	\$ 2,850,000
Aging TOTAL	\$ 4,164,000
Mental Health	
Grant Support for Nonprofits providing Mental Health Services	\$ 2,000,000
Removing Barriers to Accessing Behavioral Health Services	\$ 300,000
Mental Health TOTAL	\$ 2,300,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 35,324,000

Process Overview

A Community Reinvestment Committee initially was established to be a liaison to ultimately make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Members of the CRC are:

- Chris Osborn, Evergreen Living Innovations
- Debbie Collins, Johnson County Aging and Human Services
- Doug Davidson, County Economic Research Institute
- Jeff Shackelford, Enterprise Center in Johnson County
- Julie Brewer, United Community Services of Johnson County
- Keely Schneider, Workforce Partnership
- Sarah VanLanduyt, Arts Council of Johnson County
- Tara Markley, Johnson County Extension Director

Strike teams were organized around six areas critical to Johnson County's ongoing success: *Housing, Mental Health, Aging, Digital Access, Workforce Development, and Small Business Assistance*. At least one member of the CRC served on each of the six strike teams.

To ensure a common foundation, all strike team members convened for an opening session on August 31. They received information regarding CARES funding parameters; an economic analysis from the KU Institute for Policy and Social Research; and stories from across Johnson County regarding how the pandemic had affected residents gathered by the Center for Public Partnerships and Research. (Information provided at the opening session can be found beginning on Page 74.) Thereafter, each strike team had a day-long workshop in which they determined what issues should be addressed in their particular subject area and what appropriate solutions should be employed.

Twenty-four proposals developed by the strike teams were the focus of the September 11 closing session in which strike team members reconvened to review all the proposals and to prioritize them. Strike team members were asked to select their top two proposals within each category (with the exception of small business assistance, for which there is just one proposal.) They were then asked to prioritize among the top proposals across all six categories. Finally, participants had the opportunity to allocate \$35 million in COVID-19 Relief Funds as they would choose.

Following the strike team process, Witt O'Brien's, the auditing firm engaged by the County to ensure compliance with the CARES regulations, then reviewed each proposal to identify its level of risk and level of effort for the County.

Community Reinvestment Committee Considerations

Using all the information developed by the strike teams and reviewed by Witt O'Brien's, CRC members were asked to evaluate the proposals not just as representatives of their agencies but more importantly in terms of what would do the most good for the largest number of Johnson Countians. Additionally, as had been posed throughout the process, they were asked to consider the following questions:

- Is it easy to understand how the proposal addresses a need in relation to COVID-19?
- Can you picture what will have improved as a result? Will the community be able to see a difference?
- Does the proposal consider effects to underserved populations?
- What are the barriers to implementation? Can it be accomplished by December 30?
- Will this be a short-term investment for long-term gain?

In addition, CRC members were reminded of the strike team participants' desire to:

- Serve the most vulnerable populations;
- Extend technology to those who need it for school, training and telework;
- Support truly small businesses, including women and minority-owned ones;
- Support those businesses that have been hardest hit as they were deemed "non-essential," including retail, restaurants, etc;
- Use organizations with the built-in capacity to implement the programs.

Using these guidelines as a lens, the CRC reprioritized the proposals by allocating funding to each of the proposals.

Ultimately, the CRC considered areas that were complementary, shared a common audience, and could be administered by a single agency. Those considerations resulted in the 14 proposals presented to the BOCC.

The table on the following page includes: the proposal name, what level of funding was originally requested, the average allocation provided by strike team members and the average allocation of the CRC as it deliberated how to best determine appropriate allocations for COVID-19 Relief Funds.

Proposal Name	Strike Team Estimate	Strike Team Average Allocation	CRC Average Allocation
Direct Grants to Small Business*	\$21,000,000	\$ 13,443,700	\$13,887,500
School Age Remote Learning & Child Care Program*	\$5,700,000	\$ 4,747,800	\$4,800,000
Emergency Housing Solutions**	\$8-10,000,000	\$ 3,658,700	\$445,313
Short-term Workforce Skills Training**	\$7,025,000	\$ 2,938,000	\$4,038,750
Rent, Utility, and Mortgage Assistance*	\$3,000,000	\$ 2,610,400	\$3,112,500
COVID Rapid Testing Machines targeted to older adult facilities	\$5,475,000	\$ 1,699,800	\$2,850,000
Grant Support for Nonprofits providing Mental Health**	\$2,000,000	\$ 1,456,100	\$1,715,357
Direct Assistance for Household Internet *	\$369,000 - \$605,000	\$ 1,260,900	\$637,250
Visitation Structure/Space for Senior Care Organizations	\$1,000,000	\$ 676,700	\$757,143
Digital Navigators	\$1,159,000	\$ 497,600	\$452,857
Workforce Supports:	\$1,250,000	\$ 489,800	\$828,571
Small Business Landlord Economic Assistance**	\$300,000 - \$600,000	\$ 438,000	\$0
Rural Johnson County Fiber Service	\$375,000	\$ 355,900	\$371,875
Removing Barriers to Accessing Behavioral Health Services	\$300,000	\$ 155,400	\$250,000
Marketing Campaign to Older Population	\$336,000	\$ 143,500	\$171,429
Transportation to support Health, Workforce and Food Access for Seniors	\$315,000	\$ 129,600	\$286,875
Post-Filing Eviction Prevention	\$270,000	\$ 95,900	\$190,625
Drawing Communities Together	\$200,000	\$ 87,000	\$134,286
Jo. Co Mental Health Campaign	\$110,000	\$ 69,100	\$100,000
Social Isolation Virtual Programming	\$140,000	\$ 46,100	\$102,857
***County IT Upcycling Digital Inclusion	\$70,000		\$70,000
***Digital Equity Project Management	\$242,500		\$169,625
Total		\$ 35,000,000	\$35,372,813

*Proposals in orange were the top four proposals prioritized by all strike teams.

**Proposals in blue were all equally selected as a stop five proposal.

***These proposals were not considered by all strike teams; They were developed later in the process.

Community Reinvestment Proposals

Small Business Assistance Proposals

1. Direct grants to small businesses
2. Direct grants to cultural arts businesses

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	JOCO Cares: Direct Grants for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Small businesses that have experienced physical and financial hardship (e.g. employee loss, loss of revenue, PPE expenses, etc.) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Small businesses are the backbone of the Johnson County economy. They employ critical populations, including low-to-moderate income workers, and also support a network of vendors, suppliers and investors to support our economy.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>As an economic driver for Johnson County, small businesses make up 95% of the county’s economy with close to 22,000 businesses serving the region. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided some financial assistance to qualified businesses, but the funding lacked the ability to cover critical areas, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the shutdown of most small businesses in the county for more than a two-month period. (<i>Since January, the average business have experienced a 20.6% drop in revenue.</i>), ● the reduction of services offered when reopening (<i>50% occupancy for industries, such as restaurants, medical, customer service, entertainment, etc.</i>) , and ● the PPE costs for all small businesses to be COVID-19 compliant. <p>This proposal addresses the economic relief that is essential for small businesses that are experiencing economic hardship in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. With the impending time frame of December 30, 2020 to utilize the CARES Act funding, a rapid response to assist these small businesses is necessary to ensure a future stable economy in Johnson County. Funding this direct grant proposal will aid in the recovery of small businesses, preserve jobs and support Johnson County in maintaining a full and robust economy.</p> <p>Small businesses will have to meet these criteria to be eligible for the grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must have at least 1, but no more than 100 FTE W-2 employees (As of March 1st, 2020). 2. Maximum revenue is ≤ \$10,000,000 (As January 1- December 31st, 2019).

	<p>3. Loss of revenue of $\geq 20\%$ in the six month period-over-period from March 1 to August 31, 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019 (identified loss must have been of at least \$10,000 and related to COVID-19).</p> <p>4. Must be current on 2019 state, local and federal taxes and in good standing with the state of Kansas.</p> <p>5. Small businesses (non-for-profit and for-profit) with a lease, commercial mortgage or rental agreements in Johnson County until December 31, 2020 are eligible to apply.</p> <p><i>Please see Addendum A for additional small business grants.</i></p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Johnson County Government is the lead organization with support from Enterprise Center in Johnson County (ECJC), Chambers of Commerce, County Economic Research Institute, and Johnson County Community College - Small Business Development Center</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>Enterprise Center in Johnson County contract with a third party provider</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>No (there are similar grants, but not in Johnson County)</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● <u>Small business assistance</u> ● Unemployment benefits

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers compensation Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Small business assistance
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	<p>September 17 - County approves proposal September 18 - MOU signed with ECJC and Johnson County Government September 21 - ECJC contracts with third party provider October 1 - Application open October 9 - Application closes October 26 - Money is allocated to small businesses <i>(This timeline will be adjusted based upon the approval of the proposal by Johnson County.)</i></p>
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes- The application process will screen applicants who do not meet CARES Act requirements.
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	<p>Financial Request: Total Request: \$13,500,000</p> <p>As a key economic driver in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Johnson County thrives on small businesses for economic viability and stability. The amount requested in this proposal is comparable to similar size communities (nationwide) on COVID-19 programs created for small business relief. Please see Addendum A, for additional small business grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arapahoe County in Colorado with similar total businesses of 23k and wages of \$5.9 million, allocated \$6 million for small business relief. Maricopa County, a little larger county in Arizona, allocated \$23 million for small business relief. Maricopa County has 108,000 total businesses with wages of \$28 million. <p><i>Since there were excess funds that were allocated for administration but not used, the Small Business Strike Team is requesting the excess funds to be allocated for this proposal to meet the \$21,000,000 request.</i></p> <p>Administrative fees - based on the above proposal and rapid time frame, the administrative fees should range from \$735,000 (3.5%) to \$1,050,000 (5%) <u>paid from Phase 3 allocation funds</u>. Items would include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Project management● Hiring of third party provider - application development and review● Marketing - campaign, program slogan, logo, social media, videos, etc.● Distribution of funds● Final reporting of program <p>Additional Marketing - Chambers of Commerce will provide in-kind marketing through social media and membership lists.</p>
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	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	COVID-19 Cultural Arts Relief Program: Direct Grants for Cultural Arts Nonprofit Businesses and Artists Impacted by COVID-19.
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Cultural arts nonprofit businesses and artists that have experienced physical and financial hardship (e.g. employee loss, loss of revenue, PPE expenses, etc.) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	As the County looks at economic and social recovery from the pandemic, the arts will play a major role in not only keeping our communities connected and healthy, but also in maintaining job security. According to data from Americans for the Arts, there are an above average number of arts-related businesses in Johnson County, with more than 1,600 arts-related businesses employing nearly 8,000 people. Since the pandemic began in March, 2020, Johnson County’s arts and cultural sector has experienced a direct economic impact of negative \$3,577,051.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>The arts matter to Johnson County because arts and cultural amenities are a crucial part of creating a community of choice and vitality. Providing opportunities for residents of all ages, abilities, and means to access a diverse range of programs and amenities—both locally and within the region, contributes to Johnson County’s richness as a community, its health and well-being, and its economic vitality. Arts and culture organizations bring in \$22.8 million annually to Johnson County, making them both crucial to our sense of identity and community <i>and</i> key economic drivers.</p> <p>At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided some financial assistance to nonprofit cultural arts businesses and artists, but the funding lacked the ability to cover critical areas, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the shutdown of most cultural arts nonprofit businesses and artist businesses in the county for over a 2 month period. <i>(since March, the average cultural arts nonprofit have experienced a -\$25,000 loss in revenue and 75% have modified their operating status - per Americans for the Arts Johnson County, KS COVID economic impact report. 74% of Artists have experienced an average loss of \$2,500 - \$5,000 in wages/earnings per Mid-America Arts</i>

	<p><i>Alliance’s Kansas COVID-19 Artists Impact Survey findings.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the reduction of services offered when reopening (50% occupancy for industries, such as restaurants, medical, customer service, entertainment, etc.) , and ● the PPE costs for all small businesses to be COVID-19 compliant. <p>Additionally, self-employed artists/small businesses had limited access to COVID relief financial support.</p> <p>This proposal addresses the economic relief that is essential for cultural arts small businesses that are experiencing economic hardship in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. With the impending time frame of December 30, 2020 to utilize the CARES Act funding, a rapid response to assist these small businesses is necessary to ensure a future stable economy in Johnson County. Funding this direct grant proposal will aid in the recovery of cultural arts small businesses, preserve jobs and support Johnson County in maintaining a full and robust economy.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Cultural Arts Relief Program provides immediate one-time grants to small cultural arts businesses (nonprofits and individual artists) facing financial hardship due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Small cultural arts businesses will have to meet these criteria to be eligible for the grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small cultural arts nonprofit businesses must have at least 1, but no more than 100 FTE employees (As of March 1st, 2020) or identify as an Artist 2. If an Individual Artist able to provide a W9 and Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or if a small cultural arts nonprofit business provide IRS Determination Letter 3. Maximum revenue is ≤ \$10,000,000 (As January 1- December 31st, 2019). 4. Provide demonstrated loss of revenue in the six month period-over-period from March 1 to August 31, 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019 (identified loss must be related to COVID-19). 5. Must be current on 2019 state, local and federal taxes and in good standing with the state of Kansas.
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	<p>6. Small businesses (non-for-profit and individual artists) with a lease, commercial mortgage or rental agreements in Johnson County until December 31, 2020 are eligible to apply.</p> <p>Reimbursement Model: Reimbursements to small cultural arts businesses with 1 - 100 employees for \$10,000 for COVID-19 purchases of necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), rent, payroll and other health and safety-related items and services. Applications will address only COVID-19 related expenses, not previously reimbursed. The funds will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.</p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Johnson County Government is the lead organization with support from the Arts Council of Johnson County</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>The Arts Council of Johnson County will manage the grant program and oversee grant awards with contracted grants management support.</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>Not specifically for Johnson County, however similar federal re-granting programs existed with our state arts agency the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission (SOS program), Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA CARES) the National Endowment for the Arts (Direct grants to previous NEA grantees from FY16 to present).</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use • COVID-19 testing and contact tracing • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) • Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes • Facilitating distance learning • Housing support • Improve telework capabilities of public employees • Medical expenses • Nursing home assistance • Payroll for public health and safety employees • Personal protective equipment • Public health expenses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business assistance • Unemployment benefits • Workers compensation • Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Small business assistance
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	September 24 - County approves proposal September 25 - MOU signed with ACJC and Johnson County Government September 28 - ACJC contracts with grants manager October 1 - Application open October 15 - Application closes October 30 - Money is allocated to small businesses <i>(This timeline will be adjusted based upon the approval of the proposal by Johnson County)</i>
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes- The application process will screen applicants who do not meet CARES Act requirements.
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	Financial Request: \$135,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 grant to fund 10 small cultural arts nonprofit businesses • \$2,500 grant to fund 9 individual artists • \$12,500 (~10%) for Administrative fees • Administrative fees - based on the above proposal and rapid time frame, the administrative fees include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project management ○ Hiring of contracted grants manager - application development and review ○ Marketing ○ Distribution of funds ○ Final reporting of program Total Request: \$135,000

Workforce Development Proposals

3. School-age Remote Learning and Child Care
4. Short-term Work Force Skills Training and Supports

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	COVID-19 school age remote learning and child care program proposal
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Johnson County school age students ages 5-12
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	All at-risk populations could be impacted by this program.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>The goal of this proposal is two-fold: 1) provide in-person support for children ages 5-12 who choose or are required to have remote learning, and 2) provide startup/operational funding support to the childcare provider.</p> <p>The request is to be able to offer school age child care/remote learning services to families where the need is greatest due to the necessity of parents continuing to work, and in many cases, the absence of reliable high-speed internet at home. We also request operational grant financing to cover school age programming startup costs and to support the provider's contingency planning should school districts change their remote/hybrid plans with little notice.</p> <p>Remote learning services is defined as programs/services that support school curriculum through extended learning provided by learning coaches and/or academic tutoring.</p> <p>On behalf of Kansas' licensed school age childcare providers, we request a total of \$4.8 million to help meet the goal of providing school age child care/remote learning for working families during the COVID-19 state of emergency and the decision by all of Johnson County's school districts to operate in a remote/virtual, hybrid in-person/remote, or modified attendance model at the start of the 2020/2021 school year. Funding recipients should be limited to organizations that provide licensed school age childcare services in the county to include those who have provided or continue to provide emergency childcare or summer camp programming and who follow public health guidance and strict protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and adults. Programs will operate according to guidelines developed by KDHE to ensure applicants are appropriately qualified.</p>
Name of Organization(s) Involved	Organizations that provide licensed school age child care services in Johnson County

Primary Organization	JCPRD, YMCA of Greater Kansas City, Boys & Girls Clubs
Program/Project Already Exists	Yes, in limited scope. Licensed child care providers have pivoted from their usual before/afterschool programming to provide remote learning/child care programming during school hours.
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Facilitating distance learning; administrative expenses; economic support
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	16 weeks or until dedicated funds run out (First semester of school for all JoCo school districts)
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	<p><u>TOTAL Funding Request: \$4.8 million</u></p> <p><u>School Age Remote Learning and Child Care Program Payments: \$4.5 million</u> for a School Age Remote Learning and Child Care Program that provides retroactive financial assistance for child care and remote learning to parents/primary caregivers who must work during the COVID-19 state of emergency and while Kansas schools are operating in remote/hybrid/in-person models. The Remote Learning</p>

Program will operate beginning August 17, 2020 and will continue for the duration of the state of emergency or until the depletion of funds, whichever comes first.

This \$4.5 million funding request would support 1,125 children at 100% subsidy for 16 weeks. Understanding that limited funds are available, implementation of a sliding scale fee to provide financial assistance to those most in need could also be considered. For example, if a provider had an average financial assistance award of 60% of the cost, with parents contributing 40%, nearly 2,000 kids could be served.

Family Eligibility: Parents or caregivers can receive financial assistance for the Remote Learning Program if they:

- are employed full time, attending school full-time, participating in a certified workforce training program, or are looking for full-time work,
- have no other safe childcare options,
- have an annual household income below \$150,000 with award amount based on a sliding fee scale.

Providers are to describe model for a sliding fee scale in program application to ensure inability to pay is not a barrier to services and CRF funds are maximized.

Application Process: Families must complete a COVID-19 Parent Application for Financial Assistance for Child Care/Remote Learning Program and submit the application to their program provider.

- Program providers are NOT expected to determine or verify whether a family is eligible for financial assistance. It is the responsibility of the parent/primary caregiver to self-attest to meeting the eligibility criteria.
- Program providers should, however, review the Parent Application form to ensure it is complete and store the Parent Application.

Child Care/Remote Learning Subsidy Rates: Program providers will receive the following rates for school-age children served through the Child Care/Remote Learning program: up to **\$60 per day** (Monday – Friday).

Operational Grants: \$300,000 in operational grants to licensed school age community-based organizations (i.e. the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club) and JCPRD for the purposes of hiring staff to meet higher staff to student ratios due to social distancing, up-fitting and purchase of technology to allow for remote learning opportunities, PPE and cleaning/sanitation

	<p>enhancements, infrastructure changes, administrative setup, marketing, and transportation/bussing needs during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency and while schools are operating under remote/hybrid/in-person models. The grants (with a \$20,000 cap per child care/remote learning site) can be used to cover or retroactively reimburse providers for the programming startup/shutdown costs listed above and can also support contingency plans should programming need to stop or adapt quickly due to changes in a school district's operating model.</p>
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	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Short-Term Skills Training and Supports for COVID-19 Impacted residents
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	<p>Johnson County working-age residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whose employment or earnings have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 (for example - furloughs, layoffs, hours reduced, wages reduced); and • who wish to pursue short-term vocational training, job upskilling or reskilling, digital literacy training, essential skills training, basic skills development, English as a second language learning and/or work-based learning <p>Individuals must already be, or must become, connected to a service provider to access this program.</p>
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unemployed - Underemployed - Black and Hispanic individuals and families - Low to moderate income individuals - Single parents - Individuals with disabilities - Veterans - Incumbent workers in vulnerable industries and/or working at vulnerable employers - Individuals with limited education and/or work history/skills - Individuals have had involvement with justice system - English language learners
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>70,113 Johnson County residents filed a new claim for unemployment between March 21 and August 29, 2020, with additional 2,845 in the past one week alone. This number does not capture the number of people who may lose their job soon due to the elimination of PPP support or another spike in COVID-19 cases. Based on current economic forecasting, the industries hardest hit by COVID-19, such as hospitality, entertainment, and food services, are unlikely to return to pre-pandemic employment levels by 2025, if ever. Furthermore, this pandemic has permanently changed consumer preferences and employers' use of technology, as well as the types of jobs and skills needed to be successful. Many unemployed or underemployed residents will need to upskill or re-skill in order to successfully earn and retain post-pandemic employment.</p>

	<p>Situational barriers and limited resources prevent individuals from being able to dedicate their time toward and successfully complete job training that could allow them to earn, retain, and/or advance in their careers. Supportive services overcome those barriers and provide the tangible resources that enable individuals to enroll into and persist throughout training. Researchers have recognized that supportive services are a critical factor in students persisting and completing through education and career programs (T. Bailey & M. Alfonso, 2005; McDonnell, Soricone, Sheen, 2014). Supportive services will assist individuals who are enrolled in an eligible, organized training by providing funding and referrals for eligible individuals so they can access things like transportation, child care, training materials (books, computers, etc.), school fees, clothing, and/or other essential case management services. This would be a pot of funding that service providers and education and training institutions could access after other existing funding sources are exhausted. The idea is to create additional bandwidth and depth for wrap-around services and case management services within existing organizations who are already successfully providing these resources, until December 30th. It will support enrolled job seekers in accessing additional benefits to support them on their job training and job search journey, as well as encourage new people to enroll into services that they may not have thought possible without these resources.</p> <p>We hereby request \$5,000,000 to upskill, re-skill and provide wrap-around support for those whose employment or earnings have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 in order to fill in-demand jobs in the following priority sectors: Healthcare, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Transportation/Logistics, Construction/Skilled Trades and Financial Services. These priority sectors align with the priority sectors identified by the local workforce development board (Workforce Partnership) and support excellent career pathways. The proposal also includes training in digital literacy/foundational computer skills for residents who have no or low computer literacy, as well as training in management and leadership for residents needing to advance current skills. It will also include Adult Basic Education/GED completion programs and ESL programs for residents who need them.</p>
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While residents will have a choice of many short-term classroom training (both in-person and online) and work-based training options (such as on-the-job training or internships), emphasis will be placed on credential-bearing programs or those programs that will prepare individuals to earn a certificate, certifications or pass a licensure exam. Examples of training programs include (but are not limited to): CNA, Phlebotomy Technician, IT Help Desk/Networking/Cybersecurity/Web Development, Respiratory Behavioral Technician, and Industrial Maintenance Technician. Management and leadership training options will include Business Continuity programs, Lean Six Sigma, Leadership Certifications and Technology Management. This proposal will also fund programs to enhance residents' essential/soft skills including strengths/skills assessments. Due to the very short timeframe to spend funds, this proposal will only fund training programs offered by training providers who are already approved on Workforce Partnership's eligible training provider list.

The proposal elements include:

- Marketing these training opportunities to Johnson County residents
- Skills review and basic assessments
- Career coaching
- Placement in a training program and fully paid tuition
- Supportive services as needed during training (to the extent such services/supports cannot be accessed through another strike team program)
- Job search/placement assistance post-training

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals will need to meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Photo ID;
2. A current Johnson County resident (documentation showing residency such as utility bill or lease);
3. Currently unemployed (proof of UI claim) or evidence that individual's employment, employment opportunity or sustainable family income was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (individuals may need to attest to this statement and/or provide paycheck copies, layoff letter, etc.);

	<p>4. Documentation of right to work in the U.S. (for occupational skills training); and</p> <p>5. Interest and commitment to completing a short-term training program by Dec 30, 2020.</p> <p>Program Administration</p> <p>Workforce Partnership will be the fiscal agent for these training and supportive services funds and will be responsible for their administration and management. Training programs on Workforce Partnership’s eligible training provider list have already been vetted by Workforce Partnership and already have existing administrative processes for enrollment and tuition payment. Training providers enrolling eligible individuals under this program will invoice Workforce Partnership for payment.</p> <p>Supportive Services will be paid directly by Workforce Partnership to the service vendor. If a community partner organization has expended supportive services dollars on an eligible program enrollee, that organization will submit an invoice to Workforce Partnership for reimbursement.</p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Local Workforce Investment Area III, Inc. DBA Workforce Partnership, Johnson County Community College, University of Kansas and other eligible training providers</p> <p>Catholic Charities, Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas, El Centro, Salvation Army and other organizations not listed that provide wraparound supportive services in Johnson County</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>Local Workforce Investment Area III, Inc. DBA Workforce Partnership</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>As the local workforce development board, Workforce Partnership already has mechanisms in place to manage and distribute training funds modeled after its WIOA-funded program and other federal and state grant training programs. Workforce Partnership does not currently have funding to support the thousands of additional unemployed and underemployed workers affected by COVID-19 as its current funding stream is based on unemployment numbers prior to the pandemic. So while these programs and processes to fund training for eligible individuals do currently exist in the county, the funding to support</p>

	<p>the dramatically increased need does not. Furthermore, many of the existing training programs can be customized to meet the needs of the populations served and any emerging needs of the employers.</p> <p>Many agencies incorporate limited wraparound services and case management into their focused programming, however, these services are often underfunded (especially due to funding cuts resulting from COVID-19). Situational barriers have increased because of COVID-19 and more people need more support now (wrap-around services are not typically the primary focus of workforce programming but they are vitally important to support workforce development).</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other - Workforce Development
<p>Identified Expenditure Categories</p>	<p>Administrative Expenses, Budgeted Personnel and Services Diverted to Substantially Different Use, Economic Support and Workforce Development</p>
<p>Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)</p>	<p>Late September – Soft marketing of Program begins October 1 - Fiscal Agent signs MOU with Johnson County October – Formal marketing and Training Program Enrollments begin October 15 - Disbursement eligibility and guidelines are finalized and shared with training and supportive service providers</p>

	<p>October - December – Delivery of Training and Supportive Services</p> <p>December 15 – Deadline for training and service providers to submit invoices to fiscal agent for reimbursement</p> <p>December 30 – Deadline for all payments of eligible expenses to be made to training and service providers</p>
<p>Meets the CARES Act Requirements</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-Term Training - \$3,750,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classroom training ○ On-the-Job Training (OJT) ○ Incumbent worker training for businesses negatively impacted by COVID that need to re-train staff for COVID-related operation changes ● Supportive Services - \$600,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child care (children up to age 5 – school aged children would be covered under the separate School Aged Remote Learning proposal) ○ Transportation (gas cards, bus passes, micro transit) ○ Car repairs ○ Training supplies (books, materials, computers, hot spots/internet access) and work supplies (tools, etc.) ○ Clothing and special footwear for work/uniforms or interviewing ● Marketing (5%) - \$250,000 ● Administration (5%) - \$250,000 ● Diverted Personnel and Services - \$150,000 ● TOTAL REQUEST: \$5,000,000

Housing Proposals

1. Rent, Utility and Mortgage Assistance
2. Emergency Housing Services

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Stable Housing as a Public Health Intervention: Rent, Utility, and Mortgage Assistance plus Legal Eviction Prevention Services to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 transmission
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	<p>Populations impacted include Johnson County households at-risk for eviction or mortgage default and subsequently housing loss due to non-payment. The program impacts a population who if they lost their current housing would likely become homeless and either double up with friends and family or live unsheltered, both of which would increase the likelihood that they are infected with COVID-19 or would transmit it. Thus, the work to assure households maintain current housing prevents the potential further spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>The population prioritized would be those who are multiple months behind in their housing and utility payments, putting them at risk of losing that housing. Also included in that population are those who have been notified of an eviction being filed against them and in need of legal assistance.</p> <p>Applicants will be prioritized for rental or housing assistance based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>the household has used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing.</i> ▪ <i>the household either (i) expects to earn no more than 80% of the area median income (up to \$73,417) in Calendar Year 2020, or (ii) was not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.</i> ▪ <i>the individual is unable to pay the full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, a lay-off, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses.</i> ▪ <i>the individual is using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual’s circumstances may permit, taking into account other non-discretionary expenses; and</i> ▪ <i>the loss of housing would likely render the individual homeless— or force the individual to move into and live in close quarters in a new congregate or shared living setting— because the individual has no other available housing options, which subsequently puts them at increased risk for infection or transmission of COVID-19.</i>

	<p><i>Those applicants who make more than 80% of the AMI will only be served if funds are available after priority populations are stabilized. This will be reviewed the second week of December.</i></p>
<p>At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project</p>	<p>Those households at increased risk of housing loss as described above. Households whose income is below 80% of AMI and/or who have received a notice of eviction due to non-payment are prioritized</p>
<p>Program/Project Goal and Description</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <p>To prevent the spread of COVID-19 by assisting Johnson County households who have lost income stably maintain their current housing where they can socially distance, self-isolate, quarantine and recover if infected with COVID-19. In turn, the maintenance of this population’s housing will prevent homelessness, boost mental health (less stress due to housing burden), support ongoing employment and education, protect credit, and preserve existing housing stock and small businesses by assuring creditors and landlords’ bills are met.</p> <p>Assistance for renting households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rental assistance will be paid (up to \$3,000 per household or three months of payments, whichever is less) with the landlord agreeing to set aside all late fees and consider the tenant’s debt paid in full ● Landlord agrees in writing to keep the tenant in the apartment for at least six months from the date of agreement at the same monthly cost as long as the tenant continues to pay and meet lease expectations (agreement does not preclude eviction for cause such as destruction, illegal activity, etc. per the existing lease agreement) ● Utilities assistance (up to \$2,000 in combined utilities bills) that can be tied to a household’s ability to maintain their tenancy safely (e.g. electricity, gas, water) will be paid to those utility companies in addition to turn on costs if already shut off, more than one utility type is possible. ● Kansas Legal Services and the tenant will both maintain copies of the tenant-landlord agreement to assure that housing is maintained <p>Assistance for mortgage holders:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Payment will be made on those mortgage costs (up to \$3,000 per household or three months of payments, whichever is less) that are needed to immediately stabilize the homeowner ● If needed, legal representation will assist the homeowner get a mortgage modification to extend payment timeframe to account for past payments not made ● Homeowners will be eligible for utilities assistance to maintain their housing safely (see assistance for renting households) <p>Assistance for those who have already had evictions filed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial assistance available for renting households will also be available for those whose landlords have filed an eviction ● Legal representation will be provided to counsel and if needed represent households in court and negotiate to modify their housing debts, with the goal of exiting with no eviction history or past debt from the filing ● If achievement of the goal requires the household leave the current housing option, a housing navigator will assist them identify another housing option and make plans for moving.
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>UCS, United Way, KS-505 Continuum of Care members, banks, landlords, JOCO, Habitat, HCCI, El Centro (agencies engaging in modifications), faith outreach, NPOs that assist mortgage foreclosure and eviction prevention or have community trust, utility partners</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>United Way of Greater Kansas City in partnership with Kansas Legal Services</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>Housing and Utility Assistance exists, but not at the level or capacity needed to effectively respond to the need due to COVID-19 income losses</p> <p>Legal representation for evictions and housing negotiation does NOT exist in Johnson County</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Economic support, Housing support
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	<p>Prior to October 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lease agreement and mortgage agreements are drafted for use with landlords and creditors, verified that they are legally enforceable ● Priorities and intake checklists are created and approved, in addition to intake process and communications plan ● Meet with EA providers in county for feedback re: intake process (electronic options? all virtual?), priorities, agreements etc. ● Confirm timeline and capacity for beginning assistance for households ● Legal representation/contract attorney is recruited and hired ASAP through Dec 30 ● Emergency assistance provider(s) with the capacity to screen, complete intakes, verify eligibility and provide payments to local landlords will be recruited, additional contract case management and housing navigation staff will be hired and trained to assist households. ● Communications plan targeting human services organizations, faith communities, local landlords, utility companies, civic organizations will be developed and pushed out/advertised by October 12 with the start date of accepting applications on October 15 <p>October 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Calls and applications will begin being accepted for assistance ● Funds will be distributed through December 30, or until all funds are expended
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes – base on the CDC’s agency order making the case that maintaining housing is an effective public health measure and prevents the further spread of COVID-19

<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p> <p>Total Estimated Cost = \$3,316,000</p>	<p>Housing and Economic Support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent payments - \$2,000,000 (approx. 700 low-income households assisted with up to \$3,000 per household) 2. Mortgage payments - \$775,000 (approx. 260 low income homeowners, \$3,000 avg. need per homeowner) 3. Utility payments – \$250,000, serve households whose utilities’ arrears put their housing at risk (up to \$2,000 per household, can be spread across multiple utilities) 4. Legal counsel and representation for those who have had an eviction filed or seeking a mortgage modification– \$30,000 for one FTE contract attorney for 3 months 5. Legal expenses related to providing representation to at risk households- \$16,000, may include but is not limited to establishing binding lease and mortgage agreements to prevent loss of housing and thus prevent further spread of COVID-19 6. Case management costs – approx. \$69,600 for four FTE contract bachelor level social workers (40 hrs. a week, \$39.50 an hour, 11 weeks including training) to complete intakes, determine eligibility, assemble and submit documentation for 1000+ households over 11 weeks to work toward maintenance of housing 7. Housing Navigator – \$20,000 for one FTE contract worker to assist households identify new housing options, assist with transition and identifying supports to successfully move to new housing if unable to stay at current place. 8. Administrative costs for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. United Way of Greater Kansas City = \$153,000 b. Kansas Legal Services = \$2,400
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	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Emergency Housing Solutions
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Households with or without children that have lost their own housing and have no place to self-isolate, socially distance and thus are at risk for infection and/or transmission of COVID-19
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Households with or without children that have lost their own housing and have no place to self-isolate, socially distance and thus are at risk for infection and/or transmission of COVID-19
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>The goal is providing emergency housing for Johnson County households without it and currently without adequate income to obtain lodging on their own in order to prevent and mitigate the further spread of COVID-19. This will be achieved through renting out hotel/motel space to meet their immediate housing needs and provide them safe shelter while planning for regaining stable housing.</p> <p>Renting out an existing business already providing short term lodging – preferably one that is an efficiency or long stay model - will support the success of that local business, maintain jobs at the hotel, and provide emergency housing that will mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among local residents. Hotel management and employees will maintain the health and safety of the facility for those who are staying there as they are doing currently.</p> <p>Households will be connected to local human services organizations if desired to assist them plan for their next housing option or if they need assistance meeting their members’ basic needs for food, etc. while at the emergency housing space. Households are not expected to stay in emergency housing for more than 30 days.</p>
Name of Organization(s) Involved	Johnson County Human Services and Housing Authority, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Project 1020, NCircle, Johnson County Mental Health, Jewish Family Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and other emergency assistance providers.
Primary Organization	Johnson County Human Services

<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>Not at the level of anticipated need in coming months</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● <u>Housing support</u> ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● <u>Personal protective equipment</u> ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
<p>Identified Expenditure Categories</p>	<p>Housing support, Personal protective equipment</p>
<p>Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)</p>	<p>Timeline is dependent on the BOCCs approval of the planned expenditures and subsequent identification of a hotel for use.</p> <p>Prior to October 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An appropriate hotel (preferably efficiency/long term models that include small kitchen and/or refrigerators and microwave for meals) will be identified before October 1 and the County will enter into a contract to rent its lodging spaces through December 30. ● A plan to communicate the availability of the emergency housing option for Johnson County households will be prepared, it will be released the day the contract goes into place ● Jo Co Human Services along with community partners will develop eligibility criteria for priority households, along with policies and procedures that will be shared with those provided lodging

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Co Human Services along with community partners will develop a set of resources to offer households along with dedicated staff time at the hotel to meet with those seeking assistance <p>October 1-December 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson County residents seeking emergency housing • In partnership with Johnson County Human Services, multiple social service agencies will commit to providing basic needs and housing navigation supports for those in emergency housing if needed to regain their own housing. • All households provided emergency housing through this program will be exited from it by December 31 or have the ability to self-maintain housing at the hotel after that date.
<p>Meets the CARES Act Requirements</p>	<p>Yes, based on our current understanding of the regulations regarding capital expenditures and the needs of those without safe/healthy housing due to the pandemic</p>
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p>	<p>Estimated budget will be determined by the negotiation between the hotel and the County, but in order to estimate the total costs:</p> <p>Estimating lodging costs for up to 100 households at a time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1-December 30 = 91 days • Hotel likely to be engaged = ~ 92 rooms • Negotiated rate = \$45 flat rate per night (that includes taxes, etc and includes the hotel’s continued responsibility to clean, provide laundry services, maintain clean common spaces, as they would when open to the general public prior to entering into a contract with the County) • Total maximal cost for lodging = $(91)(\\$45/\text{night})(92 \text{ rooms}) = \\$376,740$ <p>Estimating costs for ancillary costs related to providing emergency housing that will prevent/mitigate the spread of COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$23,260 in addition to in-kind resources from partner organizations to provide supports to maintain emergency housing and move on to their next housing option

Digital Access Proposals

1. Direct assistance for household internet, IT upcycling and project management
2. Rural Johnson County Fiber Service
3. Digital Navigators

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Direct Assistance for Household Internet, Access to Devices, and Project Management
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Low income/fixed income households who have been impacted by COVID and cannot afford regular internet service/and or devices (addresses core services and needs - work, education, basic needs, mental and physical health services, case management, social isolation)
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Low income/fixed income households who have been impacted by COVID and cannot afford regular internet service (addresses core services and needs - work, education, basic needs, mental and physical health services, case management, social isolation)
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>Respond to and meet the direct need for digital access (Internet service and devices) to underserved low- and fixed-income households impacted by COVID to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Employment ● Workforce Development ● Access to health and mental health services ● Basic Needs such as food assistance access (online grocery, food pantry distribution details) ● Case management ● Social isolation <p>The project contains several distinct elements:</p> <p>1) <u>Internet Service Utility Assistance Fund</u> – Similar to established utility assistance programs, Mid-America Assistance Coalition (MAAC) will provide the structure and process with partner agencies to do the applicant intake and processing for residents who qualify for the Internet Assistance Fund and remit funds directly to the provider on behalf of identified households in order to secure the ability for distance learning, remote work, basic needs, or health and human services due to hardship brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Agencies serving families in need in the county will be able to submit request for relief from the fund through the MAACLink software for qualifying families. Intake will track connection to a COVID related issue or need and eligible expenses include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Payment in arrears for up to three months, if failure to pay resulted in disconnection of service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to reconnect service • Installation cost for new service • Cost of providing active Internet service to the home. ISPs participating in the program provide 6 months of service from time of activation to ensure no interruption of remote learning services as household works on income stability. <p>6 months of service will ensure all families receive service through the end of the first semester of 2020-2021 school year and into the second semester as districts continue to evaluate in person learning or hybrid solutions and solutions for medically high risk households. Qualification for relief from this fund will be available for families with income up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Households must attest in their application process that service is needed due to hardship brought on by Covid-19.</p> <p>2) <u>Computer and Device Distribution</u> – PCs for People (formerly Connecting for Good) will provide desktop and laptop computers to households who need them in order to facilitate distance learning, remote work, basic needs, or health and human services due to hardship brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, PCs for People will also offer hotspot devices for connectivity in situations where that is determined a better solution than fixed line Internet service offered through the Utility Assistance Fund or as an interim solution if internet hook up services are delayed or backlogged. There will be coordination between these efforts to avoid duplication of service and to ease the burden of engagement with the households. PCs for People handles the provision of devices, ongoing technical support for the families they serve, transport and delivery, and qualifying prospective households for service. They will also work with Johnson County DTI to refurbish county equipment that is due to be replaced and make that equipment available to families in need. This service includes enterprise-level security and recycling work for electronic equipment.</p> <p>3) <u>Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling</u> – In order to support the implementation of that “upcycling” program, Johnson County DTI will divert some time of budgeted</p>
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personnel and services to this use and help facilitate the process within the County, potentially with other municipal governments in the County.

- 4) **Project Management and Community Outreach** – KC Digital Drive (KCDD) will provide overarching management support across these program lines to ensure coordination among these programs (as well as the Digital Navigator and Rural Fiber Service projects) and avoid duplication, outreach coordination with internet and data providers, coordinate community communication outreach regarding the services and interventions available to improve Digital Access, and support identified compliance and recordkeeping requirements of the CRF allocations. KCDD has been building digital inclusion capacity throughout the region since 2012 and maintains relationships with practitioners, Internet Service Providers, and agencies serving those in need. Project management responsibilities include working with ISPs, MAAC, and PCs for People to determine what the ISPs are able to offer and design an outreach and intake process to meet the needs of families quickly.

In addition to overall project management, there are discrete scopes of work needed to facilitate distance learning, remote work, basic needs, or health and human service delivery for households for whom the Covid-19 pandemic has caused significant hardship. These elements facilitate this direct work in response to the pandemic in 2020, but they have the additional benefit of preserving program framework and knowledge for ongoing investment should the County or other funders choose to maintain any of these services. They include:

- Needs Assessment – This is not a “from scratch” needs assessment, but rather working with the schools and districts, workforce development agencies, human services agencies and others in the county who have a handle on the need and the community being served in order to direct resources appropriately and efficiently
- Asset Inventory – This includes work with the ISPs, Digital Navigators, the Library, County and municipal staff throughout the County to broaden the scope of assets available to support this work and include additional

	<p>assets and opportunities for households in need alongside the Internet service and devices specific to the fund. It includes working with business organizations to identify additional upcycling opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation Framework and Impact Assessment – As we engage households, some for the first time, in digital connectivity efforts, we will build an impact evaluation process and framework to ensure the resources are being deployed in a strategic and effective manner • Audit Compliance – Specifically include process and provisions throughout for assurance that funds expended are meeting a need related to Covid-19 pandemic, that funds are expended by the County for such a need in the appropriate time frame, and that records are maintained through the requisite accounting period.
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAAC, MARC, UCS, area agencies, KC Digital Inclusion Coalition, School Districts, UWGKC, PC for People, KC Digital Drive, County Staff, Johnson County Library, KU, UMKC
<p>Primary Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAAC – Internet Utility Fund Administration • PCs for People – Computer and Device Distribution • Johnson County DTI – Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling • KC Digital Drive – Project Management and Communications
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Utility Fund Administration – exists for utilities besides Internet service, creation of process underway with other regional partners • Computer and Device Distribution – yes, PCs for People provides this service currently • Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling – partial, County has existing IT upcycling program, and PCs for People works with other governments to provide retired devices; but working together for this purpose will be new • Project Management and Communications – this specific scope will be new to Johnson County and to the needs of the CARES Act process, but KCDD manages similar projects in the digital inclusion space and is managing communications outreach and engagement with a similar audience for COVID-response work

<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance)
<p>Identified Expenditure Categories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAAC – Internet Utility Fund Administration (\$600,000) \$552,000: Direct assistance to households (e.g., \$276 total benefit to 2,000 households in need) \$48,000: Administrative fee (8%) • PCs for People – Computer and Device Distribution (\$182,500) \$175,000: Estimated serve 350 households at \$500 per, providing computers and/or hot spots for families in need \$7,500: Administrative fee (4%) • Johnson County IT – Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling (\$20,000): For budgeted personnel diverted to a substantially different use • KC Digital Drive – Project Management and Community Outreach (\$197,500) \$187,500: Direct service to facilitate digital connectivity to households for distance learning, remote work, basic needs and health and human services; includes budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use \$10,000: Administrative fee (5%)
<p>Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAAC – Internet Utility Fund Administration: estimated fund availability will begin October 1 – December 30, 2020 • PCs for People: – Computer and Device Distribution: estimated availability will begin October 1 – December 30, 2020 • Johnson County DTI – Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling: reimbursed to DTI according to County policy, program in place and available computers transferred to PCs for People by Dec 15. • KC Digital Drive – Project Management and Community Outreach: project management work has already begun; preliminary program outlines, schedules, and communications plan in place by October 1. Project management in place throughout life of services/programs (thru December 30, 2020). Compliance and records management support will align with County timeline and expectations.

<p>Meets the CARES Act Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p> <p>Total Budget = \$1,000,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MAAC – Internet Utility Fund Administration (\$600,000) \$552,000: Direct assistance to households (e.g., \$276 total benefit to 2,000 households in need) [Primary Service] \$48,000: Administrative fee (8%) [Administration] ● PCs for People – Computer and Device Distribution (\$182,500) \$182,500: Estimated serve 350 households at \$500 per, providing computers and/or hot spots for families in need [Primary Service] \$7,500: Administrative fee (4%) [Administration] ● Johnson County IT – Internal Resource Alignment for Upcycling (\$20,000) [Payroll – budgeted personnel diverted to substantially different use] ● KC Digital Drive – Project Management and Community Outreach (\$197,500) \$30,000 project management [Primary Service] \$38,500 needs assessment [Primary Service] \$38,500 asset inventory [Primary Service] \$23,000 evaluation framework and implementation [Primary Service] \$57,500 Communications (strategy development, creative and design, production, media buy and placement) \$10,000: Administrative fee (5%) [Administration]

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Rural Johnson County Fiber Service
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Families with children in De Soto School District
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	K-12 students
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>Push fiber into western rural Johnson County to respond to changes in education, work, health and human service delivery, needs, and access due to COVID 19 pandemic.</p> <p>Census Tract 527 Block B is the largest terrestrial broadband infrastructure deficit in Johnson County lacking any wired broadband connectivity. At the onset of COVID 19 this deficit highlighted the challenges rural Johnson County residents face in order to access the internet for education, employment, telehealth and telemental health. This tract has a population of 2500 with a median age of 42 years old.</p> <p>This census tract spans 14 miles at its widest point. Families and individuals living in these areas must rely on spotty 4g coverage or be forced to drive up to 7 miles to access public wireless internet.</p> <p>This project will collaboratively fund the construction of fiber optic internet service, leveraging private capital investment, in an area of unincorporated Johnson County that currently does not have wired internet access.</p> <p>These families of the DeSoto School District have been negatively impacted by constraints on the public education system due to COVID 19. Additionally with a median population age of 42 we expect that many of these residents are negatively impacted by the lack of broadband to support telework.</p> <p>This funding will provide \$177,000 to RG Fiber to construct a conduit/cable system from 98th and Waverly Road to 115th Street (approximately 2.23 miles), and \$198,000 to Zoom Fiber to construct a conduit/cable system from 95th and Kill Creek Road to 115th Street (approximately 2.5 miles). Both extensions will originate from handholes placed on the conduit system already built as part of the De Soto public-private partnership.</p>

	<p>Approximately 2.5 miles of conduit will be constructed on each road for a total of almost 5 miles of conduit. Construction along both of these roads will encounter a significant amount of rock further discouraging private investment due to an inadequate rate of return. Given the anticipated rock on these corridors the construction cost could reach as much as \$24/foot overall. It is proposed to reimburse the private partners \$15/foot for conduit constructed.</p> <p>COVID 19 created an urgency in both carriers and the county to prepare plans, acquire permits and secure materials in an effort to expedite the expansion of broadband into this unincorporated and unserved area of Johnson County. This project will not infringe on any private wired service broadband providers. There are no broadband internet service providers in this area. This investment meets the immediate need for internet access to address online learning, telework, and health and human service needs and creates sustainable and long term infrastructure.</p> <p>While the urgency exists, private companies alone do not have the resources to respond affordably to impact these underserved residents during the COVID 19 Crisis. By reducing the cost of infrastructure it will allow the service to be provided at normal commercial rates.</p> <p>Both RG Fiber and Zoom Fiber are established internet service providers actively serving customers in De Soto. Both have committed to completing the system extension by December 30, 2020. Providing funding to both creates a competitive environment benefitting consumers. Providing the funding makes it financially viable for the carriers to extend vital fiber optic infrastructure in a rural setting.</p> <p>Both RG Fiber and Zoom Fiber have indicated they can complete the extension to 115th by year end. This will support deliver of broadband to homes without access bringing a positive impact to these homes during the COVID 19 crisis. Letters of commitment have been secured from both fiber carriers.</p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Johnson County Public Works for ordinary construction permit administration. City of De Soto for validation of project completion and submit to the County Budget Office for funds to be dispersed.</p>

Primary Organization	Johnson County Public Works City of De Soto
Program/Project Already Exists	No
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use • COVID-19 testing and contact tracing • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) • Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes • Facilitating distance learning • Housing support • Improve telework capabilities of public employees • Medical expenses • Nursing home assistance • Payroll for public health and safety employees • Personal protective equipment • Public health expenses • Small business assistance • Unemployment benefits • Workers compensation • Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Facilitating Distance Learning and support for telework
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	Completed by December 30, 2020
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	<p style="text-align: center;">\$375,000</p> <p>This funding will provide \$177,000 to RG Fiber to construct a conduit/cable system from 98th and Waverly Road to 115th Street (approximately 2.23 miles), and \$198,000 to Zoom Fiber to construct a conduit/cable system from 95th and Kill Creek Road to 115th Street (approximately 2.5 miles).</p>

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Digital Navigators
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	K-12 School Students, Workforce, Bilingual
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Those who lack digital access and skills who have been impacted by COVID in one or more areas including education, work, securing basic needs and/or health and human services (e.g., low-income seniors, low-income households)
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>Provide support for Johnson County residents impacted by COVID to access new and existing pathways to digital resources in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet increased needs for tech support during COVID-19 with outsourced labor ● In cooperation with school districts offer tech support for school children (97,291 public school students) goal is to complement available school tech support hours. ● One-on-one and group tech support (via phone, on-line platform or in person) for underserved populations who are not familiar with digital technologies (e.g., low-income seniors, career and job seekers, school age children and caregivers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tiered support to be provided through library locations throughout the county (goal is to complement available school tech support hours and provide bi-lingual services when possible) – in-person support to be provided by appointment at one library location in each quadrant of the county for up to 40 hours per week across the county. Phone support provided at least 48 hours a week. ○ Support to include basic troubleshooting of software, internet, and Wi-Fi access; assisting users on how to manage on-line meeting platforms and virtual connectivity, in order to access educational, work, basic needs or health and human service etc. ● Log basic info (number of people attending, purpose of COVID related attendance (work/personal/school) to

	evaluate/enhance service, but no personal information on usage in accordance with library policy.
Name of Organization(s) Involved	Parks & Rec, School Districts, City Community Centers
Primary Organization	Johnson County Library
Program/Project Already Exists	No
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● Facilitating distance learning
Identified Expenditure Categories	IT staff overtime payment, contracted IT services
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	Program promotion from September 23 Technical support provided from October 1-December 30
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p> <p>Johnson County Library Cost Estimate: <u>\$334,000</u></p>	<p>Contracts - Outsourcing more technical help (both phone and in-person) and bi-lingual support \$100/hr. Hourly rate includes budget for knowledgeable staffing, plus management, overhead, and need to outsource. Tier 3 staff = \$70,000 (37 hours/week x 12 weeks @ 25% of total call volume estimated) \$18,000 - Outsourced on-line training sessions \$10,000 - Promotional material \$10,000 - Outsourced training of staff \$45,000 - Needs Assessment for library material mobile hotspots for check out in underserved areas TOTAL=\$153,000</p> <p>Commodities- \$ 10,000 - modifications to phone system, \$ 20,000 - for additional laptops/headset, \$ 10,000 - PPE augmentation and furnishings</p>

	<p>\$ 15,000 - modifications to on-line learning platform TOTAL=\$55,000</p> <p>Personnel - \$40/hr. offer additional compensation to staff providing in-person technical support. Hourly rate includes budget for knowledgeable staffing, plus management, overhead, and outsource.</p> <p>In-sourced training of staff Tier 1 staff = \$69,000 (144 hours x 12 weeks) Tier 2 staff = \$21,000 (44 hours x 12 weeks) Supporting staff hours = \$20,000 (40 hours x 12 weeks) <i>IT, L&D, etc. support overhead</i> TOTAL=\$110,000</p> <p>Administrative – \$16,000 – management of outsourced/contracts and staff TOTAL=\$16,000</p>
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Aging Proposals

1. Visitation structures for senior care organizations
2. Social Isolation Virtual Programming
3. Transportation to support health, workforce and food access for seniors
4. COVID rapid testing machines for older adult facilities

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Visitation Structure/Space for Long-Term Care & Senior Care Organizations
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	<p>Elderly individuals living in congregate settings would be impacted by this program. This would include senior independent living (HUD 202), assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities.</p> <p>According to 2019 data provided by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services, there are 3,282 individuals living at 38 long-term care facilities in Johnson County. There are also an additional 3,727 individuals living at 56 assisted living facilities across Johnson County. This proposal has the potential to touch the individuals living in those communities.</p>
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	<p>Individuals who reside in congregate living spaces are at a greater risk of contracting (or being affected by) COVID-19. Data reported by the Johnson County Government (as of 9/2/2020) shows that there have been 118 deaths in the county due to COVID-19. Of those, 88 (75%) have occurred in long-term care facilities. Of the 8,362 positive COVID-19 cases in Johnson county, 573 (7%) were found in individuals who were at least 70 years old. This means that while the senior population of Johnson County only accounts for 7% of positive COVID-19 cases, this population also accounts for 75% of COVID-19 related deaths countywide (The rates of infection and death are even higher for African Americans seniors living in Johnson County).</p>

<p>Program/Project Goal and Description</p>	<p>The goal of the project is to provide safe visitation options for individuals living in senior congregate settings in various weather conditions. Funding would support remodeling an interior room or erecting a temporary stand-alone structure (outdoors) at long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, or skilled independent living facilities. This project would ensure that seniors had access to a climate-controlled, socially-distanced space that would allow for safe visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals in these spaces would be required to wear personal protective equipment and these areas would be cleaned promptly between guests to prevent community transmission of COVID-19. Awards to construct these spaces will be limited to \$40,000 per facility; this amount is estimated to cover most of the costs for a 12 x 12 standalone structure.</p> <p>Skilled care facilities and nursing facilities for the elderly have been closed to visitors since March of this year. Family members and friends have been limited to window visits, Facetime visits, and limited outdoor visits when weather allows. Additionally, residents of these congregate settings have limited visitation opportunities with other residents. The mental and physical toll of this type of social isolation is devastating. Therefore, constructing a space that meets safe visitation guidelines is crucial to the psychosocial wellbeing of elderly residents.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable costs associated with the remodeling process includes, but is not limited to, building walls, installing doors, installing windows and/or plexiglass dividers, installing a ventilation system, and purchasing furniture that is easy to clean and holds up to frequent cleaning.</p> <p>Examples of new structures that could be built under this program include, but are not limited to, a heavy duty commercial event tent with sidewalls and windows, prefabricated Morgan style building with windows and a PTAC unit for heating and a/c, or a four seasons style room with a PTAC unit.</p>
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<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Area Agency on Aging & Johnson County Department of Emergency Management</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>Johnson County - Area Agency on Aging</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>This program does not currently exist.</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Administrative expenses · Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use · COVID-19 testing and contact tracing · Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) · Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes · Facilitating distance learning · Housing support · Improve telework capabilities of public employees · Medical expenses · Nursing home assistance · Payroll for public health and safety employees · Personal protective equipment · Public health expenses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Small business assistance · Unemployment benefits · Workers compensation · Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	<p>-Remodeling of existing building space</p> <p>-New structure added to facilities building (attached or detached)</p>
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	<p>Application and requirements can be made available to all qualified Johnson County facilities after approval by the BOCC. First award date to be set by Area Agency on Aging; at that time, awards will be made first to those applicants whose facilities house higher percentages of people of color than in the general Johnson County population. The remaining funds will be awarded according to the date of application submission.</p> <p>Because these will be small scale construction projects there should be plenty of time for completion and expenditure of funds prior to December 30.</p>
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	<p>Up to \$40,000 for individual projects and a total allotment of \$860,000 for the program; this supports 21 projects at \$40,000 or more if smaller requests come in.</p> <p>First award date to be set by Area Agency on Aging; at that time, awards will be made first to those applicants whose facilities house higher percentages of people of color than in the general Johnson County population. The remaining funds will be awarded on a first come, first</p>

	<p>served basis, according to the date of application submission, until funds are exhausted.</p> <p>The proposed figure was identified because it can serve a substantial number of facilities. This figure recognizes that many other pressing needs exist in Johnson County and that those needs will also be competing for County funding.</p>
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	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Combat social isolation through engaging and educational virtual programming
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Older adults facing isolation and lack of social connection due to COVID-19
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Older adults who are most vulnerable during COVID-19 due to health complications, isolation and lack of social connection.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension, and Johnson County Community College Continuing Education will work together collaboratively to build virtual educational capacity to engage older adults and minimize social isolation due to COVID-19. Broad categories of offerings could include: art, history, humanities, current events, health/nutrition education, evidence-based programs among others.</p> <p>The project will augment programs known to be of high-quality and expand offerings through a county-wide approach engaging various partners to assist with promotion and recruitment such as: Johnson County Parks and Recreation; Johnson County Library; Johnson County Human Services and Area Agency on Aging; Neighborhood Services Departments within Johnson County cities; and Residential facilities.</p> <p>These high-quality offerings will be made available to participants from the comfort and safety of their own home/apartment where they can engage with one another in a virtual setting.</p> <p>Prior to COVID-19, nearly one in five older adults were affected by social isolation. (AARP Foundation). Due to COVID-19, an increased number of older adults have been forced into isolation. With stay-at-home restrictions and concerns about severe complications from COVID-19, older adults are experiencing less engagement, more withdrawal, and more isolation, all of which compound their feeling of disconnection and exacerbate mental</p>

health challenges. This concern is especially critical for those living in residential communities where they may be confined to their rooms out of an abundance of caution.

In 2019, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services indicated active licenses in Johnson County for 38 nursing homes and 56 assisted-living facilities with a capacity for 3,282 and 3,727 people respectively. This proposal will include outreach efforts into some of the residential communities in Johnson County.

Research shows the negative effects of chronic isolation and loneliness. While harmful at any age, isolation is especially dangerous for people over 50. Social isolation and loneliness are associated with higher blood pressure; increased susceptibility to the flu; greater risk of heart disease; and earlier onset of dementia (Julianne Holt-Lunstad, Timothy B. Smith, Mark Baker, Tyler Harris, and David Stephenson). It has been shown that feelings of loneliness can increase the risk of death by as much as 45% (Carla M. Perissinotto, Irena Stijacic Cenzler, and Kenneth E. Covinsky).

This proposal seeks to reduce the social isolation of 1,000 Johnson County older adults by offering approximately 100 virtual educational opportunities (provided by the KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension, and Johnson County Community College Continuing Education) between March 31 and December 30, 2020. Promotion for this program will occur through a collaboration between these providers. This program has the potential of reaching nearly 90,000 Johnson County residents.

KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension (KSRE), and Johnson County Community College Continuing Education will work with our county partners to provide engaging educational opportunities for our older adults. Virtual learning opportunities will be offered in a variety of ways including streaming live via video conference technology, with seniors gaining access through their personal computer or

	<p>on their phone. The goal is for individuals to enroll in the “series” of sessions throughout the October 1- December 30th timeframe. Once the individual is signed up for a course, they will gain access to all supporting course materials and instructions on zoom training if appropriate. This hands-on engagement piece is essential to reduce the sense of isolation.</p> <p>This money will fund programs designed to alleviate social isolation among Johnson County residents who are 50 or older. The overarching goal of this program will be to build the capacity to sustain these types of programs for our Johnson County older adult population for years to come.</p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension; Johnson County Community College Continuing Education; Johnson County Parks and Recreation; Johnson County Library; Johnson County Human Services and Area Agency on Aging; Neighborhood Services Departments within Johnson County cities; Residential facilities and others.</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension; Johnson County Community College Continuing Education</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>The KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension, and Johnson County Community College Continuing Education already have some proven quality programs in existence that could be quickly utilized with opportunities for expansion to reach isolated older adults. For example, Johnson County Community College Continuing Education offers CE EDTalks 1-2 per week online (www.jccc.edu/edtals).</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing

	<p>Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
<p>Identified Expenditure Categories</p>	<p>Administrative expenses; Facilitating distance learning; Other</p>
<p>Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)</p>	<p>3/31-12/30</p>
<p>Meets the CARES Act Requirements</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p>	<p>Total Requested Funds = \$174,000</p> <p><u>KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute expenses for educational programming from March 31 - December 30, 2020:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty compensation for course development/delivery: \$16,000 ● Administrative expense to facilitate distance learning and provide training: \$10,000 ● Marketing and outreach: \$5,000 ● Course materials: \$3,000 ● Credit card fees charged: \$2,000 ● Program hosting fee to serve residential communities: \$22,000

	<p>Total expenses October 1 - December 30, 2020 = \$58,000.</p> <p>Reimbursement for 49 offerings transitioned to virtual due to COVID-19 during spring/summer, serving 311 Johnson County residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty compensation for course development/delivery: \$22,000 ● Administrative expense to facilitate distance learning and provide training: \$16,000 ● Marketing and outreach: \$12,000 ● Course materials: \$1,000 ● Credit card fees charged: \$1,000 <p>Reimbursement for spring/summer COVID-19 expenses = \$52,000.</p> <p><u>Johnson County, K-State Research and Extension Expenses for 10 weeks of an educational program from October 5 - December 11, 2020 which would be free for the participants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marketing and Outreach for program: \$4,000 ● Course materials for hands-on activities to be mailed/delivered: \$15,000 ● Program incentives for participating in the series: \$5,000 ● Training for staff and volunteers: \$3,000 ● Volunteer stipends: \$3,000 ● Total expenses = \$30,000. <p><u>Johnson County Community College Continuing Education expenses for educational programming from March 31 - December 30, 2020:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructor compensation for course development/delivery (50 sessions): \$5,000 ● Administrative expense to launch initiative, facilitate distance learning, and provide training: \$8,500 ● Marketing and outreach: \$3,500 <p>Total expenses March 31 - December 30, 2020 (50 sessions) = \$17,000</p>
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	<p>Total expenses October 1 - December 30, 2020 (15 sessions) = \$4,625</p> <p>Reimbursement for creation of program including 35 offerings created in response to COVID-19 during spring/summer, serving 1,142 Johnson County residents to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty compensation for course development/delivery: \$3500 ● Administrative expense to facilitate distance learning and provide training: \$7,375 ● Marketing and outreach: \$1500 <p>Reimbursement for spring/summer COVID-19 expenses = \$12,375</p>
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	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Transportation to support Health, Workforce and Food Access for Seniors during COVID-19
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Senior Population and caregivers
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	60+, persons with disabilities, veterans, elderly, homebound, and caregivers
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>To provide transportation vouchers for seniors to travel to medical appointments and work and caregivers providing for seniors in Johnson County.</p> <p>To provide grocery store vouchers for seniors access to healthy fresh food.</p> <p>With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the Johnson County senior population was a hard-hit community. The stay at home order and severity of the potential health impact (related to contracting COVID -19) forced our seniors to shelter in place for safety. Layering the loss of employment for the senior population, added stress and loss of supplemental income leads to food insecurity. These circumstances effect seniors (60+), persons with disabilities, veterans, elderly, homebound individuals and caregivers.</p> <p>Potential target of 2,660 residents impacted by the voucher program.</p> <p>Criteria to meet voucher need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 60+ and Loss of job or employment due to COVID-19 <p>Or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. You are a caregiver for a senior who is homebound <p>Or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. You are a senior providing care for your extended family <p>Food voucher usage:</p>

	-in store purchasing of health food options -online ordering and/or delivery for homebound seniors Transportation voucher usage: -medical appointments -work and employment search -support caregivers of seniors
Name of Organization(s) Involved	JoCo Transit Authority, AARP, K-State Research and Extension, JoCo Food Policy Council, Johnson County Aging and Human Services
Primary Organization	Johnson County Aging and Human Services
Program/Project Already Exists	No
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Economic support, Administrative expense, Public health expenses

Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	October 15 - Process and protocols developed December 30 - ensure funds depleted
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	Estimated \$280,000 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marketing ● Distribution ● Purchase of \$100 worth of transportation vouchers from participating vendors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target Number: 2,000 individuals/families/caregivers/volunteers ● Purchase of \$100 vouchers for grocery store purchases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target Number: 660

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Purchase of COVID-19 rapid testing machines and test cartridge kits targeted to older adult facilities
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Older adults, workers serving older adults, caregivers, volunteers
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Older adults with care needs, older persons of color, socially isolated individuals.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>Nursing homes and assisted living facilities have been closed to outside visitors since March. This has led to significant isolation for residents; the lack of contact with family members and friends has taken a toll on mental health. The purchase of rapid testing equipment and test cartridge kits for senior living facilities (which have not already received funding for these) allows immediate results and facilitates safe care and visitation in these settings. Additionally, the purchase of rapid testing machines that can be deployed as mobile units allows these to be used in other settings as needed to increase testing and protect the entire community.</p> <p>Older adult residents in these congregant settings will be tested to allow early detection, isolation and quarantine as needed. Caregivers and family members of older adults will be tested to protect older adults during care and visits. Certain machines will be mobile and able to be moved to various congregate care settings.</p> <p>Proposal also covers PPE purchases for testers and for visitors to facilities (those being tested)</p>
Name of Organization(s) Involved	Johnson County Treasury and Finance Management (TFM) and Johnson County Health Dept
Primary Organization	Johnson County TFM and Johnson County Health Department
Program/Project Already Exists	Nursing facilities are already receiving rapid test machines but have insufficient supplies. These supplies are also not available to other congregate living settings.
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative expenses ● Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 testing and contact tracing ● Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) ● Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes ● Facilitating distance learning ● Housing support ● Improve telework capabilities of public employees ● Medical expenses ● Nursing home assistance ● Payroll for public health and safety employees ● Personal protective equipment ● Public health expenses ● Small business assistance ● Unemployment benefits ● Workers compensation ● Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	Rapid testing machines, supplies for testing
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	Can be completed by December 30th
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes. Clearly COVID-19 related.
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	<p>Total request: \$2,850,000</p> <p>(\$25,000 per machine, \$41 per cartridge=one test. \$10/each PPE set)</p> <p>15 testing machines for shared use = \$375,000 Supplies for 50,000 tests = \$2,050,000 PPE required for testers and visitors = \$425,000</p>

Mental Health Proposals

1. Grant support for nonprofit organizations providing mental health services
2. Removing barriers to accessing behavioral health services

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	COVID-19 Grant Support for Nonprofit Organizations Providing Mental Health Services and Supports
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Johnson County residents and their caregivers experiencing mental health crises
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Focus on highly vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including homeless, transition-aged youth, low-income, uninsured or underinsured, people of color, children and seniors at risk of abuse or neglect.
Program/Project Goal and Description	<p>In order to protect and maintain critical mental health safety net institutions, organizations and services in Johnson County, these funds will be used to make grants in an amount up to \$50,000 to area 501(c)3 nonprofit or governmental organizations that provide mental health, behavioral health and/or substance misuse and abuse programs and services to highly vulnerable populations in Johnson County.</p> <p>An intermediary grantmaking organization will be selected based on the following criteria: long standing relationships with local provider organizations, an understanding of the mental health service provider landscape, transparent grantmaking processes and record keeping capacities, comprehensive due diligence processes, and stringent accounting controls and practices. These funds will be used to make grants in an amount up to \$50,000 to area 501(c)3 nonprofit or governmental organizations that primarily provide mental health, behavioral health and/or substance misuse and abuse programs and services to Johnson County residents.</p> <p>The intermediary organization will develop and launch a targeted and simple Request for Proposal (RFP) process to allow mental health providing nonprofits and government entities to apply for reimbursement of documented expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19 from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Allowable expenses include those related to an increased demand for direct clinical, case management and support services to uninsured or underinsured clients and their families; residential care services for displaced individuals; administrative expenses, including budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use; personal protective equipment and supplies for staff and patients/</p>

	<p>clients (PPE); transition from in-person patient/client contact and services to remote, mobile and/or telehealth services, including previously non-budgeted equipment and IT infrastructure costs; and direct assistance to individuals and families experiencing mental health crises, including medication, medical, transportation, child care, housing, food and utilities.</p> <p>Priority will be given to organizations that serve and address highly vulnerable populations, including homeless, transition-aged youth, low-income, uninsured or underinsured, people of color, and children and seniors at risk of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>Organizations likely to seek grants may include KidsTLC, KVC, NAMI of Johnson County, MOCSA, Sunflower House, El Centro, Gateway of Hope, Lorraine’s House, Grace Restores Overcoming Women (GROW), Aging Information and Action of Johnson County, JCDS, Johnson County Aging, Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network, Catholic Charities, Center of Grace, Marillac, Safehome, Jewish Family Services, etc.</p>
<p>Name of Organization(s) Involved</p>	<p>Advisors on organizations selected may include Johnson County Mental Health and/or other experts in the field.</p>
<p>Primary Organization</p>	<p>REACH Healthcare Foundation pending Board approval, or other Intermediary organizations with similar capacity to receive and administer grants such as UCS, United Way of Greater Kansas City, MARC, Health Forward Foundation and/or Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.</p>
<p>Program/Project Already Exists</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Expenditure Category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use • COVID-19 testing and contact tracing • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) • Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes • Facilitating distance learning • Housing support • Improve telework capabilities of public employees • Medical expenses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing home assistance • Payroll for public health and safety employees • Personal protective equipment • Public health expenses • Small business assistance • Unemployment benefits • Workers compensation • Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) • Improve telework capabilities of public employees • Medical expenses • Personal protective equipment • Other (item not listed)
Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)	October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
Meets the CARES Act Requirements	Yes
Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)	\$2 million total budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 38 grants of a maximum \$50,000 (number of grants may be higher if lower average amounts are requested) • 5% administrative fee to intermediary organization

	<u>Required Proposal Information</u>
Program or Project Title	Removing Barriers and Improving Access to Behavioral Health Services
Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Johnson County residents within areas that are disproportionately impacted by COVID 19 and have limited or no access to behavioral health services. Example: Uninsured, Under-Insured, People of Color, LGBTQ, Youth and Adults, Elderly, Disabled, individuals involved in the Criminal Justice system.
At-risk Populations Impacted by Program/Project	Johnson County residents within areas that are disproportionately impacted by COVID 19 and have limited or no access to behavioral health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of color who have higher rates of mental health problems and are less likely to access services • Individuals who are LGBTQ+ who have higher rates of mental health problems • Essential workers who may be experiencing higher rates of mental health problems than before the pandemic • Uninsured and/or underinsured individuals who will benefit from mental health services • Individuals with substance use problems • Individuals involved in the Criminal Justice system.
Program/Project Goal and Description	Remove barriers and educate the public about behavioral health services available within the community while improving access to those services. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a public awareness campaign to educate community members on how to access COVID-related mental health services available in Johnson County, including but not limited to Johnson County Mental Health, hospital-based services, telehealth services (e.g., no cost teletherapy sessions via The Battle Within or Project Parachute), outpatient services, suicide prevention and crisis lines, and veteran services. 2. The public awareness campaign will also focus on reducing stigma associated with accessing COVID-related mental health services among minority and unserved populations. 3. Provide financial assistance to individuals and families to ensure access to behavioral health services, e.g.,

	transportation, technology, medications, counseling and treatment.
Name of Organization(s) Involved	Johnson County Mental Health Center United Community Service of Johnson County JOCO Transit Authority Community behavioral health providers Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition Friends of Johnson County Mental Health Center [501(c)(3)] Possible Partner: Overflow Media Company
Primary Organization	Johnson County Mental Health Center
Program/Project Already Exists	No
Expenditure Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses • Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use • COVID-19 testing and contact tracing • Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance) • Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes • Facilitating distance learning • Housing support • Improve telework capabilities of public employees • Medical expenses • Nursing home assistance • Payroll for public health and safety employees • Personal protective equipment • Public health expenses • Small business assistance • Unemployment benefits • Workers compensation • Other (item not listed)
Identified Expenditure Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative expenses (backbone agency) • Economic support (transportation) • Medical expenses (medications) • Public Health expenses • Other (purchasing devices to support telehealth)

<p>Program/Project's Timeline (Must be completed by Dec. 30th)</p>	<p>Campaign created by October 30 Campaign launched October 31 Campaign continued past December 30, 2020 through monies from Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Friends of Johnson County Mental Health Center [501(c)(3)] Funds depleted by December 30</p>
<p>Meets the CARES Act Requirements</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Estimated Budget (Consider the costs of payroll, administration, commodities, and the primary service)</p>	<p>Total Budget \$300,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative costs (\$15,000 / 5%) • Campaign creation, mobilization and implementation (\$75,000) • Campaign materials (\$10,000) <p>Access to Technology - Target Number: 500 clients/families (\$50,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of pre-paid Smart Phones • Purchase of additional phone minutes • Purchase of Hot Spots <p>Access to Transportation - Target Number: 500 individuals/families (\$50,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of transportation vouchers from participating vendors <p>Access to Treatment Intervention - Target Number: 250 individuals/ families (\$50,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase Counseling service from participating providers <p>Access to Psychotropic Medications - Target Number: 250 clients (\$50,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of vouchers for psychiatric medications

Johnson County

Community Reinvestment Strike Team

Supporting Information

1. Strike Team Agendas
2. COVID-19 Relief Funds Presentation
3. Economic Analysis: Institute for Policy and Social Research
4. Stories from Johnson County: Center for Public Partnerships and Research Sensemaking Report



August 31, 2020
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
All Strike Team Kick Off

Welcome

Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager

Overview of the COVID-19 Relief Fund process

Patty Gentrup, KU Public Management Center

Economic Analysis: Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

Donna Ginther, Executive Director

Break: 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (estimated)

Our Tomorrows: Center for Public Partnerships and Research

Rebecca Gillam, Associate Director

Closing

Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager

September 1, 2 or 9

Individual Strike Team Workshops

(Two workshops per day)

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. with midday break

Welcome and Kick Off

COVID-19 Funding Requirement

To ensure a common understanding regarding the parameters within which CRF funds can be allocated, a brief review will be provided.

Best Practices

KU MPA Fellows

Work has already begun around the United States to address the impacts of COVID-19. Information regarding those programs will be provided.

Identifying Solutions

All

Each strike team has information related to the economic impact of COVID-19 on Johnson County as well as the personal impact as identified through the Our Tomorrows process. Strike Team participants will spend the remainder of the morning identifying the realm of possibilities to make short-term investments in Johnson County that will have a lasting impact.

Midday Break: 11:30 or 11:45

Reconvene: 1 p.m.

Proposal Development

Using the template provided, teams will be divided into small groups more fully develop the programs to be considered for COVID-19 Relief Funds. Based on the needs of the groups, they will reconvene midafternoon as a group of the whole to review proposal progress. Thereafter, the small groups will again breakout to finalize the proposals.

Please note: a member of the strike team will be asked to provide the overview of each program at the closing session . In addition, they will be asked to do the same at the Friday morning (July 31) session.

September 11, 2020

9 a.m. – Noon

All Strike Team Closing Session

Welcome

Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager

Review of Strike Team Proposals

Strike Team Members

Each Strike Team will be present the proposals they've developed for consideration. At the conclusion of each of the six strike teams, participants will be given an opportunity to prioritize within each of the categories.

Prioritization of Proposals

Strike Team Members

After all presentations have been made, strike team participants will have two more opportunities to indicate their priorities: across all proposals and in a funding allocation simulation.

Closing Comments

Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager

Strike Team Opening Session

As we gather, please change your zoom video image to have the number of your corresponding strike team immediately preceding your name.

1. Small Business Assistance
2. Mental Health
3. Housing
4. Aging
5. Digital Access
6. Workforce Development

For example, if you are on the Housing Strike Team, you would change it to 3.Jane Doe.

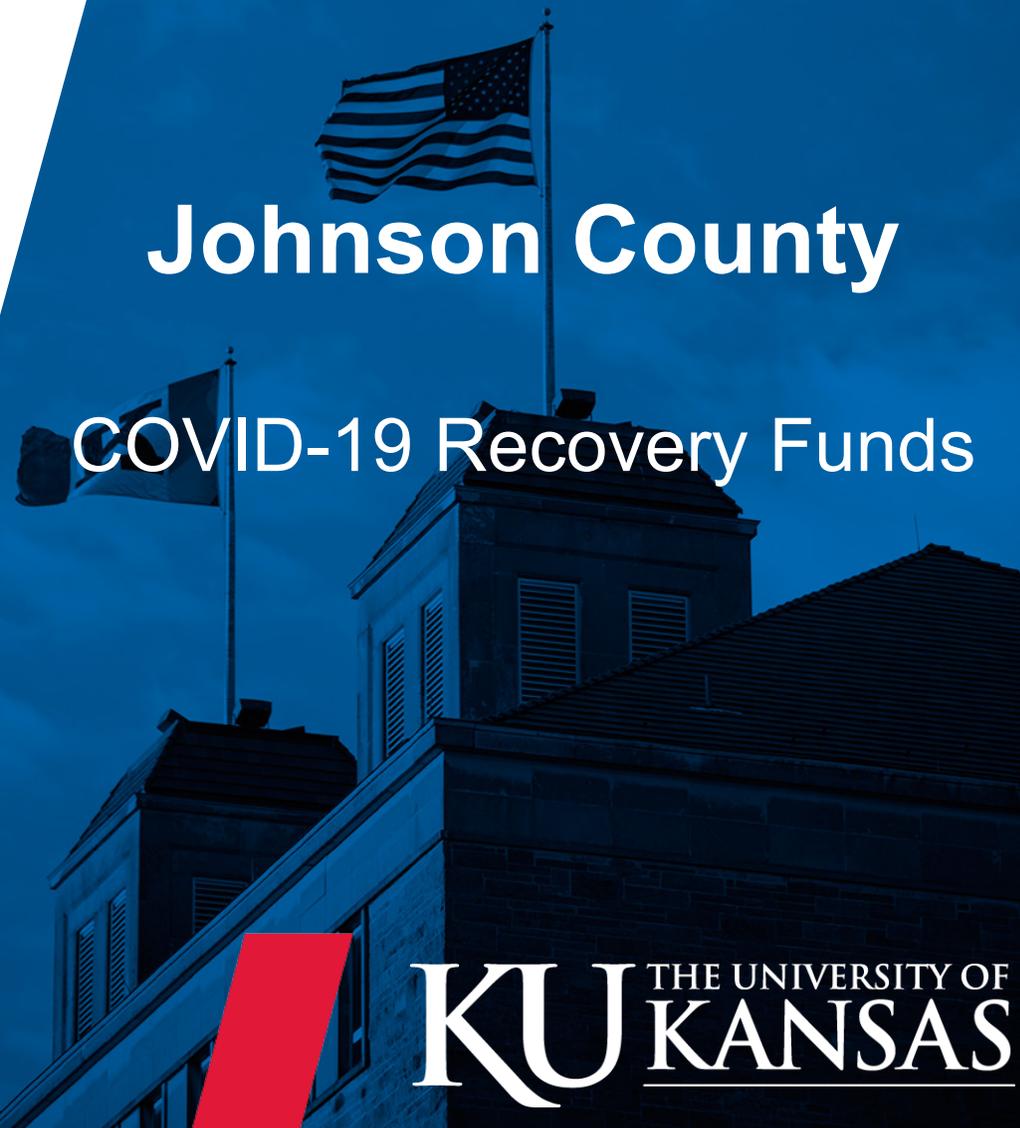
Johnson County

COVID-19 Recovery Funds

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KANSAS

Welcome

Maury Thompson
Deputy County Manager

A photograph of a building with an American flag flying on a tall pole. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and a red diagonal stripe.

Johnson County

COVID-19 Recovery Funds

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KANSAS



Today's Agenda

Overview of COVID-19 Relief Funds and Johnson County Strike Team Process

Patty Gentrup,
KU Public Management Center

Economic Analysis

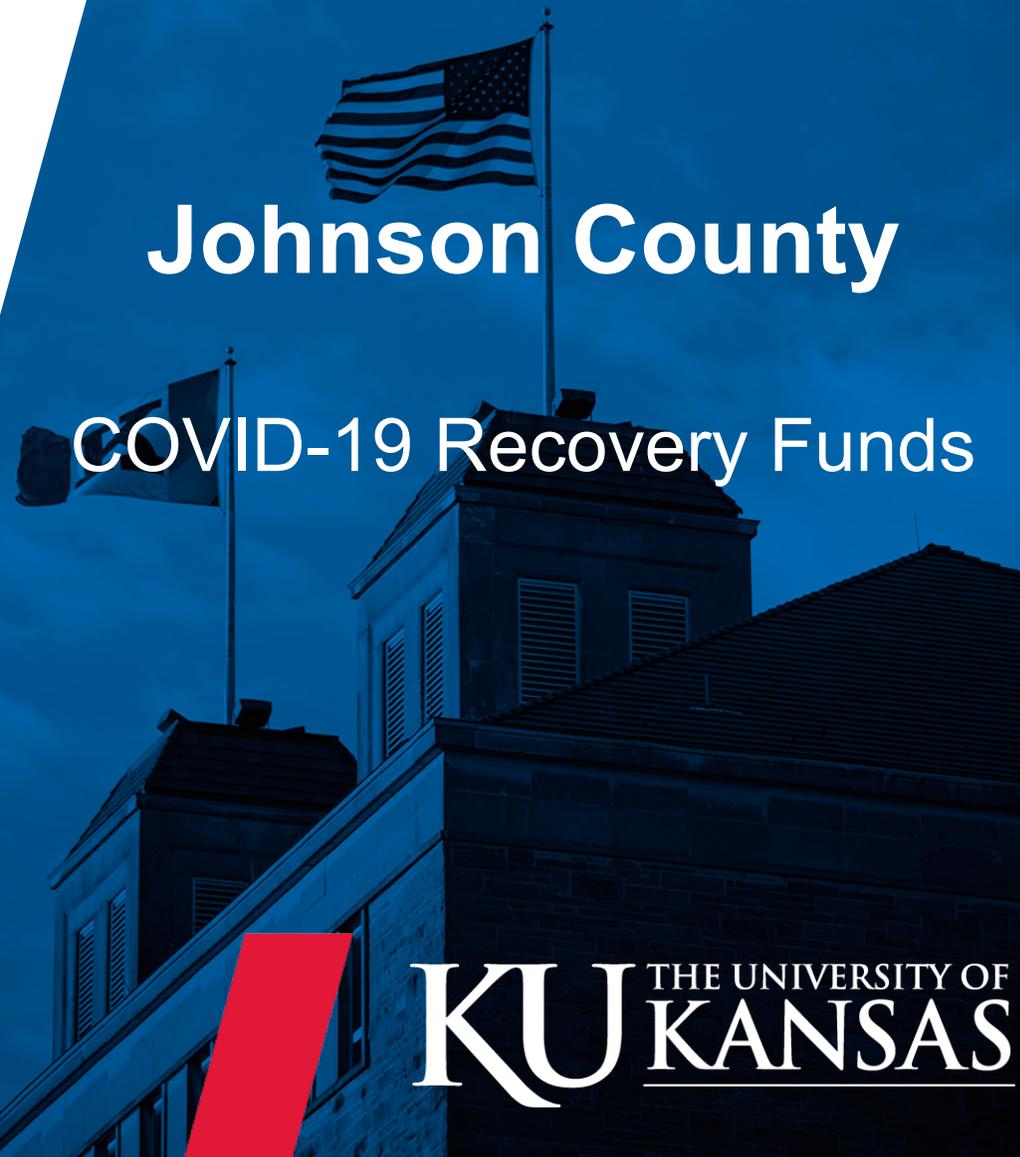
Donna Ginther
Institute for Policy and Social Research

Our Tomorrows Sensemaking Workshop

Rebecca Gillam
Center for Public Partnerships and Social Research

Closing

Maury Thompson, Deputy County Manager



Johnson County

COVID-19 Recovery Funds



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KANSAS

CRF: Dollars to Johnson County

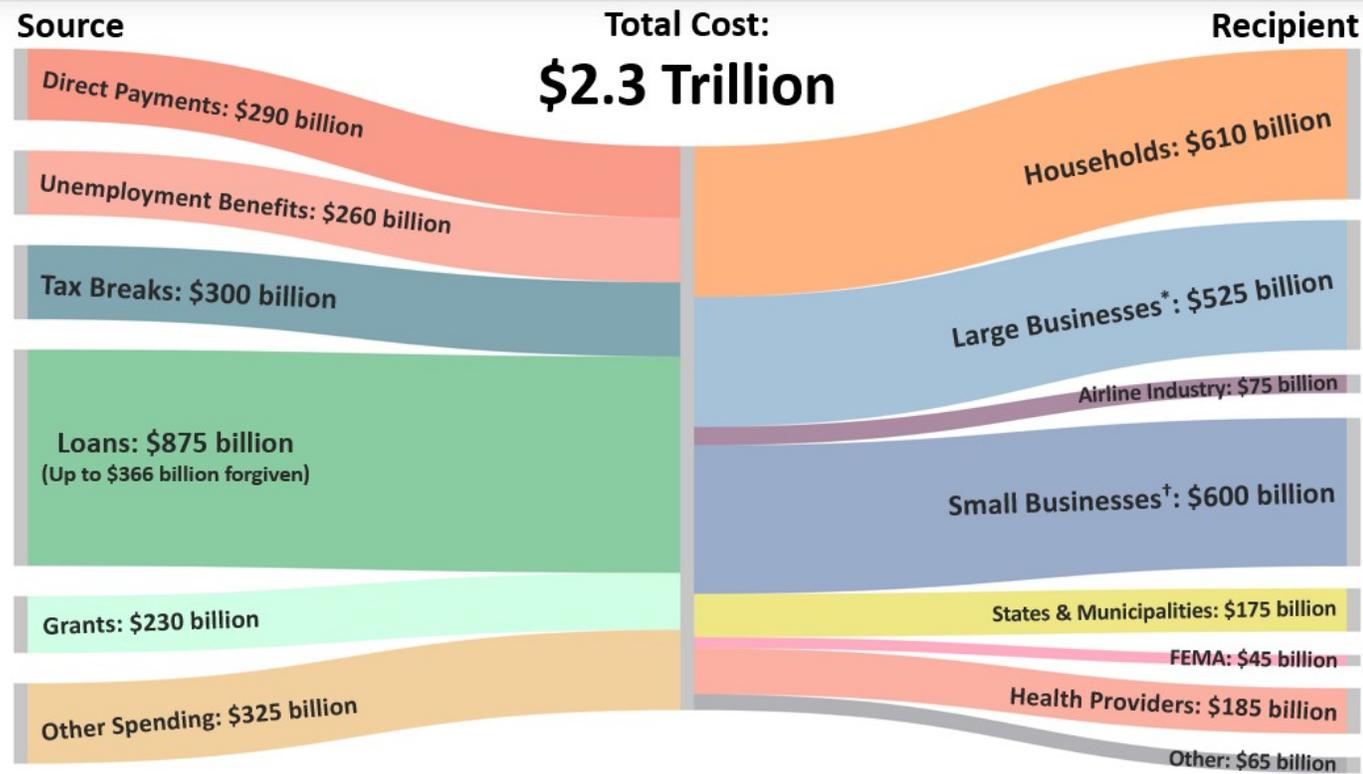
Opportunity:

Lead Johnson County through the pandemic by focusing efforts to address critical needs related to sweeping societal matters, including economic development, education, and health, using **\$35 million** in Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF).

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CARES ACT

Funding provided to states, businesses, medical institutions, and more

A Visualization of the CARES Act



The CARES Act is a “Layer Cake” of different funds:

- Grants and enhancements to state agencies to augment existing programs
- Funds to specific highly impacted sectors (airlines, hospitals, etc.)
- Small business and large business loan programs
- Unemployment benefit support
- The “**Coronavirus Relief Fund**” provided to Governors across the country

† This includes \$170 billion of tax cuts for businesses other than corporations, some of which are large companies.

* This includes \$454 billion to set up a \$4.5 trillion Fed facility, which could help support large businesses but also small businesses and state and local governments.

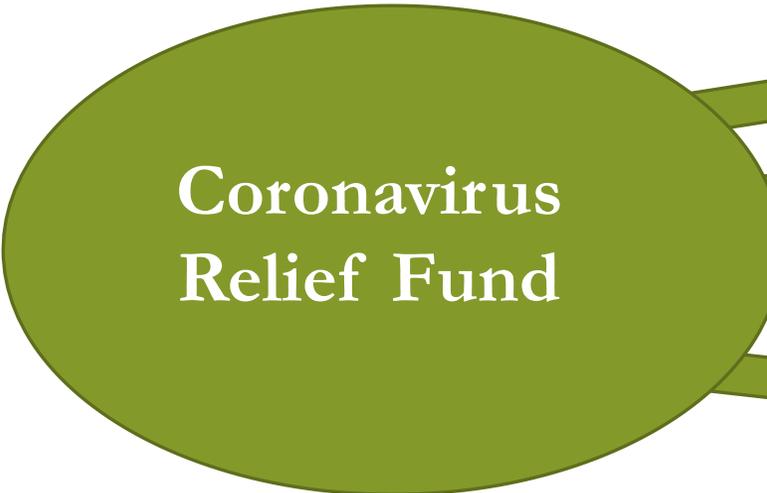
Source: Legislative offices, JCT, bill text, CRFB estimates.



Who is a Prime Recipient?

Department of the Treasury

Prime Recipients



State Governments

Local Governments with Populations > 500,000

DC & U.S. Territories

Tribal Governments

Johnson County's COVID-19 Relief Funding

\$116,311,034

- Phase 1: Local governments and other taxing jurisdictions: \$58M
- *Phase 2: Community Reinvestment: \$35 million*
- Phase 3: Administrative and audit costs, contingency funds, additional re-investments in local government and the community, and accounting for any unused funds: \$23M

CRF Funds, Treasury Guidance:

- **Broad range of uses is allowed**, Treasury understands this term to mean that the expenditure *is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.*
- Expenditures incurred to respond to **second-order effects** of the emergency, such as by providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

FEDERAL GUIDANCE OVERVIEW

To qualify for the CRF, expenditures must satisfy three general conditions

NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19)

UNACCOUNTED FOR EXPENSES

Not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government

INCURRED DURING APPROPRIATE PERIOD

Incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020. All unspent funds as of December 30, 2020 must be returned.

See source information from U.S. Department of Treasury [here](#)

CRF Funds: Eligible Expenses

- Administrative expenses
 - Budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use
 - COVID-19 testing and contact tracing
 - Economic support (other than small business, housing, and food assistance)
 - Expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes
 - Facilitating distance learning
 - Housing support
 - Improve telework capabilities of public employees
 - Medical expenses
 - Nursing home assistance
 - Payroll for public health and safety employees
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Public health expenses
 - Small business assistance
 - Unemployment benefits
 - Workers Compensation
- Note: Capital Expenses must be paid for (completed) by Dec. 30

INELIGIBLE CRF EXPENDITURES

- Replacement of lost revenues, including property tax relief or utility payment grants.
- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime
- Severance pay or legal settlements
- Damages covered by insurance

Johnson County Strike Team Process

- Facilitate conversations among subject matter experts in specific focus areas *most affected* in the county to identify:
 1. What the future looks like in these areas short-term and long-term;
 2. What investments in human capital and physical infrastructure should be made now to prepare for the identified future.
- Create an implementation plan based in realistic practical actions to spend COVID 19 funds, focusing on short term investments with the biggest long-term gain for the public good.

Johnson County Strike Team Process

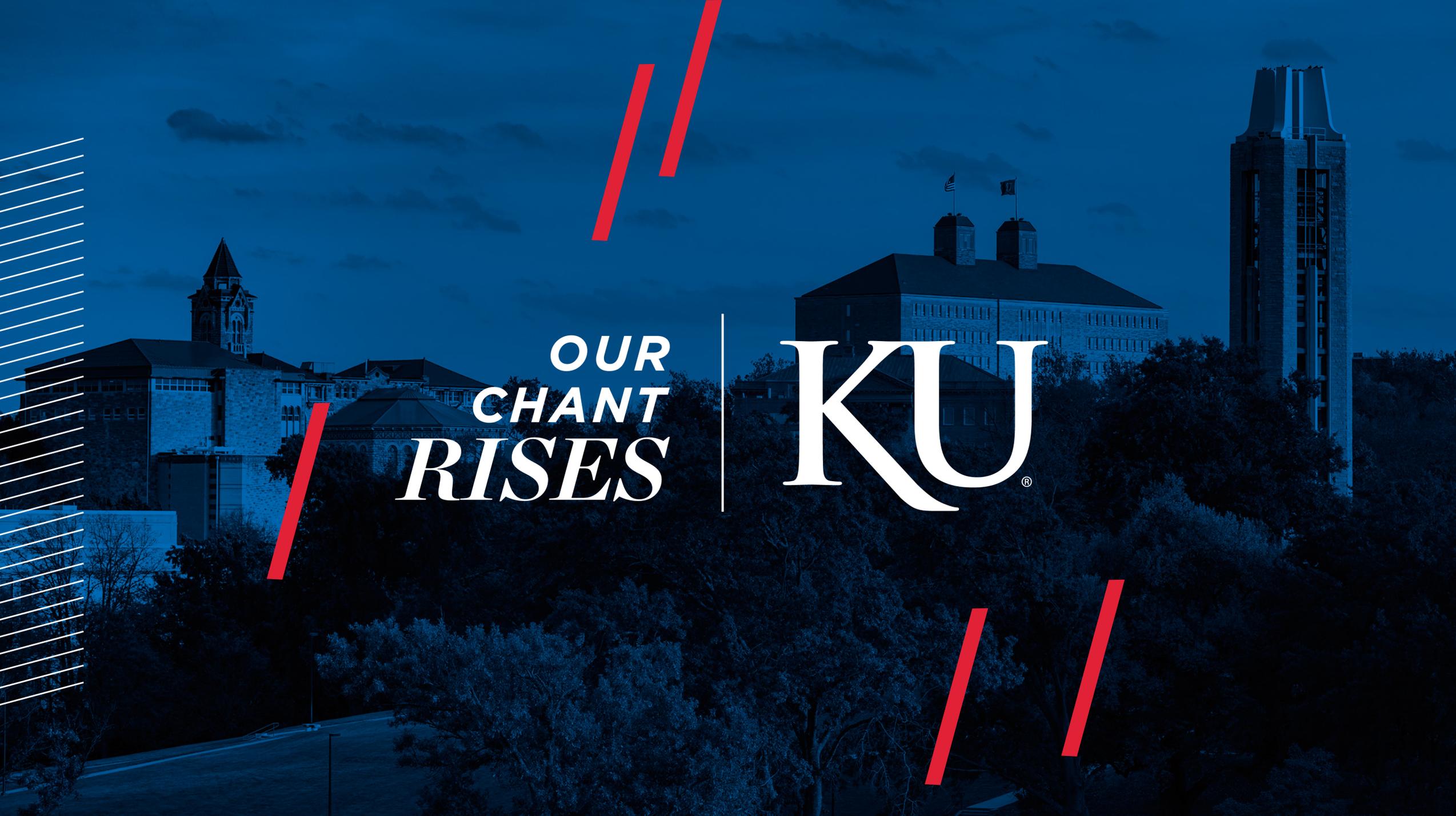


Johnson County Strike Team Process



Johnson County Strike Team Process

	31-Aug	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 11	Sept. 16	Sept. 17
Opening Session (All Strike Teams)							
Small Business Assistance							
Mental Health							
Aging							
Housing							
Digital Access							
Workforce development							
Closing Session (All Strike Teams)							
Recommendation Workshop (Community Reinvestment Committee)							
County Commission Consideration (tentative)							



*OUR
CHANT
RISES*

KU®



Johnson County Preparing for a Healthy Recovery

Donna K. Ginther

Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics
Director, Institute for Policy & Social Research, University of Kansas
Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research

August 31, 2020

KU INSTITUTE FOR
POLICY &
SOCIAL RESEARCH
The University of Kansas

Institute for Policy & Social Research Goals for COVID-19 Crisis

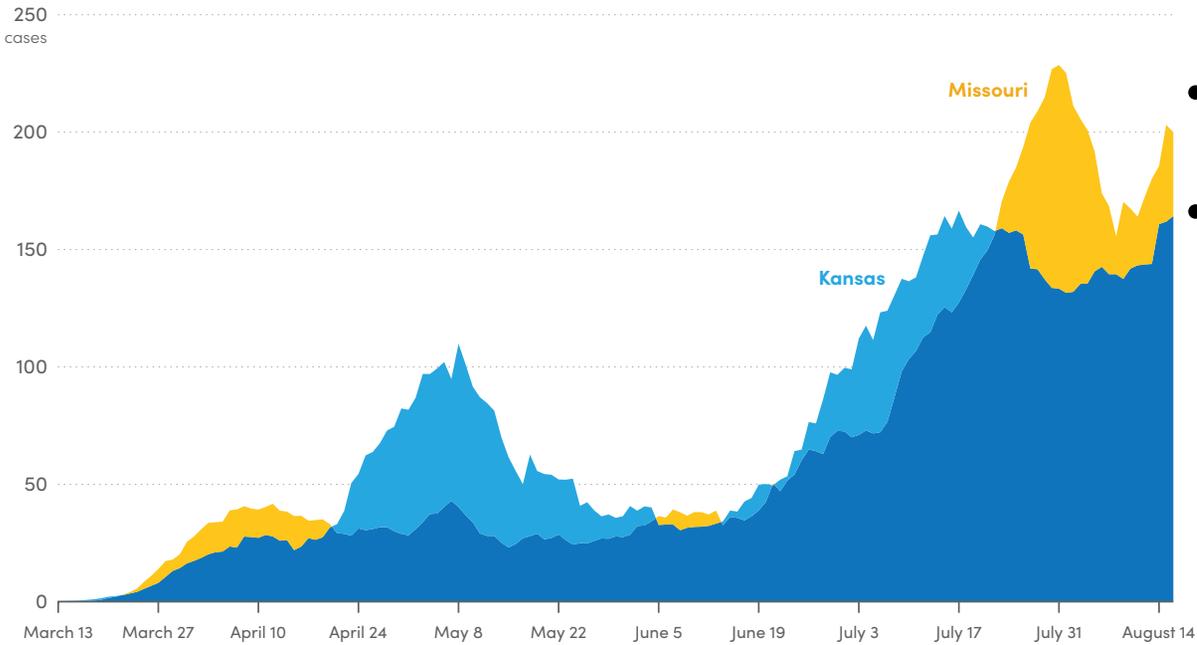
- Synthesize the data on the Coronavirus in Kansas
- Report economic indicators
- Inform the public and policymakers on these issues on a monthly basis.
- Data and briefings available at <http://ipsr.ku.edu/covid19/>
- Thanks to Xan Wedel, Genna Hurd, Thomas Becker & Lindsay Jorgenson who helped with the data, visualizations & slides.

Overview

- Update on the Coronavirus in Kansas and how that affects the recovery
- US Economic Trends
- Kansas Economic Trends
- What do we know about the Johnson County economy?
 - [What does this recession mean for the future?](#)
- What can we expect from the recovery?

COVID Cases are High in Our Region

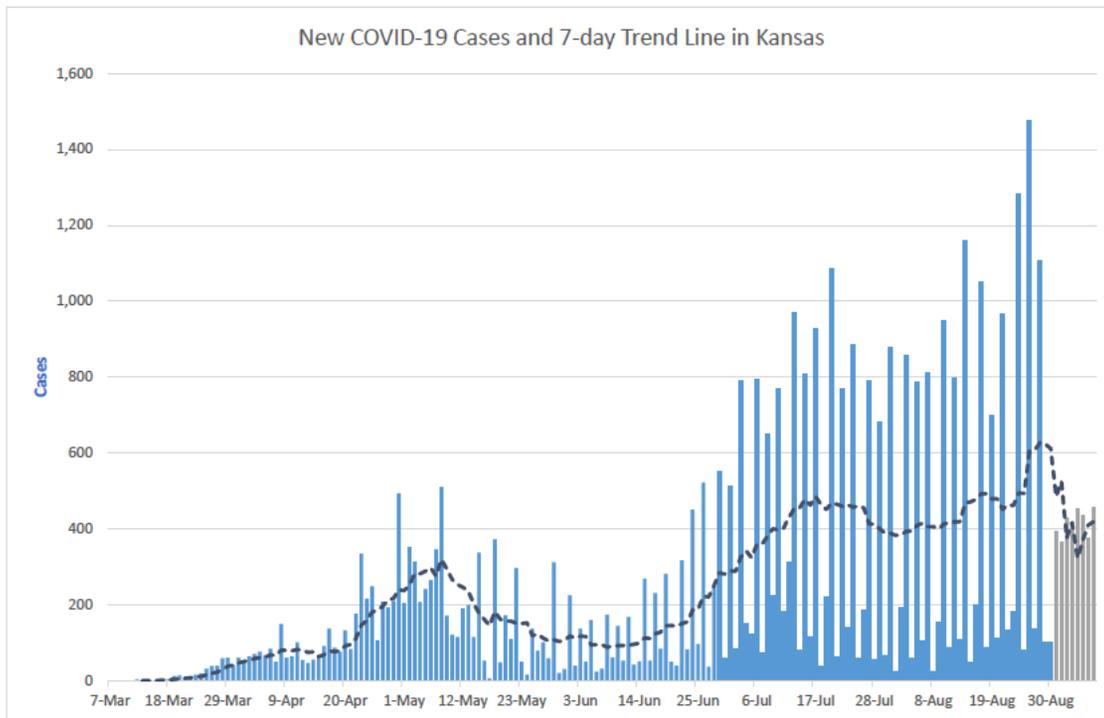
New COVID-19 Cases per Million Residents, 7-Day Rolling Average
Kansas and Missouri population-adjusted cases through August 16th



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from The New York Times.

- Adjusted Kansas/Missouri Cases per million residents.
- Kansas has 42,122 cases
 - 1,446 cases per 100,000
- Missouri has 85,336 cases
 - 1,390 cases per 100,000
 - Missouri has accelerating cases adjusted for population compared to Kansas at the end of July and early August.

Kansas Daily Cases are Stuck at a High Level

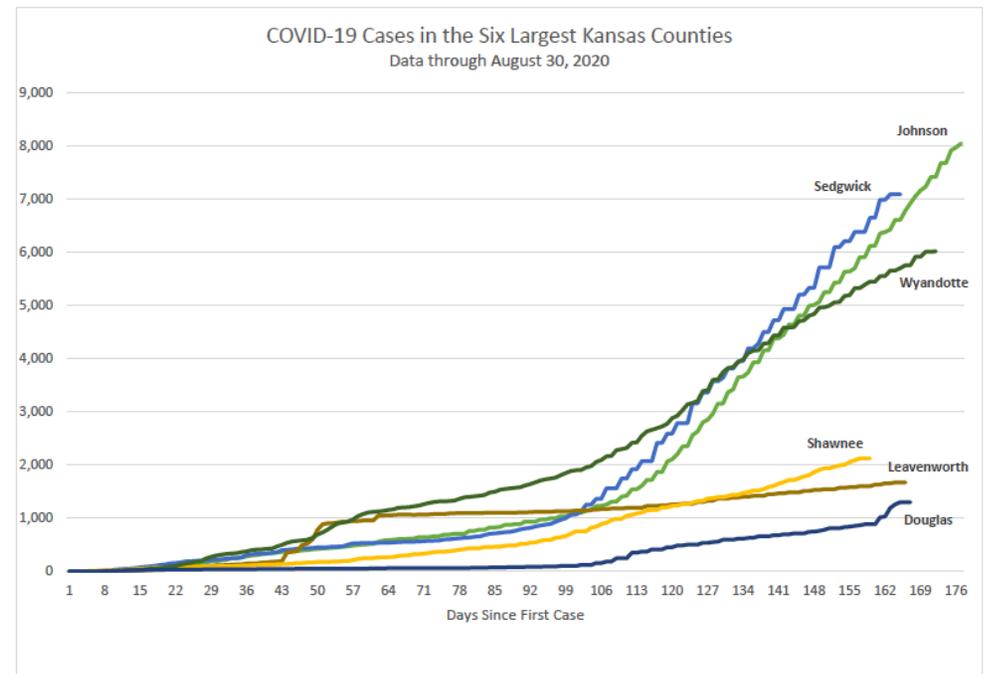


Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; cases (blue) from the New York Times and projected cases (grey) from The University of Kansas Medical Center.

- Data through August 25th
- The 7-day moving average of new cases has slowed down at a high plateau.
- Cases are predicted to increase:
 - According to KU Medical Center forecasts, cases will remain high in coming weeks.

Growth in COVID-19 Cases Has Varied by County

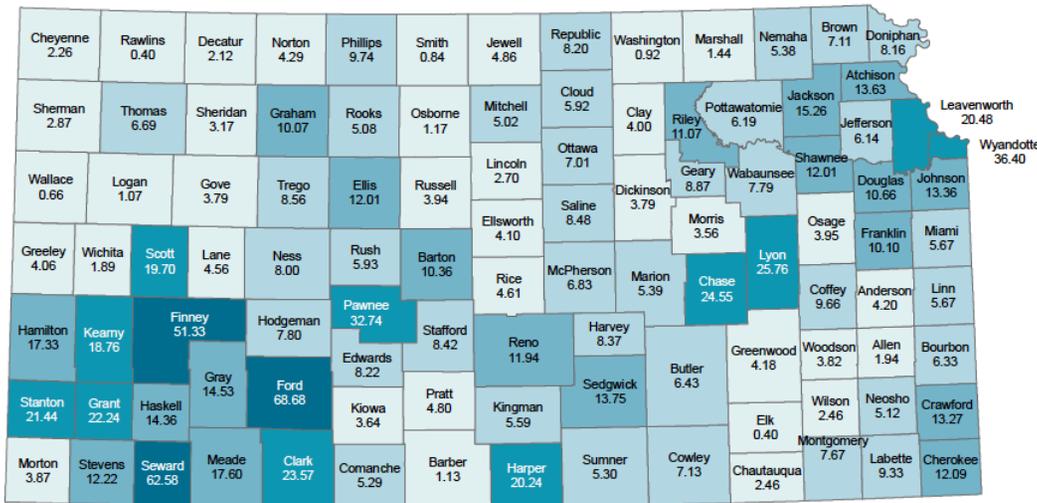
- In the six largest counties, growth rates have varied significantly.
 - All curves except Leavenworth are increasing.
 - Douglas county cases are over 17 times higher than on June 2nd.
 - Sedgwick, Johnson & Wyandotte Counties are Accelerating.



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from The New York Times.

Case Rates by County

COVID-19 Cases per 1,000 People in Kansas, by County as of August 30, 2020





Economic Impact of Covid-19

Unemployment & Uncertainty

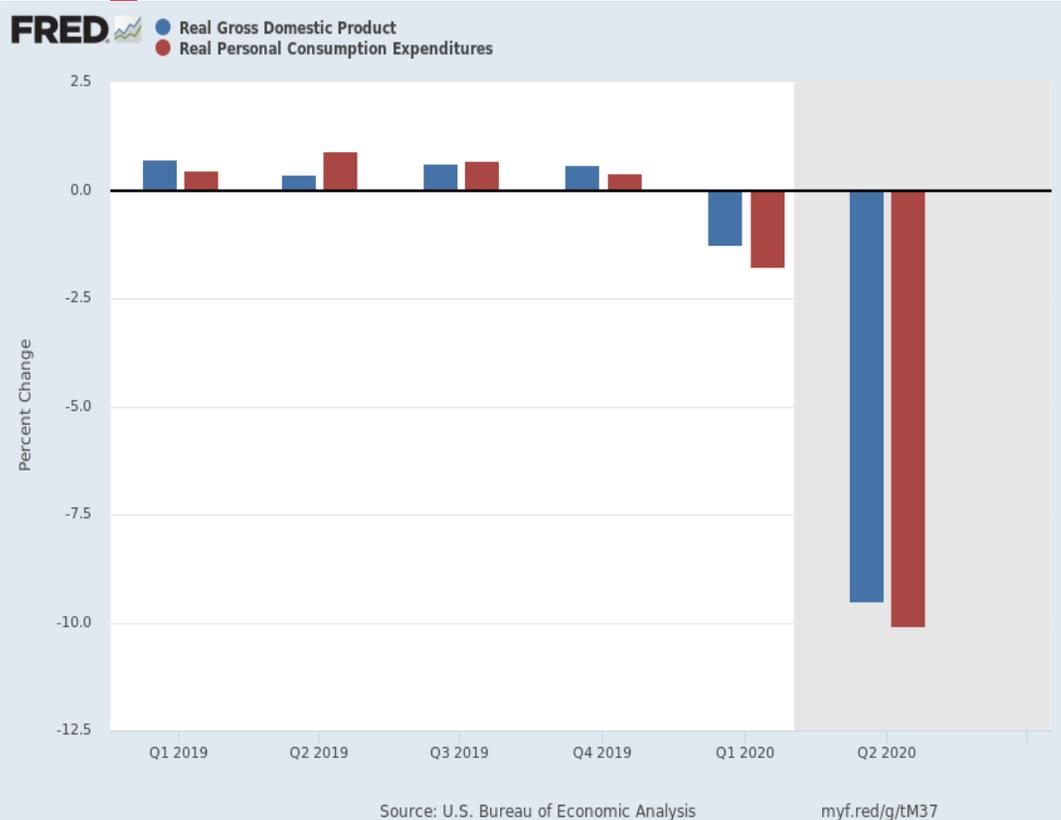
The Stock Market: January 1 – August 28th



Source: FRED <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DJIA>

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked at 29,348 on February 12th.
 - It bottomed out on March 23rd, and has recovered to 28,654 on August 28th
 - Down about 2.3% since the peak
- Nasdaq is up 19% for the year.
- Market continues to rise despite high unemployment.

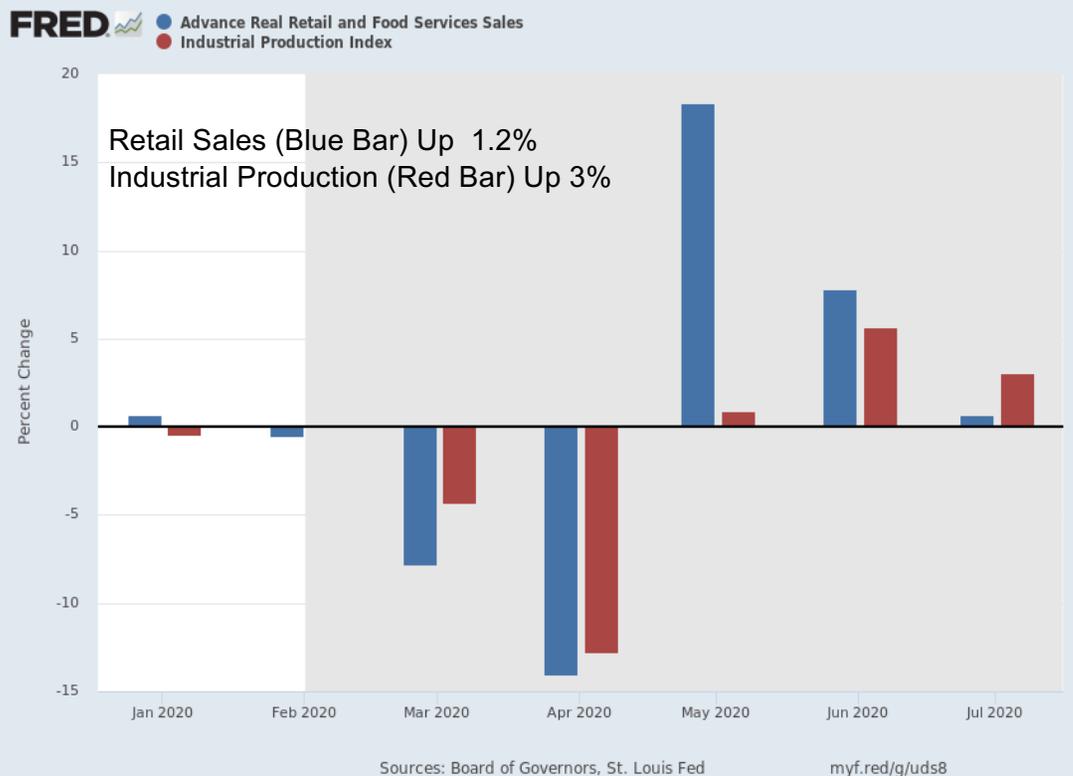
Gross Domestic Product Fell at Historic Rate



Source: Lewis, FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;

- Gross Domestic product fell by 9.5% compared to the previous quarter.
- At an annualized rate, this is -33%
- Consumption (2/3rds of GDP) fell by 10%
- This makes the Great Recession look like a mere blip.

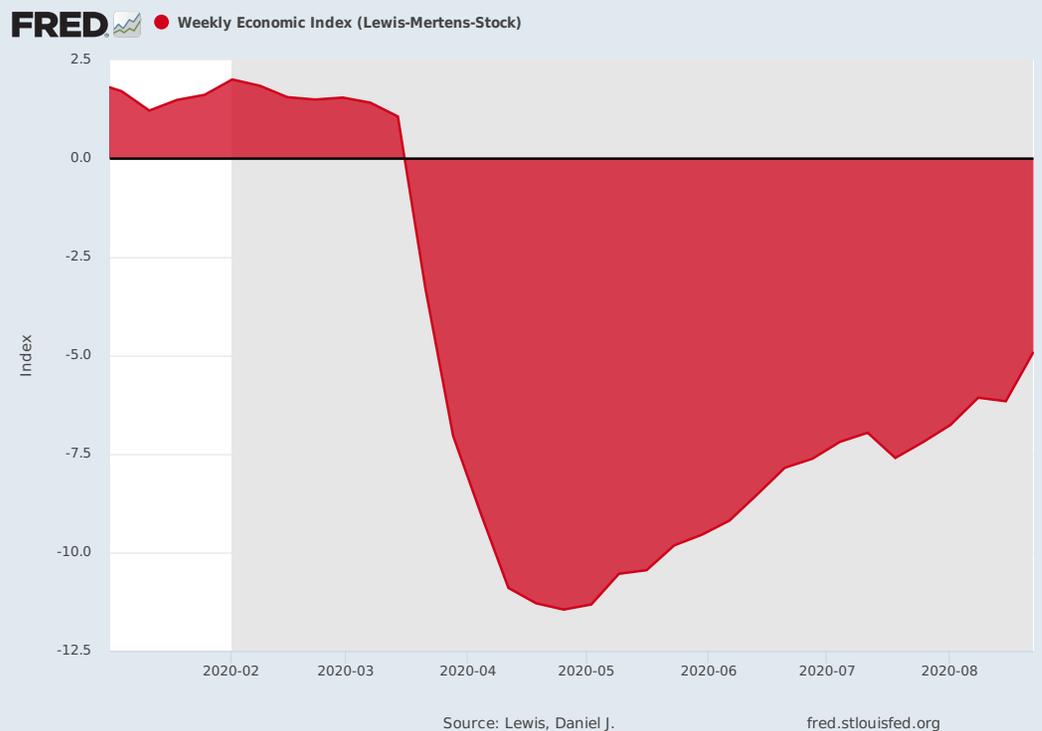
Industrial Production & Retail Sales--July



Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org>

- Retail sectors up:
 - Clothing 5.7%
 - Furniture 0%
 - Restaurants/Bars 5%
 - Motor Vehicles -1.2%
 - Electronics 22.9%
 - Miscellaneous 6.2%
- Retail sales were up 2.7% compared to a year ago.

Weekly Economic Activity Index



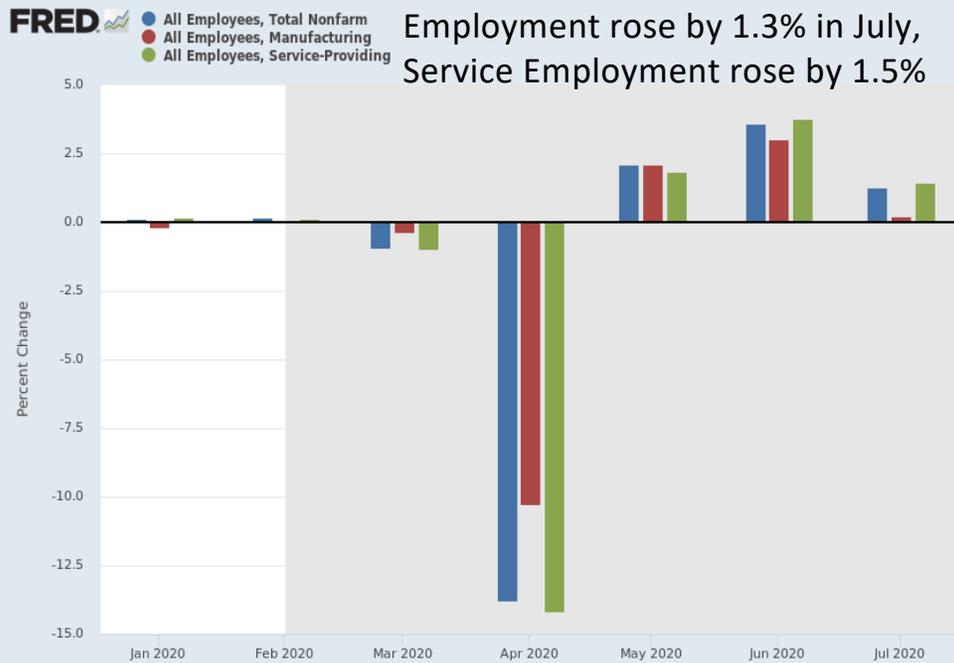
- Lewis, Mertens & Stock have developed a Weekly Economic Activity Index that is scaled to 4th Quarter 2019 GDP growth.
 - The index is now at -4.9%
 - This indicates that GDP for this quarter is forecast to be 4.9% lower for Q3.

Source: Lewis, Daniel J., Mertens, Karel and Stock, James H., Weekly Economic Index (Lewis-Mertens-Stock) [WEI], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WEI>, May 17, 2020.

Unemployment Rate Facts

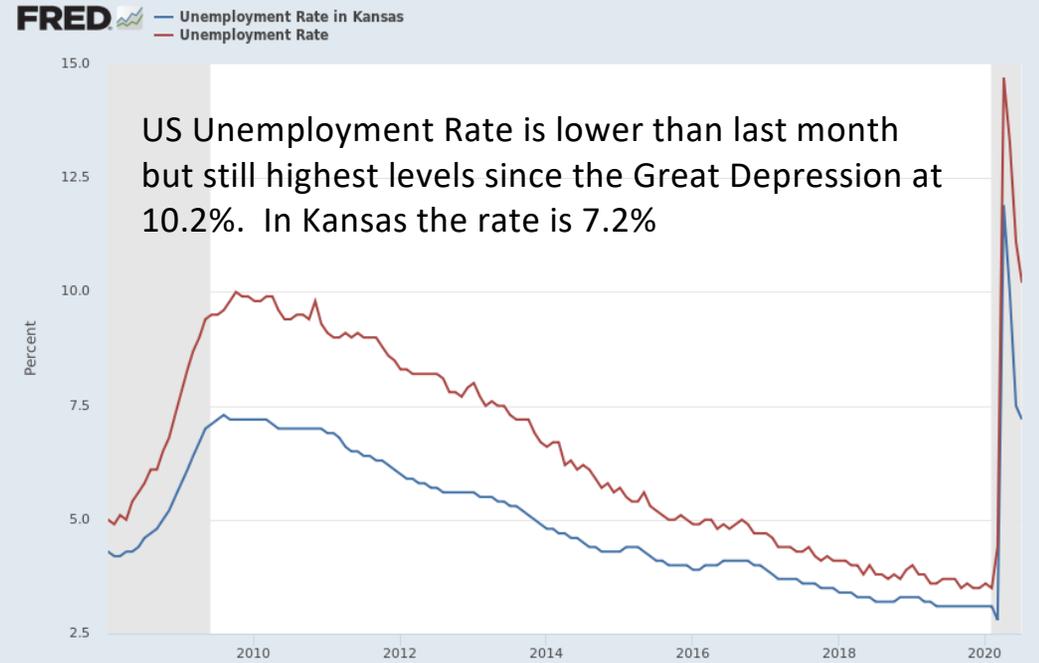
- The monthly jobs report is based on two surveys:
 - Establishment Survey that reports total employment
 - Household Survey that reports total unemployment
- The Unemployment Rate is defined as the share of people looking for work divided by the labor force (employed + unemployed) (U-3 rate).
- The Unemployment rate does not count people who are discouraged workers and working part-time for economic reasons (U-6 rate).
 - Total unemployed, plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.

Employment & Unemployment July, 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

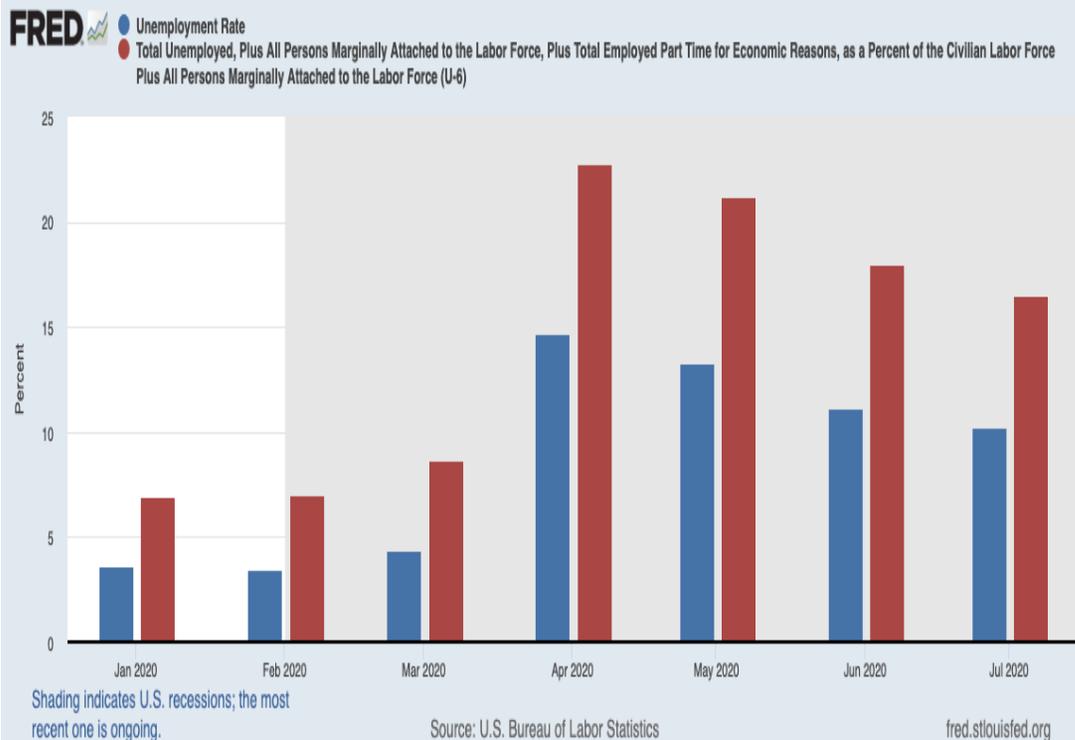
myf.red/g/u95o



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

myf.red/g/uLkc

U-3 and U-6 Show Continued Slack in Labor Market



- U-6 rate is a broader measure of unemployment
 - 16.5% in July and 18% in June.
- U-6 indicates that one sixth of the workforce is experiencing hardship.

Sources: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>
https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst_05072010.pdf

A Tale of Two Downturns: This Time is Different

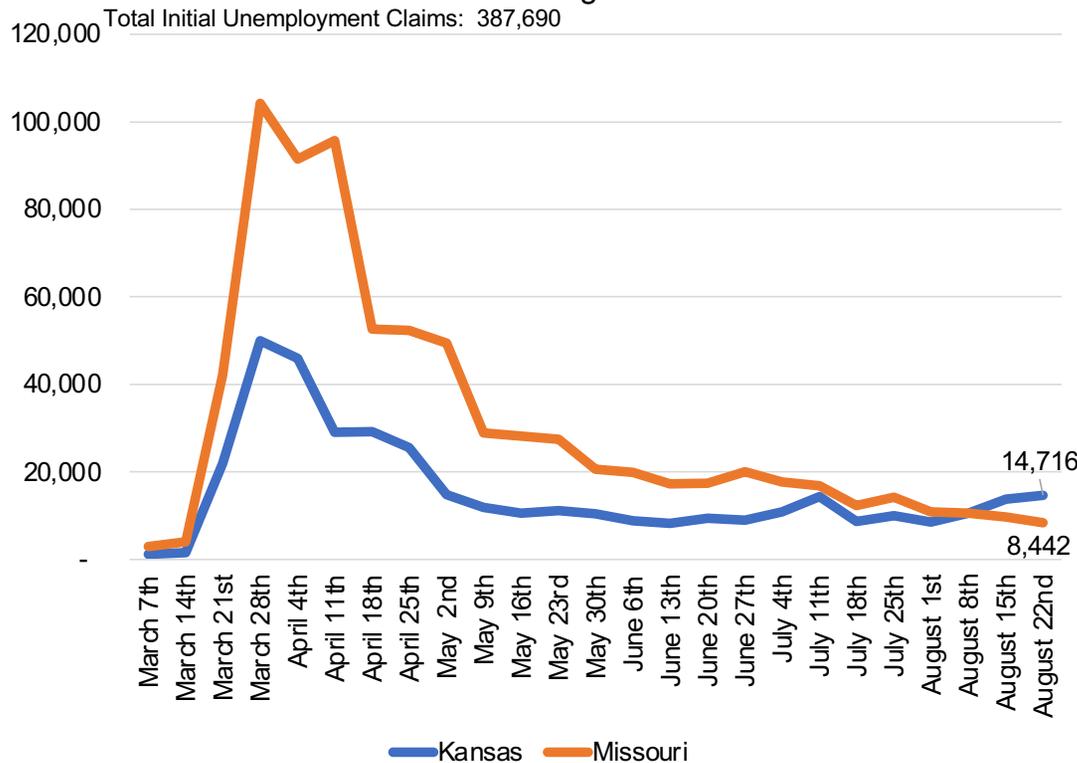
Unemployment by Characteristic	July, 2010	July, 2020
Total	9.5%	10.2%
Men, Age 20+	9.7%	9.4%
Women, Age 20+	7.9%	10.5%
Age 25+		
Less than High School	13.8%	15.4
High School	10.1%	10.8%
Some College	8.3%	10%
Bachelor's Degree +	4.5%	6.7%
Temporary Layoff	8.5%	55.9%
U-6	16.4%	18%

- Women are more likely to be unemployed than men.
 - Since 1980 we've had "Mancessions"
- Only Bachelor's degree or higher have lower rates.
- Temporary Layoffs are higher.
 - Temporary Layoffs have dropped between May (73%) and July (55.9%)

Sources: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_05072010.pdf

Unemployment Claims in Kansas and Missouri

Initial Unemployment Claims in Kansas and Missouri, March - August 2020

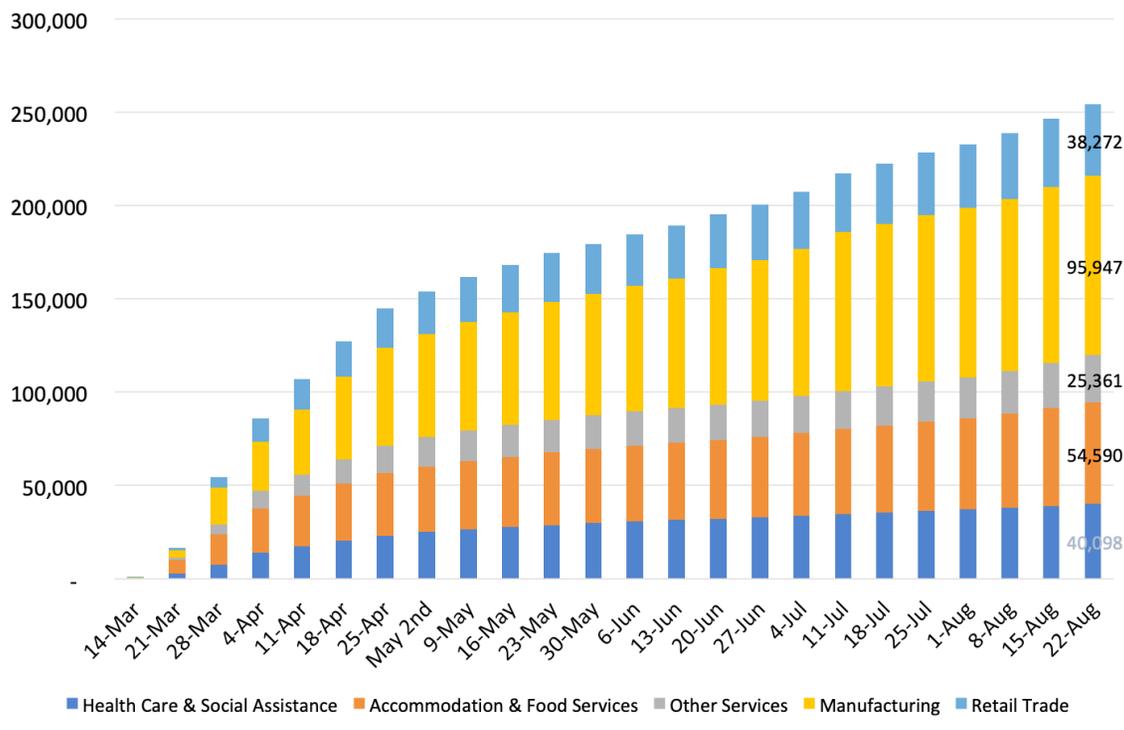


Source: Calculations using KS and MO Department of Labor Data

- 14,716 people filed an initial claim in Kansas the week of August 22nd
- Since March 14th a total of 387,690 workers have filed initial unemployment claims in Kansas.
- Initial claims remain stubbornly high.
 - Data from March 14th – August 22nd

Cumulative Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry

Kansas Industries with Largest Cumulative Job Losses March 14th - August 22nd

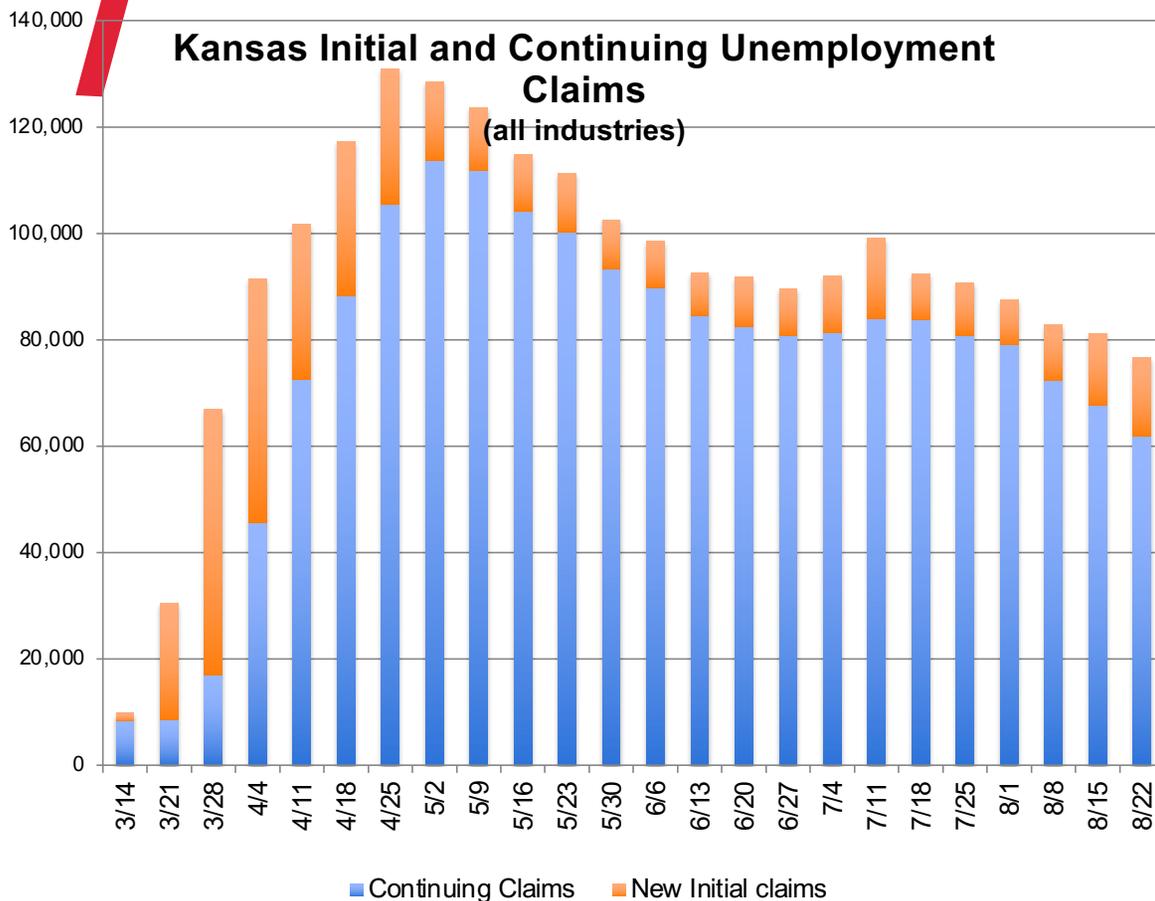


Source: Calculations using KS and MO Department of Labor Data

Industries hardest hit include:

- Manufacturing: 95,947
- Accommodation & Food Services: 54,590
- Health care & Social assistance: 40,098
- Retail Trade: 38,272
- Other Services: 25,361
- These five industries account for 65% of people who have lost their jobs.

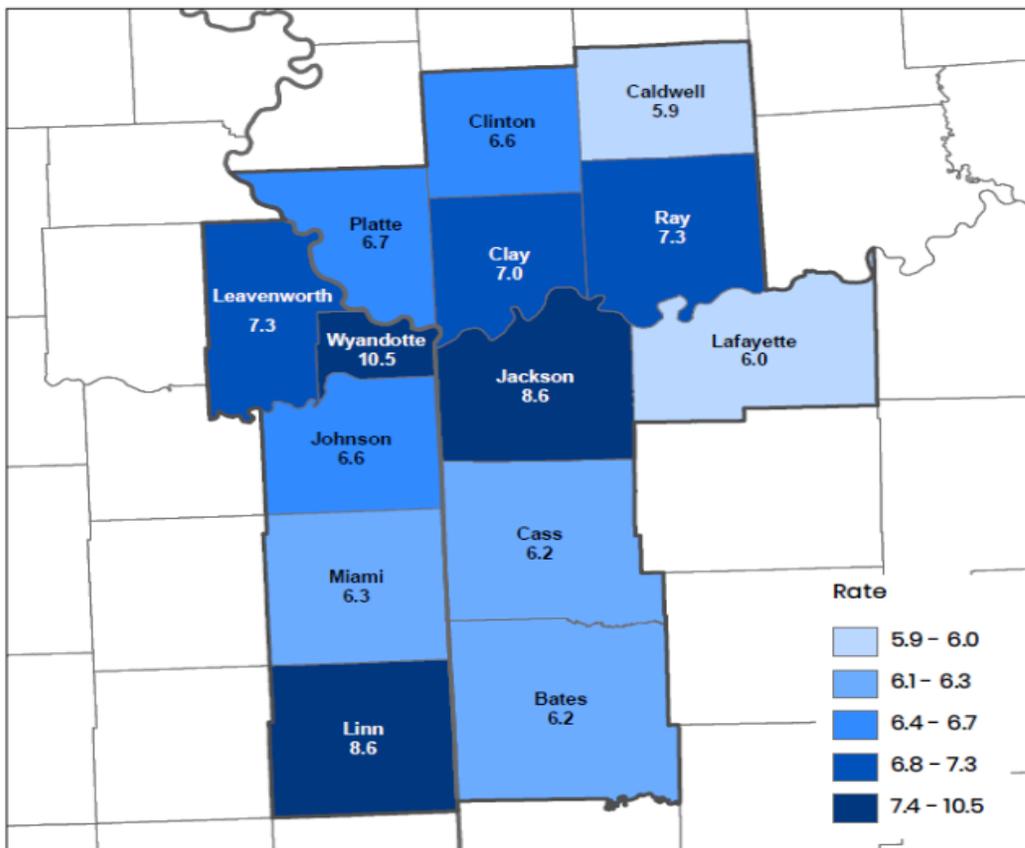
Unemployment in Kansas Remains High



- Kansas continuing + initial unemployment claims remain high
- There are 61,938 continuing claims and 14,716 new initial claims as of the week ending August 22nd.
- > 77,000 unemployed
- State unemployment ~6%

July Unemployment Rate in KC Metro

Unemployment Rate
July 2020

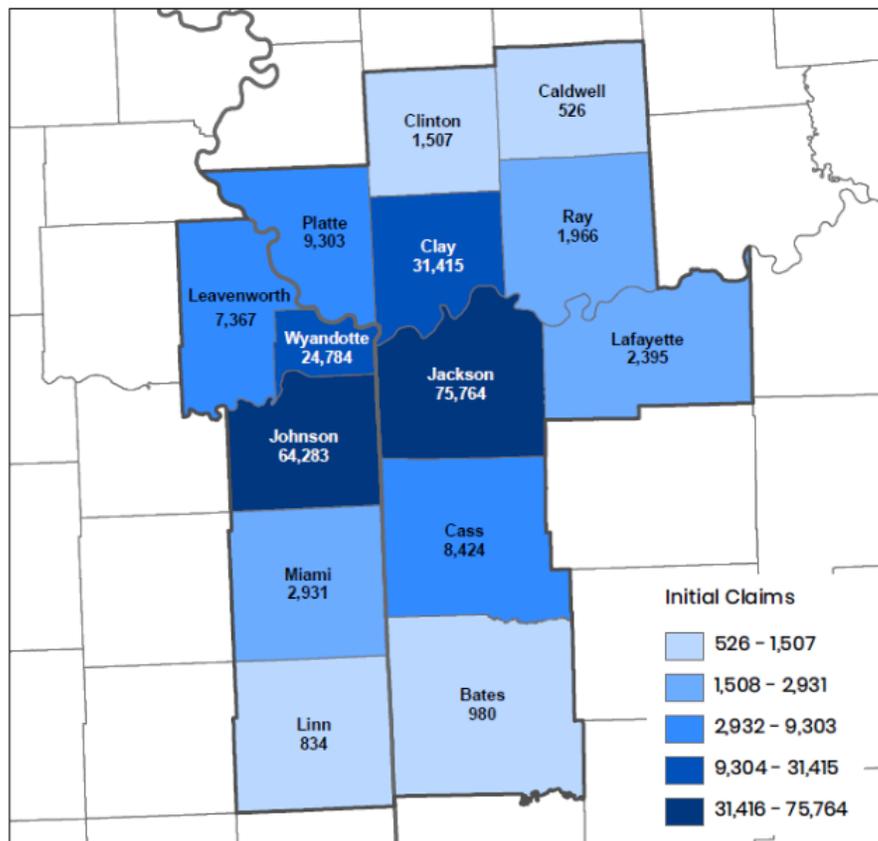


- The July 2020 unemployment rate for Johnson County was 6.6%
- Wyandotte County: 10.5%
- Leavenworth: 7.3%
- Jackson MO: 8.6%

Cumulative Unemployment Claims by County

Initial Unemployment Claims in the Kansas City Metro Area, by County

March 15 - August 15, 2020



- Top 5 Counties by Cumulative Initial Claims:

- Johnson 64,283
- Wyandotte 24,784
- Jackson 75,764
- Clay 31,415
- Sedgwick 111,422
- Data calculated March 21st – August 15th

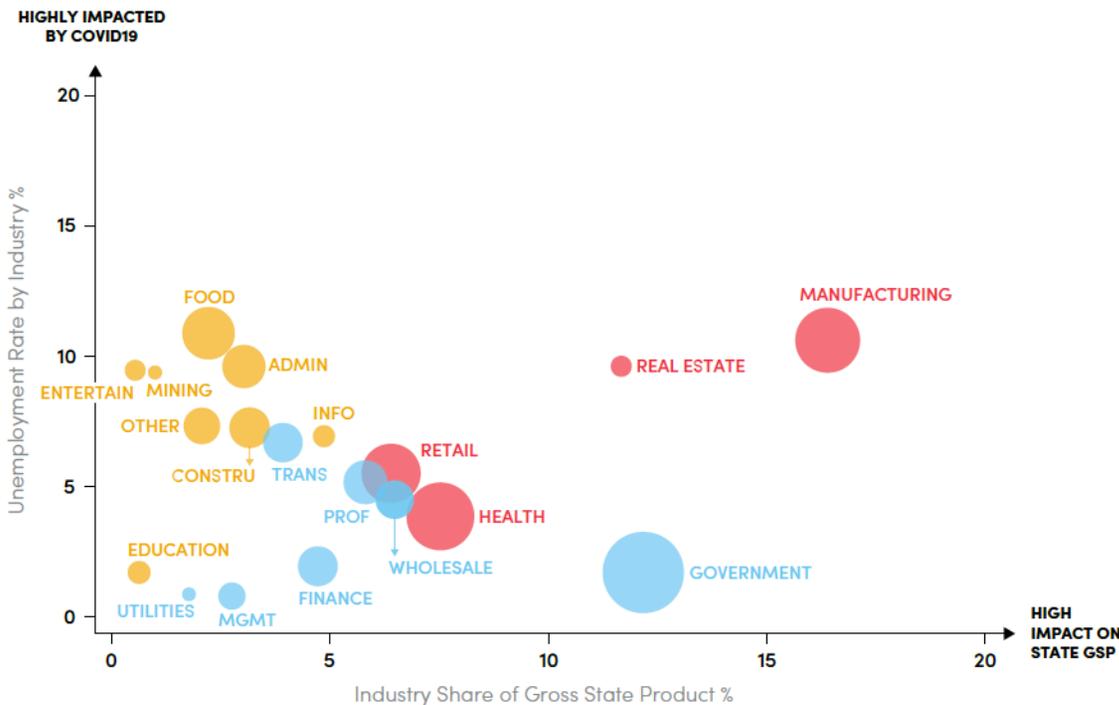
Kansas Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry as a Share of Total Employment—Data as of August 22nd

Industry	Unemployment Within Industry
Government	6.4%
Health	21.7%
Manufacturing	57%
Retail	27.4%
Food	50%
Professional	19.8%
Administrative	35.1%
Construction	31.1%
Finance	7.4%
Transportation	23.8%
Wholesale	15.3%
Other	49.2%
Management	2.6%
Education	6.4%
Information	24.3%
Real Estate	42.2%
Entertainment	62.1%
Mining	33.5%
Utilities	3.6%

- We calculated the share of initial unemployment claims for all of March – August 22nd over total employment by industry in March, 2020.
 - Industries are ranked by share of total employment.
 - Government, health care, manufacturing and retail trade are 53% of total employment in the state.

Unemployment Claims Relative to Gross State Product

Unemployment Rate Relative to Industry Share of Gross State Product
Weighted by Employment Share



Source: Author's calculations.

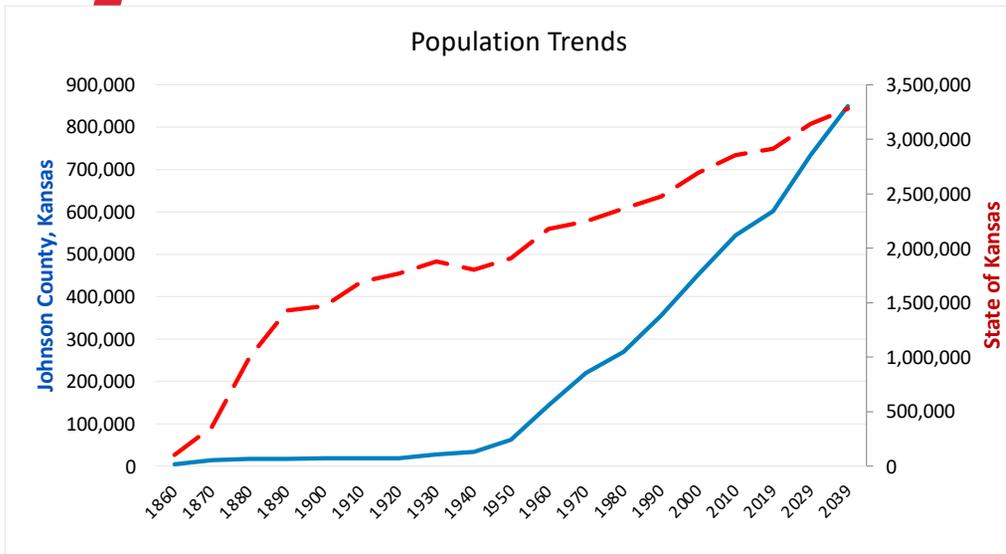
- Sectors that contribute most to Kansas growth with above average unemployment:
 - Manufacturing 12% UE & 16% of GSP
 - Health Services 4.5% UE & 7.5% of GSP
 - Health has improved a lot.
 - Retail 6% UE & 6.4% of GSP



Johnson County

Challenges to a Healthy Recovery

Johnson County Population

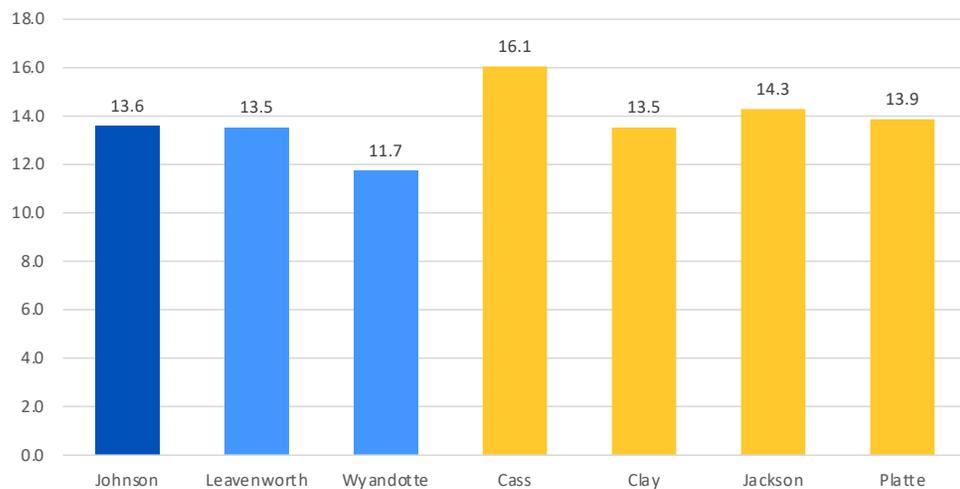


Population by Race & Ethnicity	Number
White	505,128
Black	27,360
American Indian and Alaskan Native	1,517
Asian	28,749
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	245
Some Other Race	5,541
Two or More Races	16,962
Hispanic or Latino	44,056
White alone, not Hispanic	469,810
Percent Diversity	19.76%

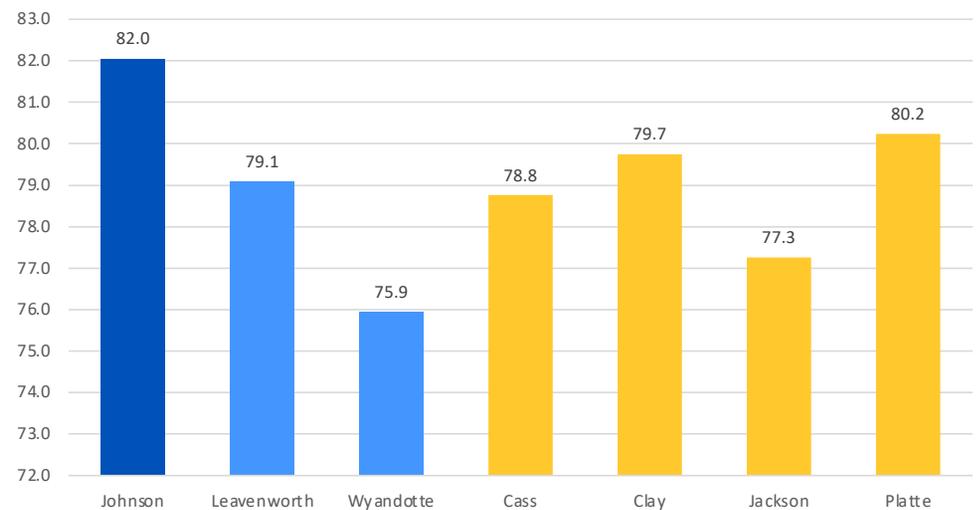
- Johnson County—unlike most of Kansas, is growing at a very fast rate. It has become increasingly diverse.

Johnson County Aging & Life Expectancy

Percent of the Population Age 65 and Over



Life Expectancy

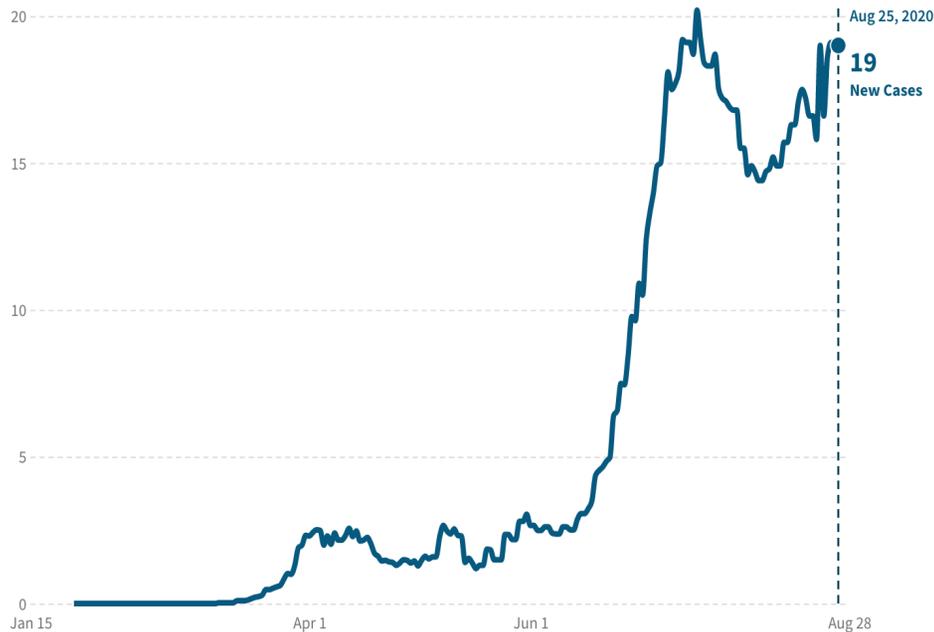


- 13.6 percent of Johnson County is over the age of 65. One third of that population reports some kind of disability. Life expectancy is the highest in the region.

Johnson County Covid Cases

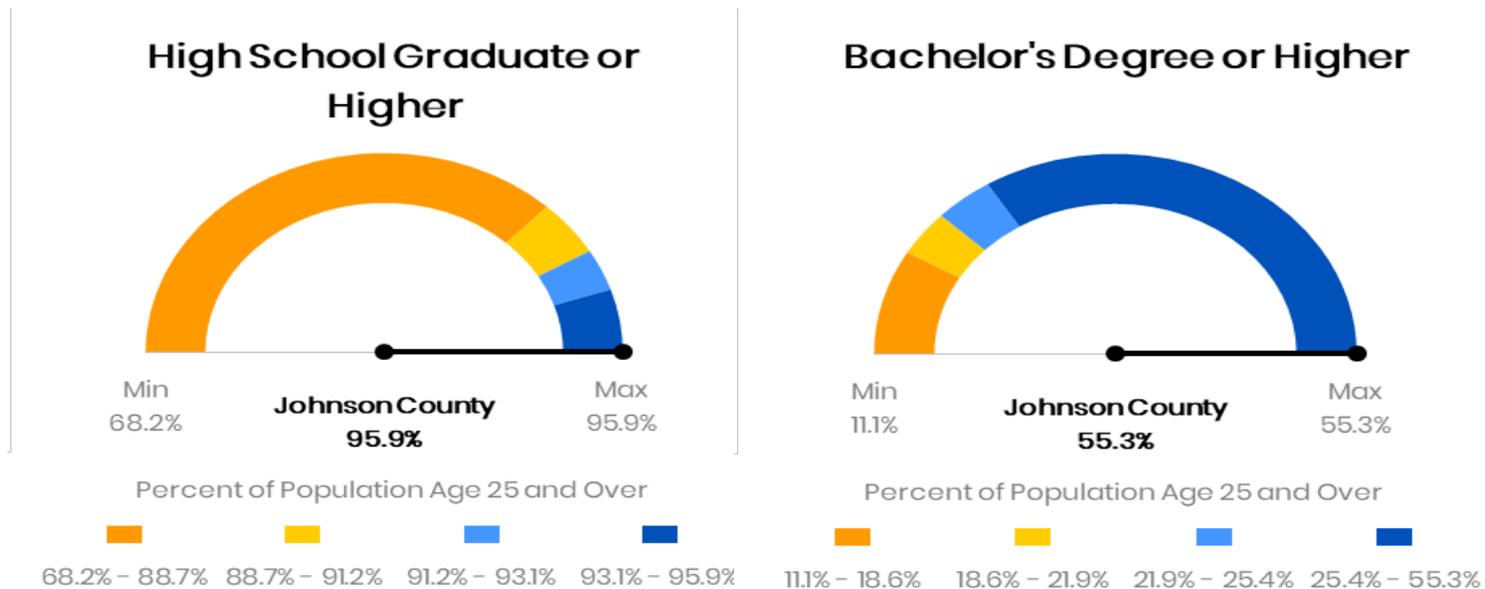
In **Johnson County**, on August 25 2020, there were **19** newly reported COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people.

DOWNLOAD CHART 



- Johnson County has had 7,411 cases as of August 25th
- 1,542 of those cases have been reported in the past weeks (this is a concern)
- 19 new cases per 100,000
 - 17 in the State of Kansas
 - Source: TracktheRecovery.org

Johnson County Education Compared to All Kansas Counties



- Johnson County—has highest levels of high school graduates and college graduates in the state of Kansas.

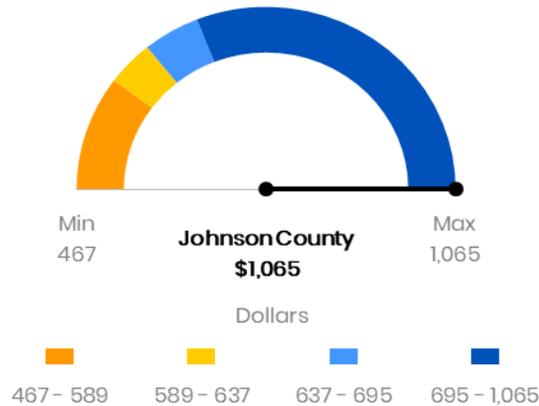
Johnson County Housing



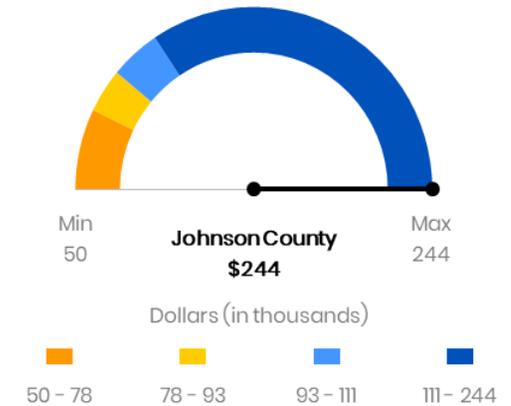
76% Single family
Homes.
95% Occupancy

Home Ownership 69.7%
Higher than Kansas 66.3%

Median Gross Rent



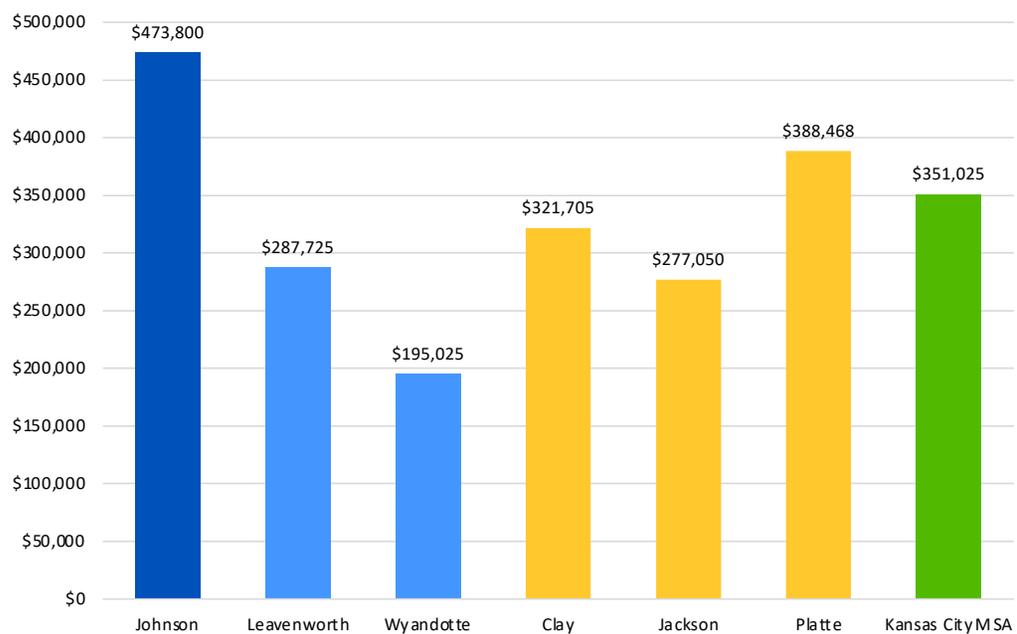
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units



- Johnson County has the highest housing costs in the state. Median rents are \$1,065.
- Median value of owner occupied housing is \$244,000.

Median House Listing Price in the KC Metro

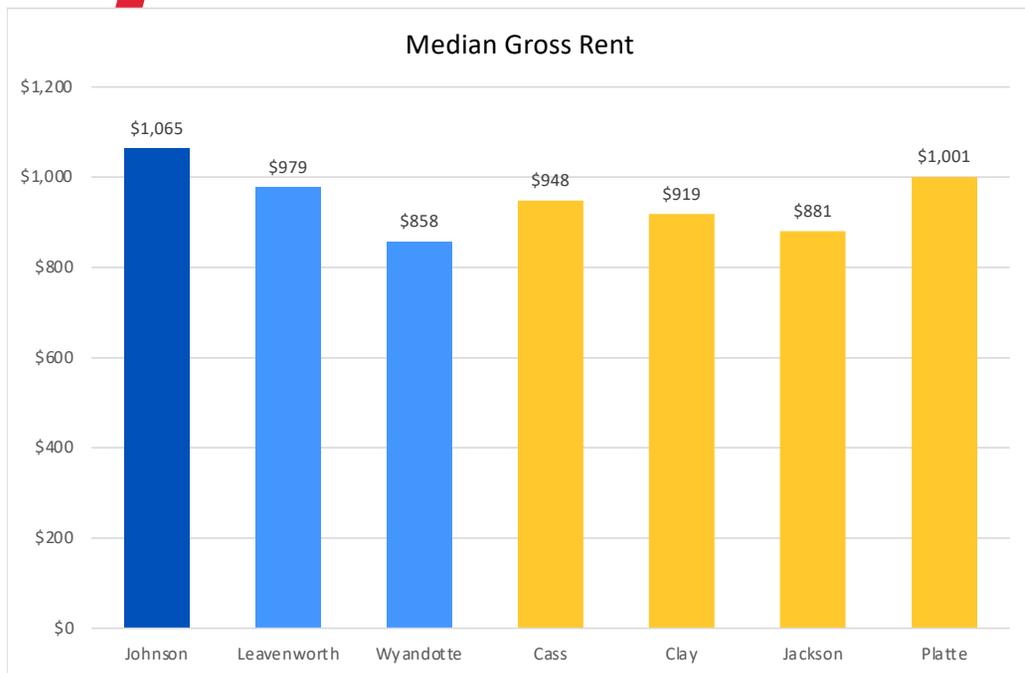
Median Listing Price - July 2020



- Median House Listing Price is \$473,800 in Johnson County
- \$351,025 for Kansas City metro

Source: FRED <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MEDLISPRI28140>

Median Gross Rent in KC Metro



- Median Gross Rent in Johnson County is \$1,065
- Highest in the metro area and the state.

Source: (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-18 ACS).

Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units in the KC Metro

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units



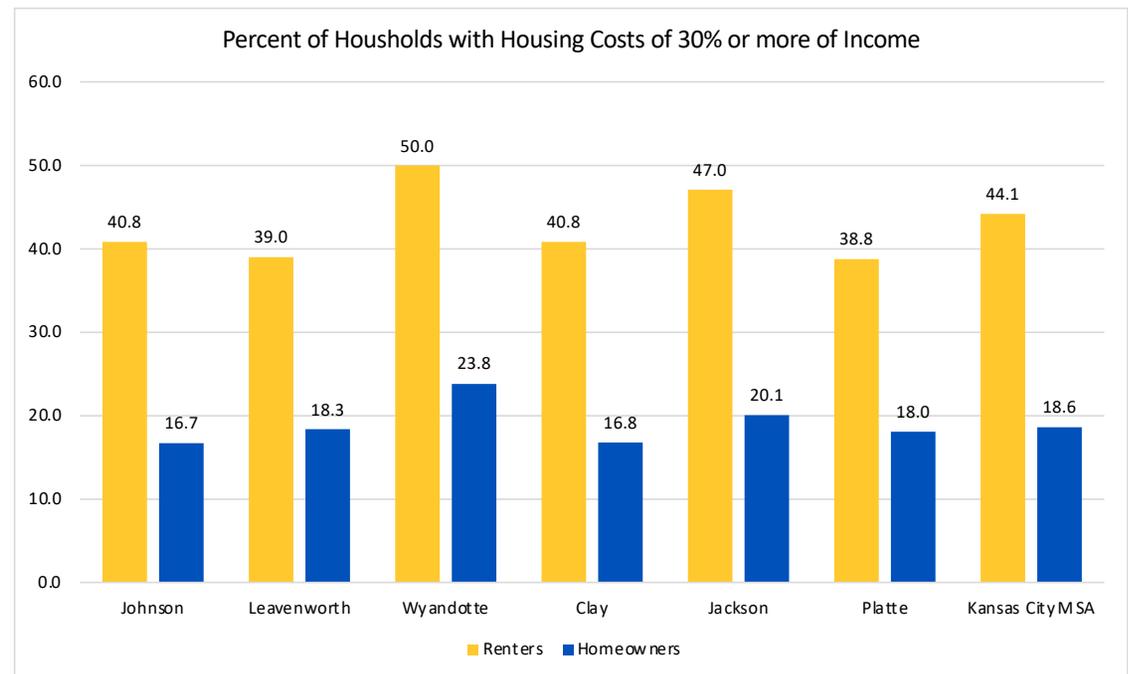
- The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Johnson County is \$244,100
- Median value is also above \$200,000 in Platte County, MO

Source: (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-18 ACS).

Johnson County Housing Costs as Share of Income

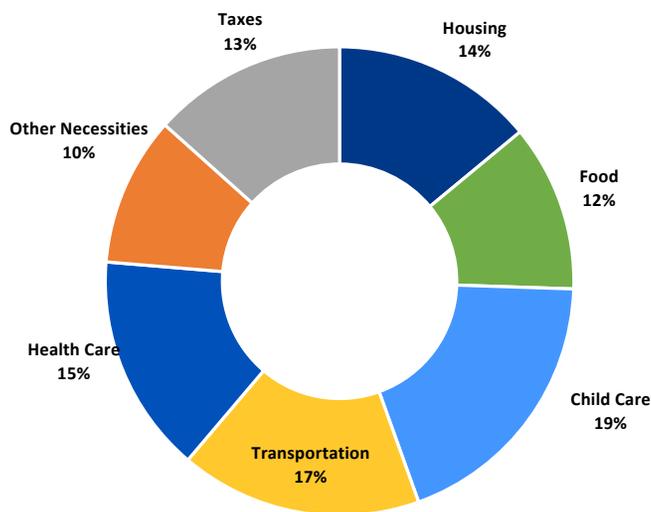
- 40% of renters and 17% of homeowners have housing costs that exceed 30% or more of income.

- Share of households with expensive housing costs is lower than for:
 - Wyandotte County
 - Jackson County
 - KC Metro Area



Johnson County Household Expenses

Expenses for a Family of Four in Johnson County, Kansas



MONTHLY COSTS

2 adults and 2 children
Johnson County, KS

HOUSING	\$975
FOOD	\$802
CHILD CARE	\$1,323
TRANSPORTATION	\$1,162
HEALTH CARE	\$1,052
OTHER NECESSITIES	\$717
TAXES	\$932

Monthly Total **\$6,964**

Annual Total **\$83,566**

The Economic Policy Institute estimates the cost of a family of four to live in Johnson County is \$83,566

Median household income is \$84,915

Difference leaves \$1,349 for savings.

Johnson County Childcare Cost vs. KU Tuition



Annual Center-Based Childcare costs \$15,876 per year

Johnson County has 806 licensed childcare facilities for 26,874 children but has 38,056 children under the age of 5.

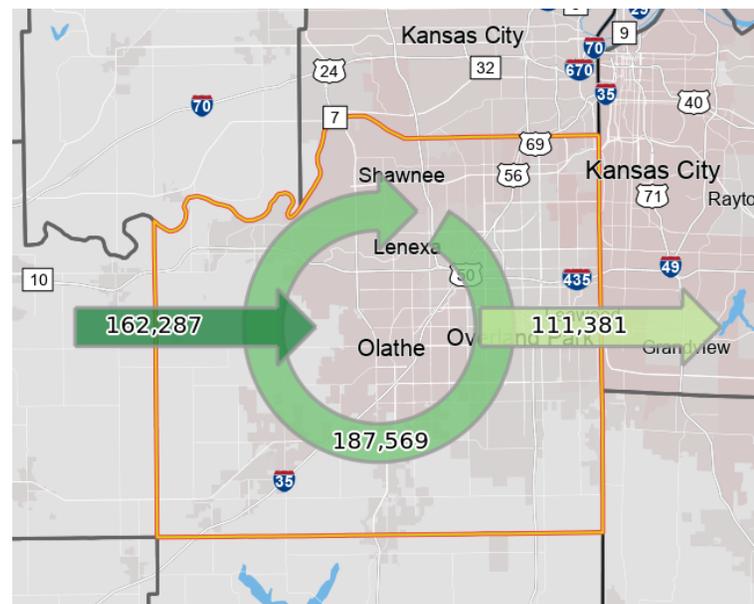
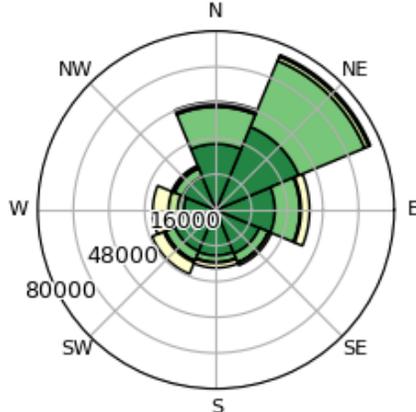


Annual KU In-State Tuition costs \$11,166

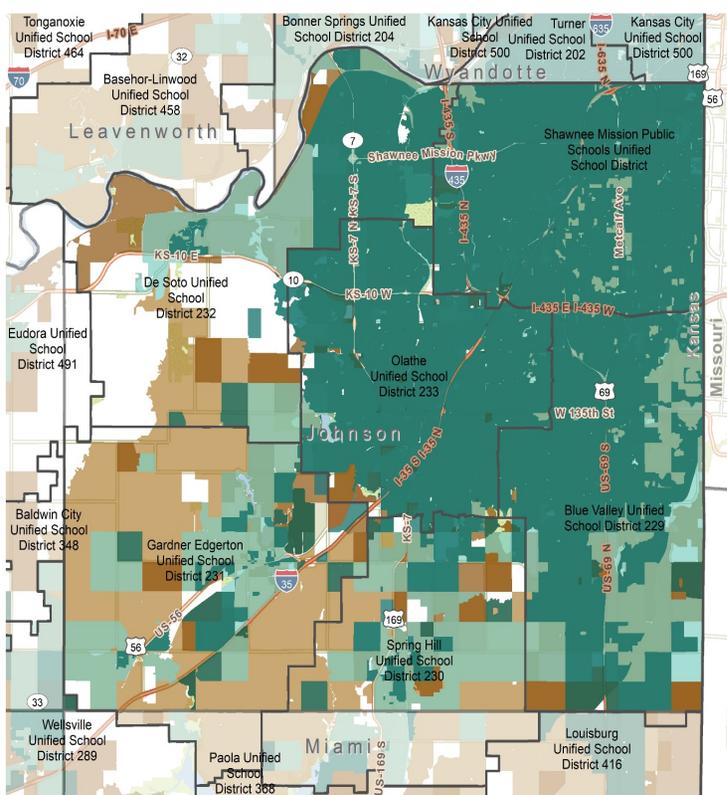
Johnson County Residents Commute for Work

- 63% of Johnson county residents work in the county.
- 37% of residents commute to work.
 - Kansas City Missouri is the most popular destination

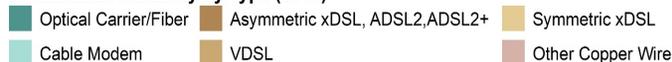
Job Counts by Distance/Direction in 2017
All Workers



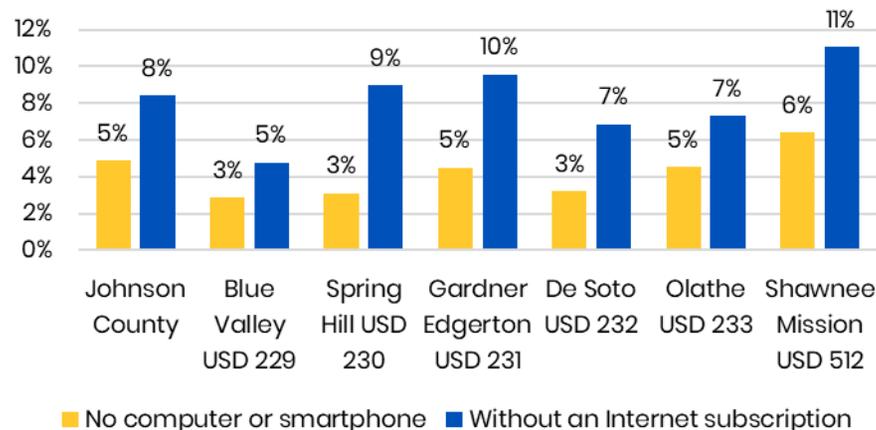
Johnson County Residents Lack Broadband Access



Broadband Availability by Type (2019)



Percent of Households without Computer or Internet Access



Between 7 – 11% of households within Johnson County School Districts have no Internet Subscription.

Broadband Access in School Districts, August 2020

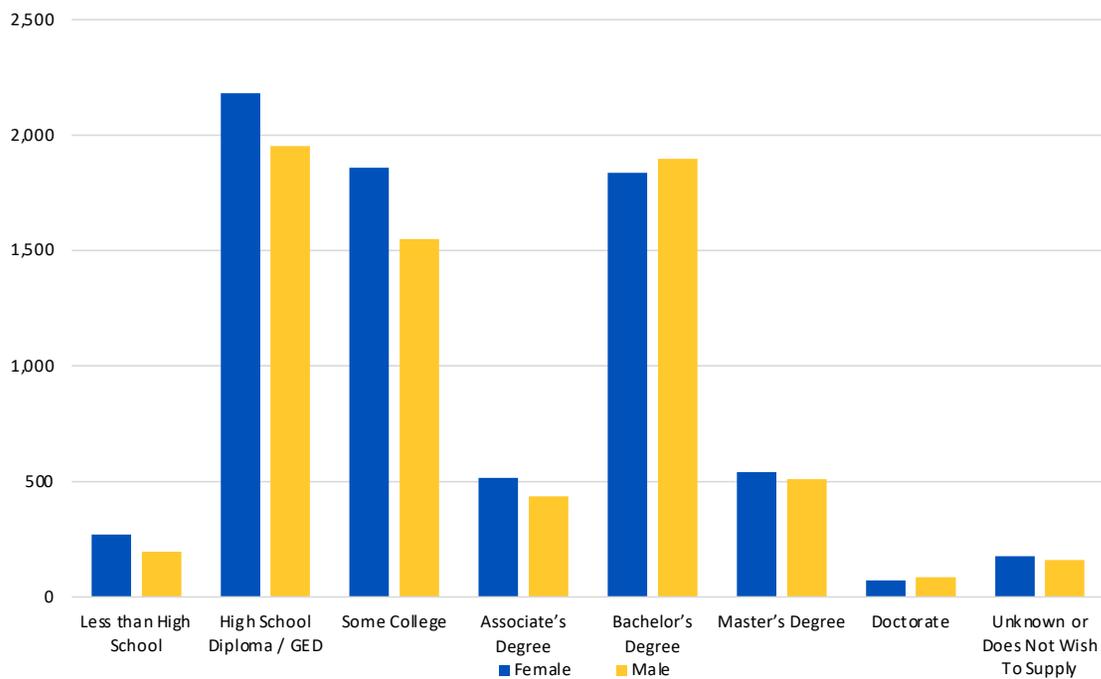
	Students approved for Free- or Reduced-price Lunch		Households without Broadband Access		KSDE Estimate of Students without Broadband Access	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Johnson County	23,428	21.9	33,564	14.8	-	-
Blue Valley USD 229	1,795	7.8	4,517	9.5	200	0.9
Spring Hill USD 230	1,148	25.9	820	16.8	350	7.9
Gardner Edgerton USD 231	1,860	30.8	1,866	20.3	300	5.0
De Soto USD 232	882	11.9	1,505	12.8	150	2.0
Olathe USD 233	7,880	26.5	8,540	15.0	1,350	4.5
Shawnee Mission USD 512	9,526	34.8	16,673	17.1	1,710	6.3

- KSDE estimates of students without internet access:
 - 7.9% of Spring Hill students
 - 6.3% of Shawnee Mission students
 - 5% of Gardner-Edgerton students
 - 4.5% of Olathe students

Source: Kansas State Department of Education; U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-18 ACS).

Johnson County Unemployment Claims

Initial and Continued Unemployment Claimants by Education Level and Gender as of August 15, 2020

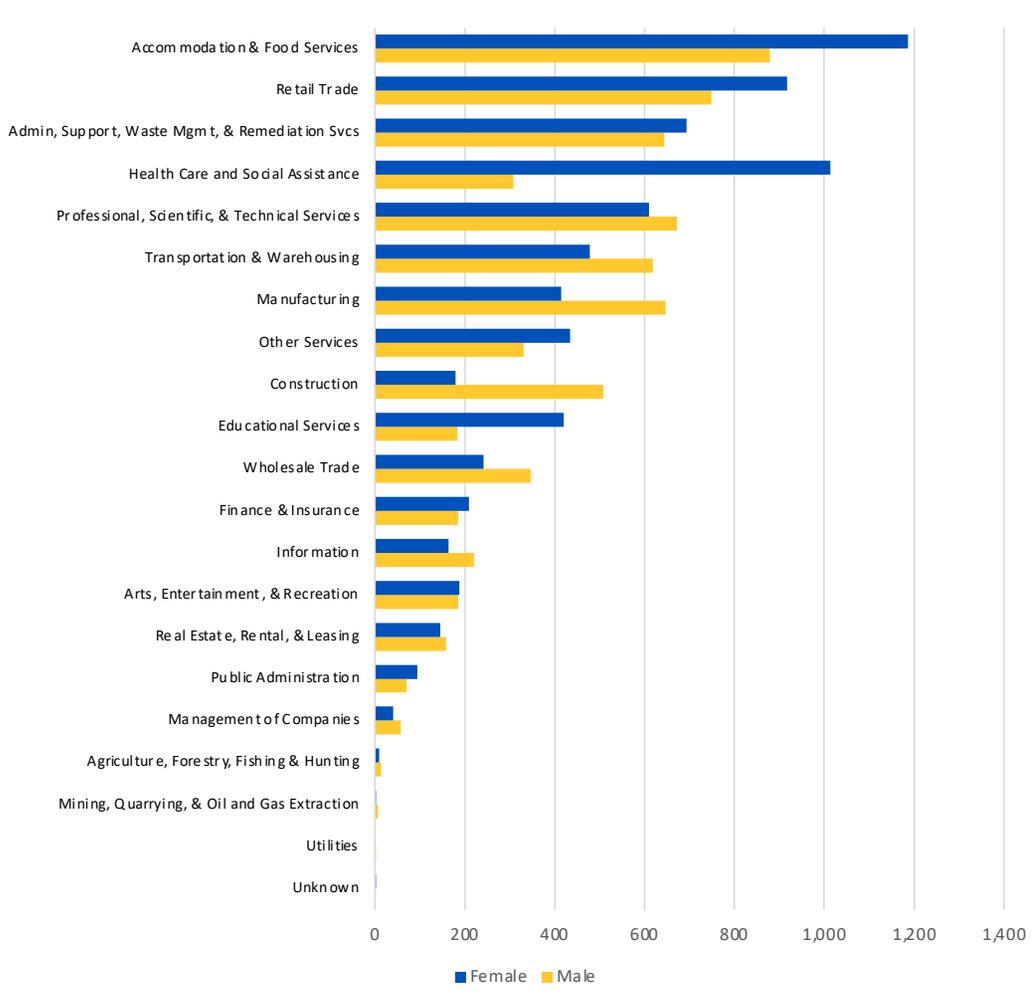


Source: Author's calculations.

- Female High School Graduates are most likely to be unemployed.
- Females with some college or more are more likely to be unemployed than males.
- Male college graduates are more likely to be unemployed.
 - This is not your typical “mancession”

Johnson County Unemployment Claims

Initial and Continued Unemployment Claimants by Industry

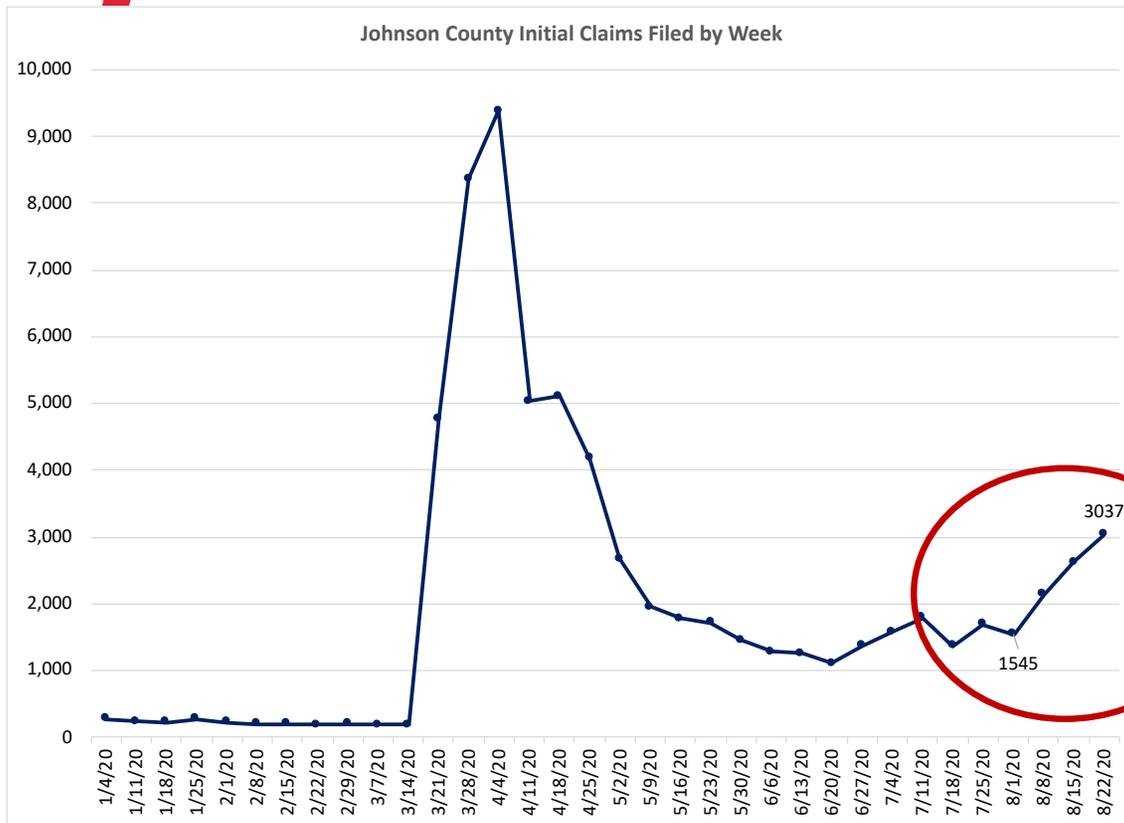


Source: Author's calculations.

- **Male Unemployment:**
 - Accommodation & Food Service
 - Retail Trade
 - Professional Services
- **Female Unemployment:**
 - Accommodation & Food Service
 - Health Care
 - Retail Trade



Johnson County Initial Unemployment Claims



Source: Kansas Department of Labor

- Johnson County Initial Unemployment claims have doubled in August.
 - 1,545 initial claims on August 1st
 - 3,037 initial claims on August 22nd

Unemployment Claims Relative to Gross Product— Johnson County

Unemployment Rate Relative to Industry Share of Gross County Product
Weighted by Employment Share - Johnson County

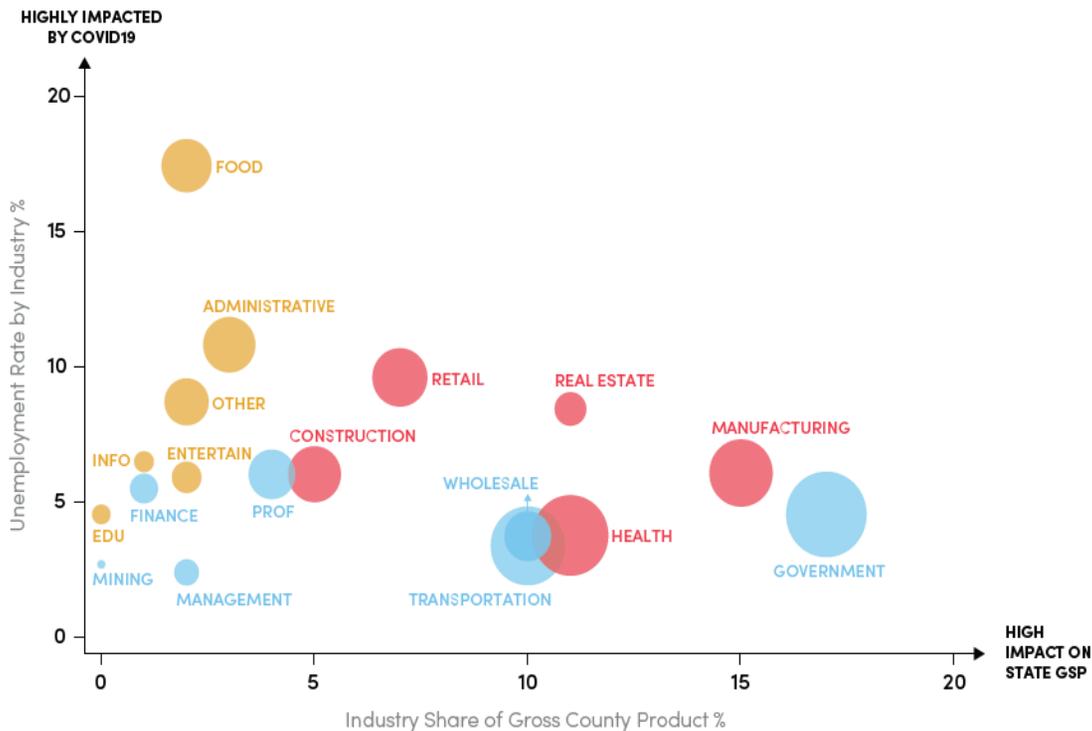


Source: Author's calculations.

- Sectors that contribute most to Johnson County growth :
 - Manufacturing 5.3% UE & 7.8% of GSP
 - Health Services 2.5% UE & 8.1% of GSP
 - Retail 3.6% UE & 6.4% of GSP
 - County UE Rate 6.5%

Unemployment Claims Relative to Gross Product— Wyandotte County

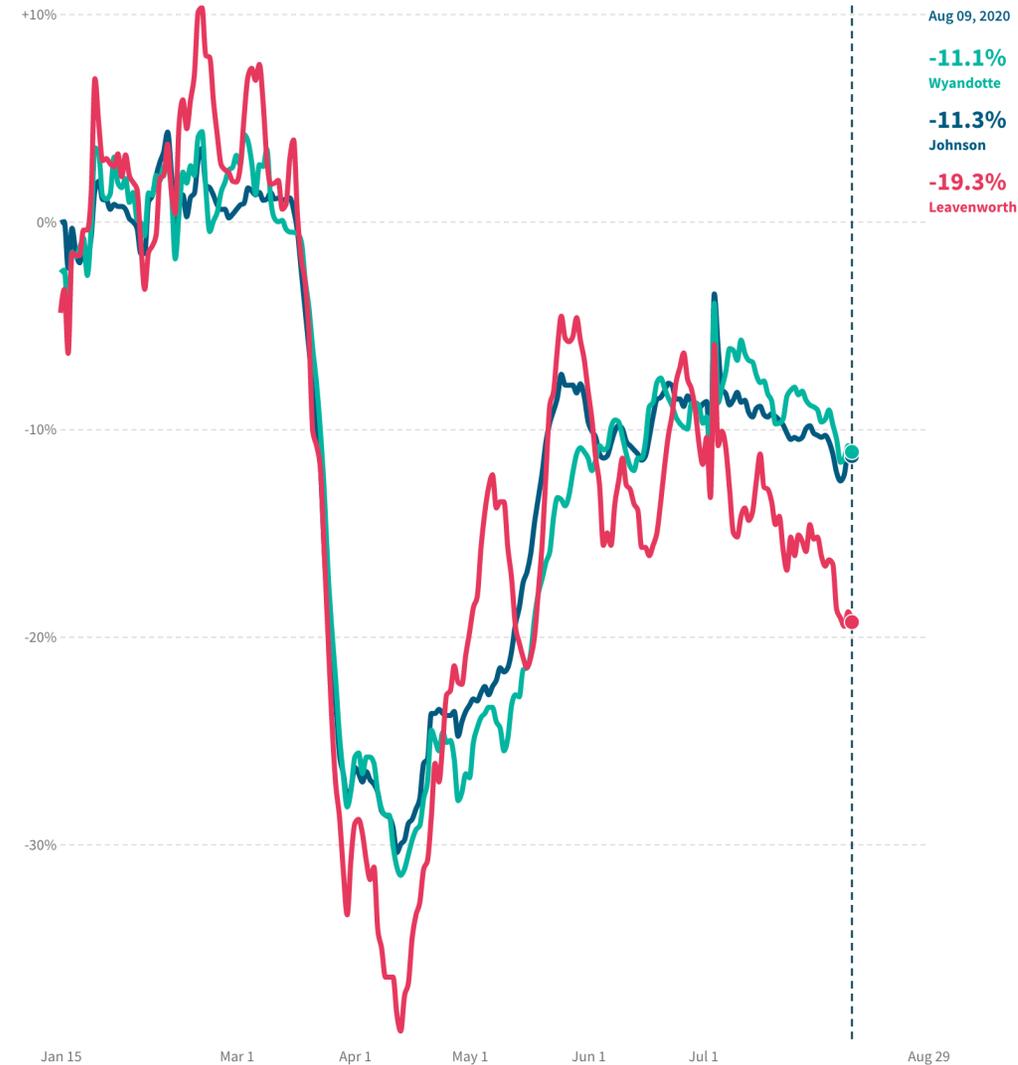
Unemployment Rate Relative to Industry Share of Gross County Product
Weighted by Employment Share - Wyandotte County



Source: Author's calculations.

- Sectors that contribute most to Wyandotte County growth:
 - Manufacturing 6.1% UE & 15% of GSP
 - Health Services 3.8% UE & 11% of GSP
 - Retail 9.6% UE & 7% of GSP
 - County UE Rate 10.5%

In **Johnson County**, as of August 09 2020, the number of small businesses open decreased by **11.3%** compared to January 2020.

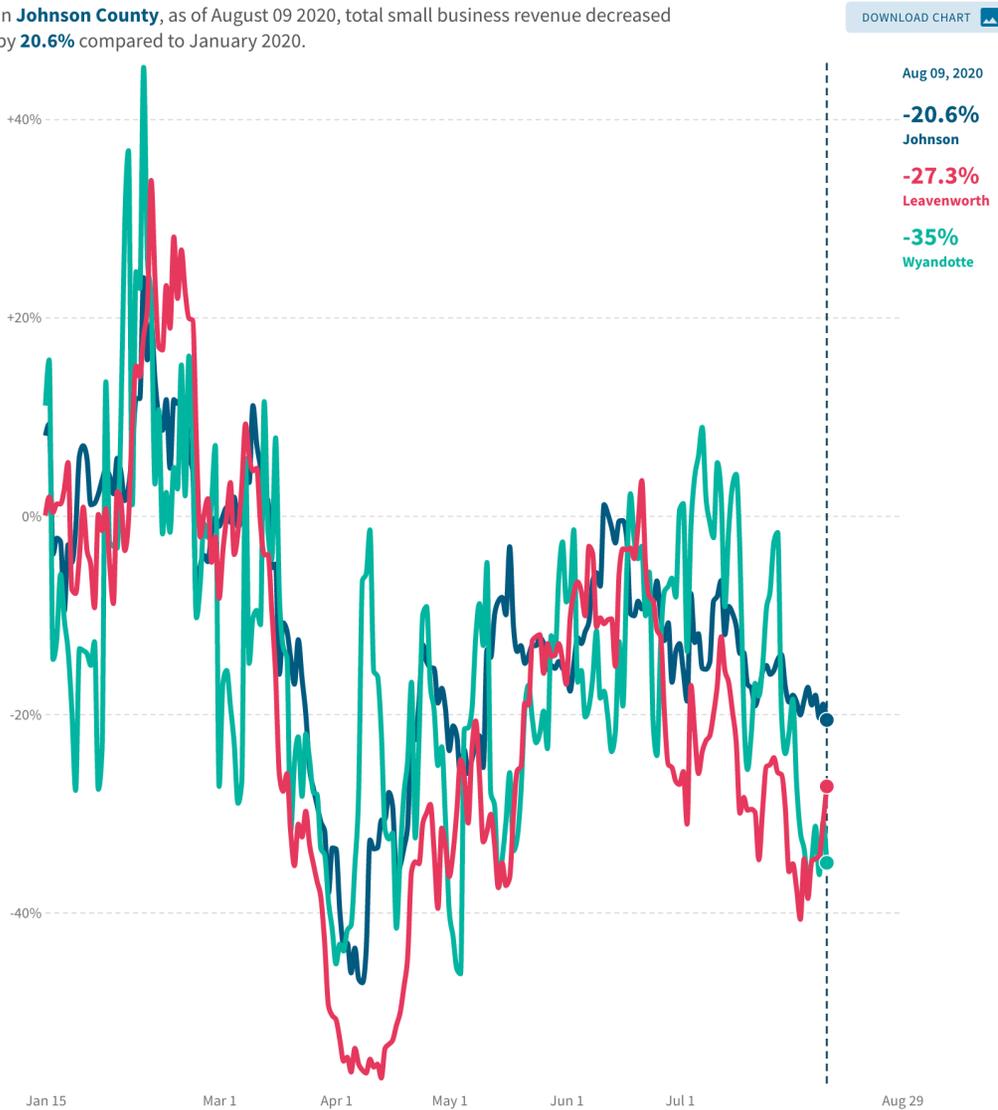


Johnson County Small Businesses Open

- Johnson County has seen a 11.3% drop in small businesses open since January
- Wyandotte County has seen a 11.1% decline
- Leavenworth County has over 19% of small businesses closed

Source: (Opportunity Insights, Economic Tracker)

In **Johnson County**, as of August 09 2020, total small business revenue decreased by **20.6%** compared to January 2020.



Johnson County Small Business Revenue

- Johnson County has seen a 20.6% drop in total small business revenue since January
- Wyandotte County has seen a more significant, 35% decline

Source: Small business revenue in Johnson County (Source: KU Institute for Policy & Social Research, Economic Tracker)

KU INSTITUTE FOR POLICY & SOCIAL RESEARCH
The University of Kansas

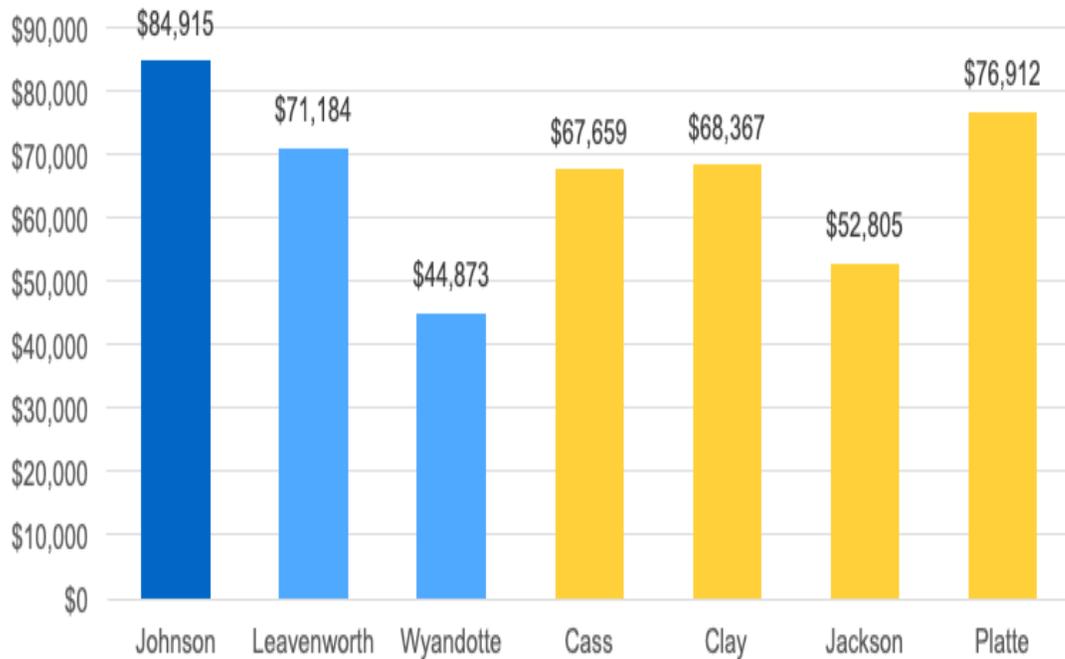
Johnson County Vulnerable Businesses

Industry	Total	Small Businesses		
		Businesses with fewer than 500 Employees	Self-Employed	Total Small Businesses
Manufacturing	463	457	624	1,018
Retail Trade	1,834	1,834	4,834	6,658
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,956	1,947	3,750	5,697
Accommodation and Food Services	1,165	1,165	423	1,588
Other Services (except Public Admin)	1,305	1,304	5,683	6,987

- Johnson County has 22,037 establishments in vulnerable industries
- 6,723 of these have employees
- All but 89 are small businesses

Median Household Income

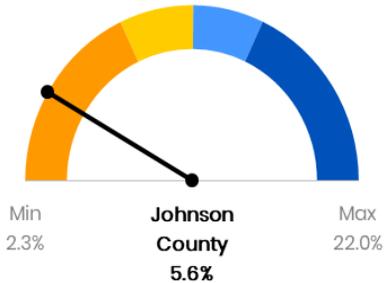
Median Household Income



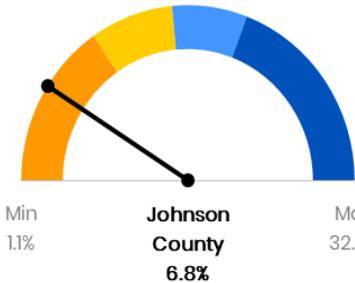
- Median Household income in Johnson County is \$84,915
- It is the highest in the state and the KC Metro.

Percent of People in Poverty in Johnson County

Percent of People in Poverty

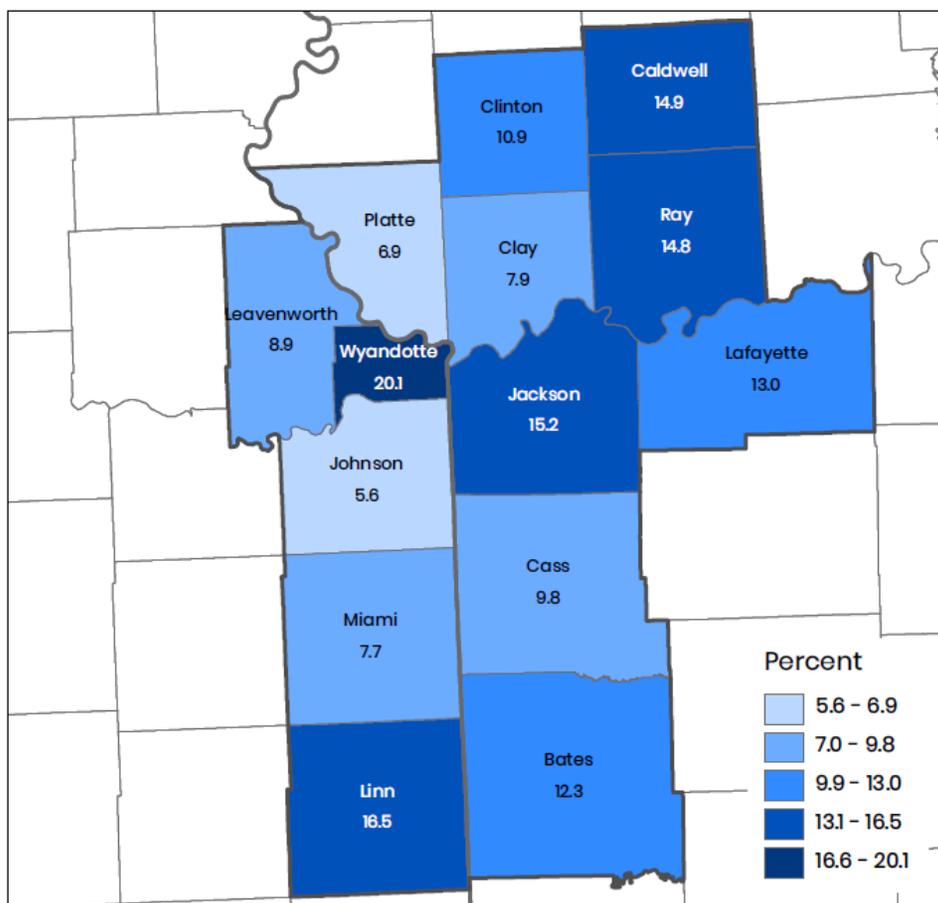


Percent of Children Under 18 in Poverty



- The overall portion of Johnson County residents living in poverty is 5.6%
- 6.8% of children under 18 in Johnson County live in poverty
- Johnson County falls into the lower third for Kansas counties for people in poverty

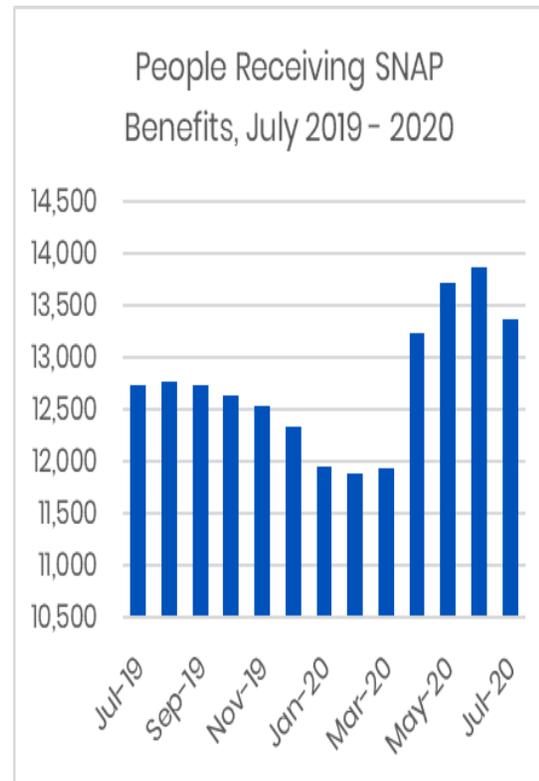
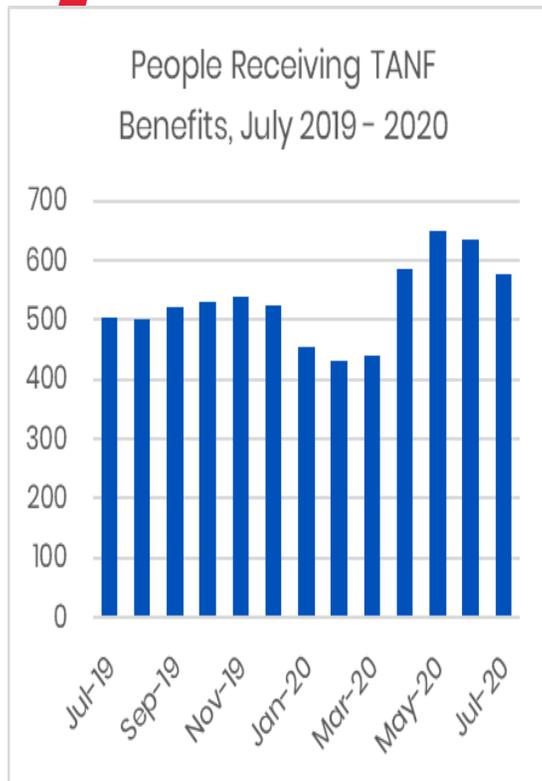
Percent of People in Poverty in KC Metro



- Johnson County has the lowest poverty rate for the counties in the KC metro area.

- Wyandotte: 20.1%
- Jackson: 15.2%
- Miami: 7.7%
- Leavenworth: 8.9%

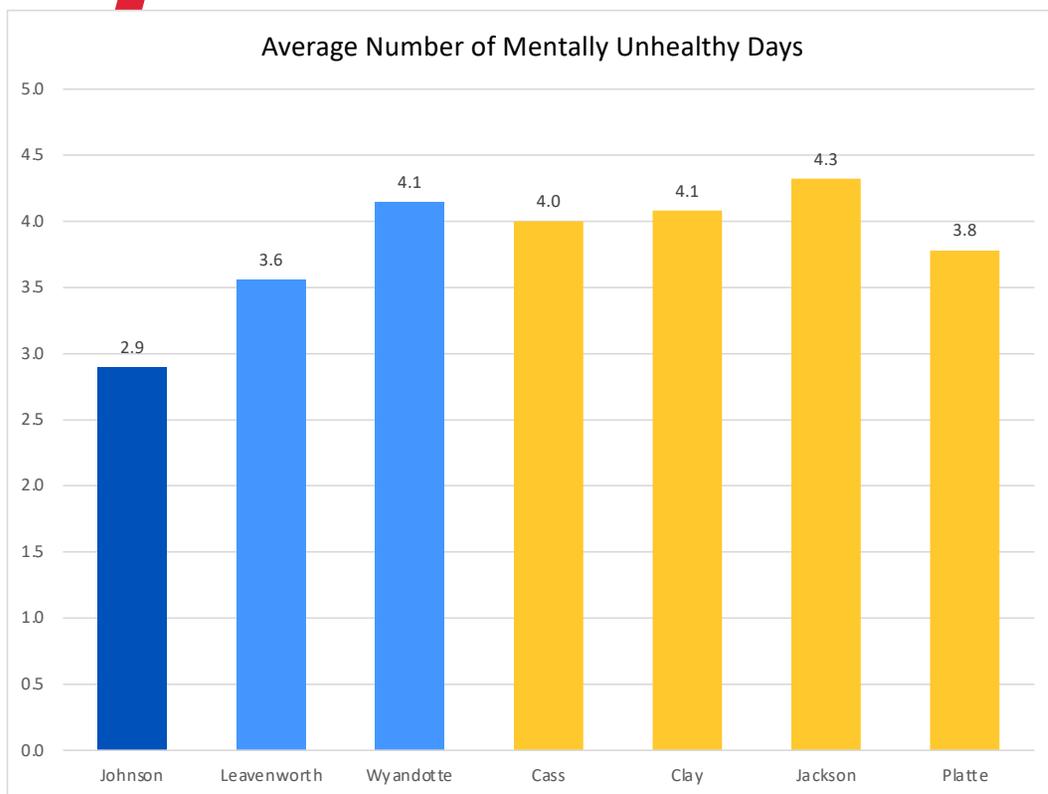
Johnson County SNAP and TANF Participation



Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), have increased.

- 5% increase in SNAP program participants
- 14% increase in people receiving TANF benefits .

Average Mentally Unhealthy Days in the KC Metro

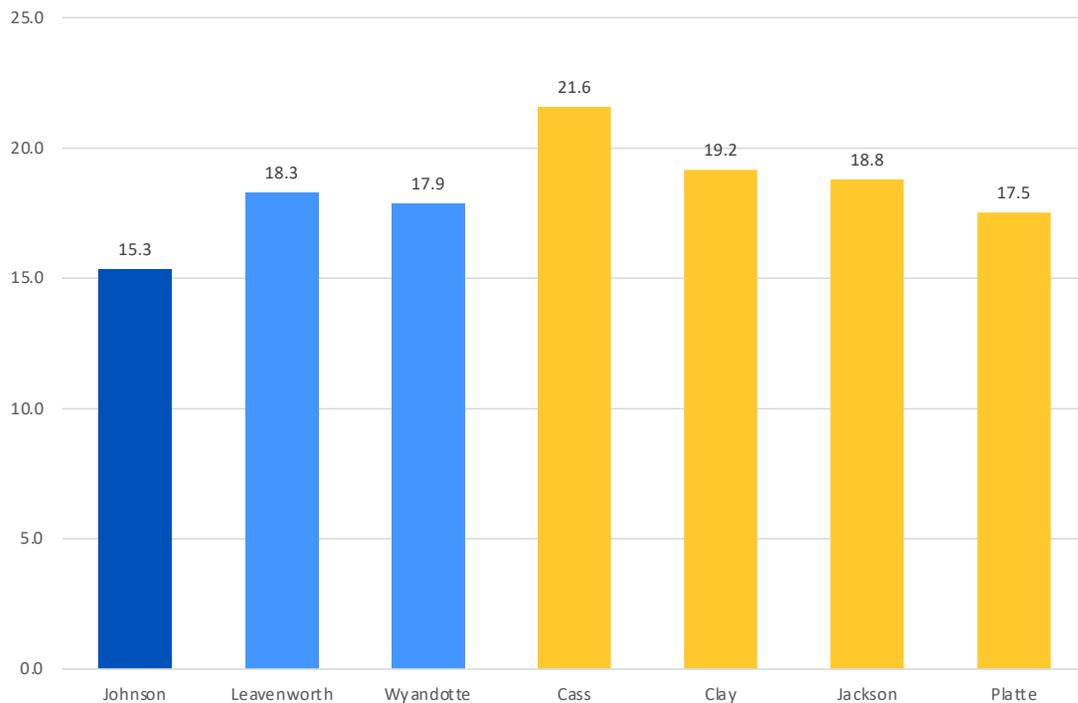


Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2020 County Health Rankings.

- Johnson County residents reported an average of 2.9 mentally unhealthy days in the past 30 days, the lowest of the 7 county region.

Suicide Rate in the KC Metro

Suicide Rate (Age-Adjusted)
Deaths Due to Suicide per 100,000 Population



- Johnson County also has the lowest suicide rate in the region at 15.3 per 100,000 people.

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2020 County Health Rankings.

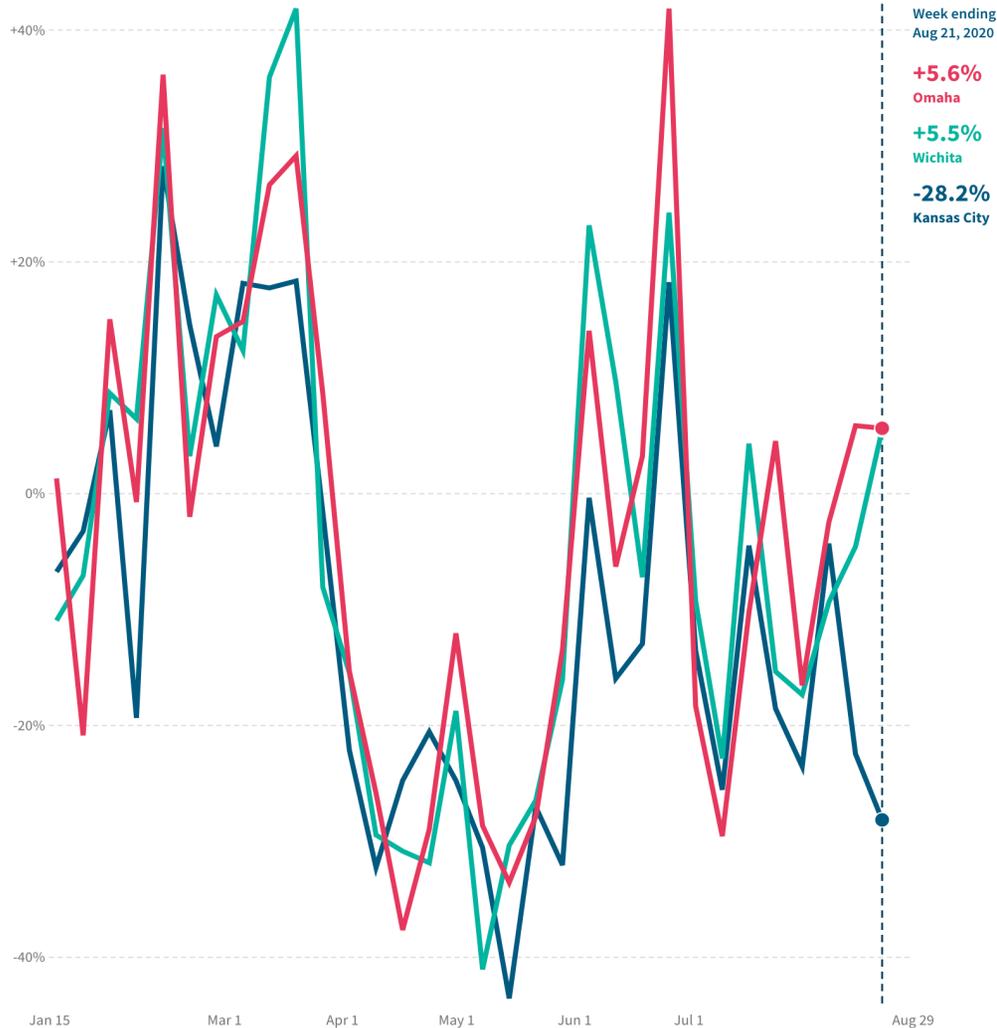
Unemployment and Job Postings

Education Level	Job Openings in Kansas City MSA	Unemployment Claimants in Johnson County
No Minimum Education Requirement	54	-
High School Diploma or Equivalent	4,882	4,132
Vocational School Certificate	49	-
Some College/Technical or Vocational School	21	3,407
Associates Degree	453	953
Bachelor's Degree	1,919	3,732
Master's Degree	101	1,050
Doctorate Degree	40	157
Specialized Degree (e.g. MD, DDS)	17	0
Total*	7,536	14,234*

There twice as many unemployed workers as jobs in the KC Metro area.

- This is true for almost all education levels.
- The health of the Kansas City area will directly impact the Johnson County economy.

In **Kansas City**, as of August 21 2020, total job postings decreased by **28.2%** compared to January 2020.



Job Postings in the Kansas City Metro

Total job postings in the Kansas City Metro are down 28.2% since the first of the year.

There was a job posting rebound in leisure & hospitality jobs but postings are now down 59.7%

- Job postings are up in both Wichita and Omaha by almost 6%



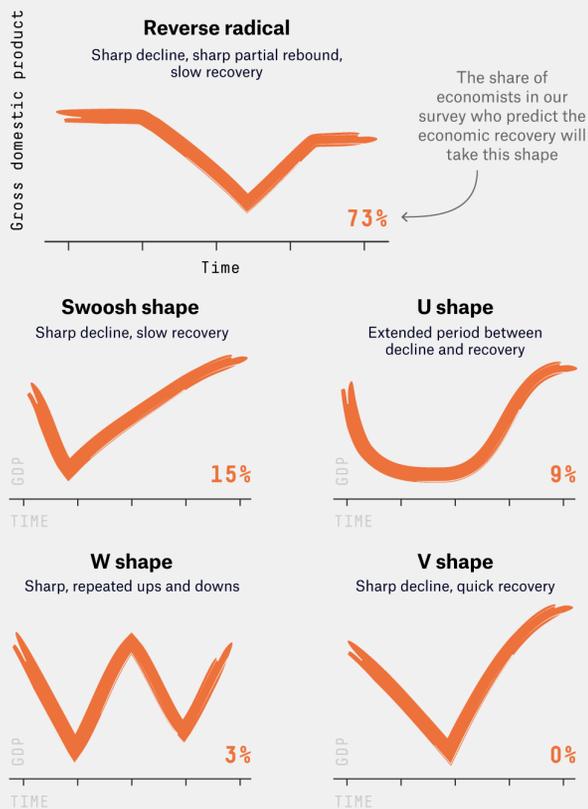
What's the Latest Letter for the Economic Recovery?

K is not OK

Shape of the Recovery—Reverse Radical?

Economists in our survey expect an uneven recovery

Expert predictions for the shape of the U.S. economic recovery



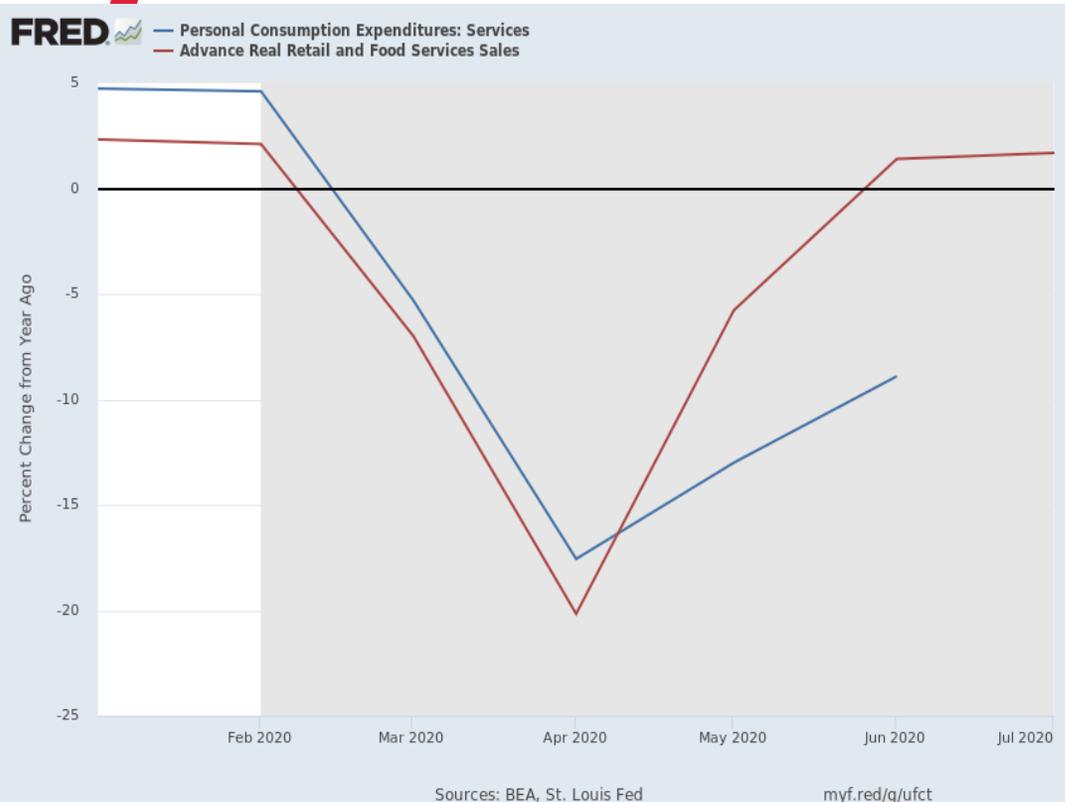
FiveThirtyEight

SOURCE: FIVETHIRTYEIGHT/IGM COVID-19 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SURVEY

- In June, Fivethirtyeight.com interviewed top macroeconomists about the recovery.
- 73% of economists expect a reverse radical recovery:
 - Sharp-partial recovery with prolonged lower level.
- Now economists are talking about K-shaped recovery

Source: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-economists-fear-most-during-this-recovery/>

Consumption January – July, 2020



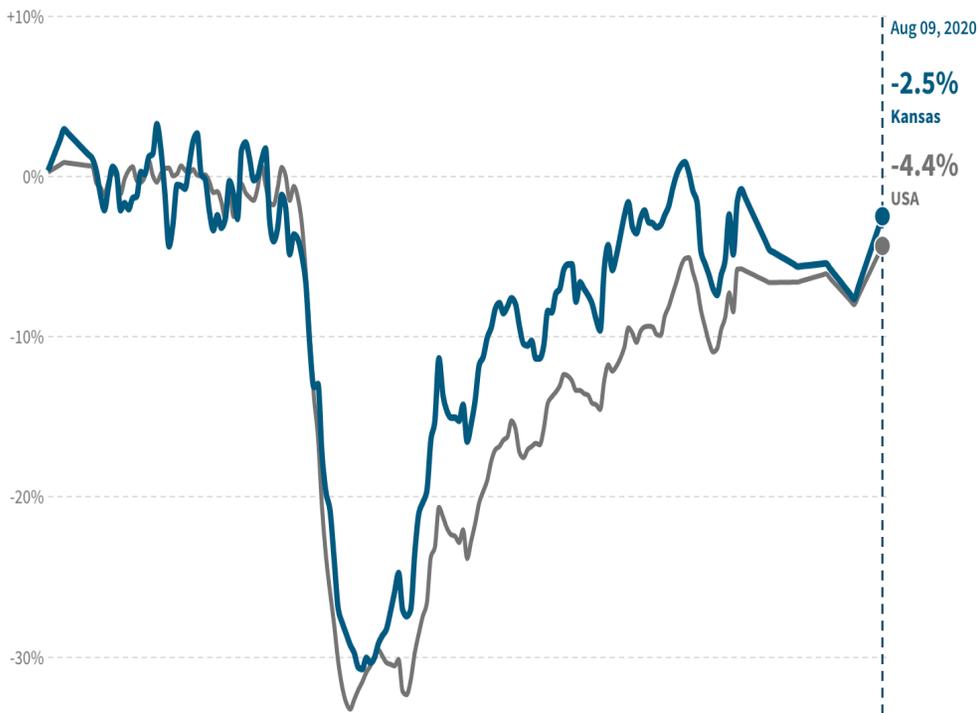
Source: FRED

- Consumption is 2/3rds of GDP
 - 60% of consumption is services (blue line)
 - Swoosh or reverse radical recovery
 - 40% of consumption is goods (red line)
 - V-shaped, partly driven by groceries.

Real-Time Data on Consumer Spending

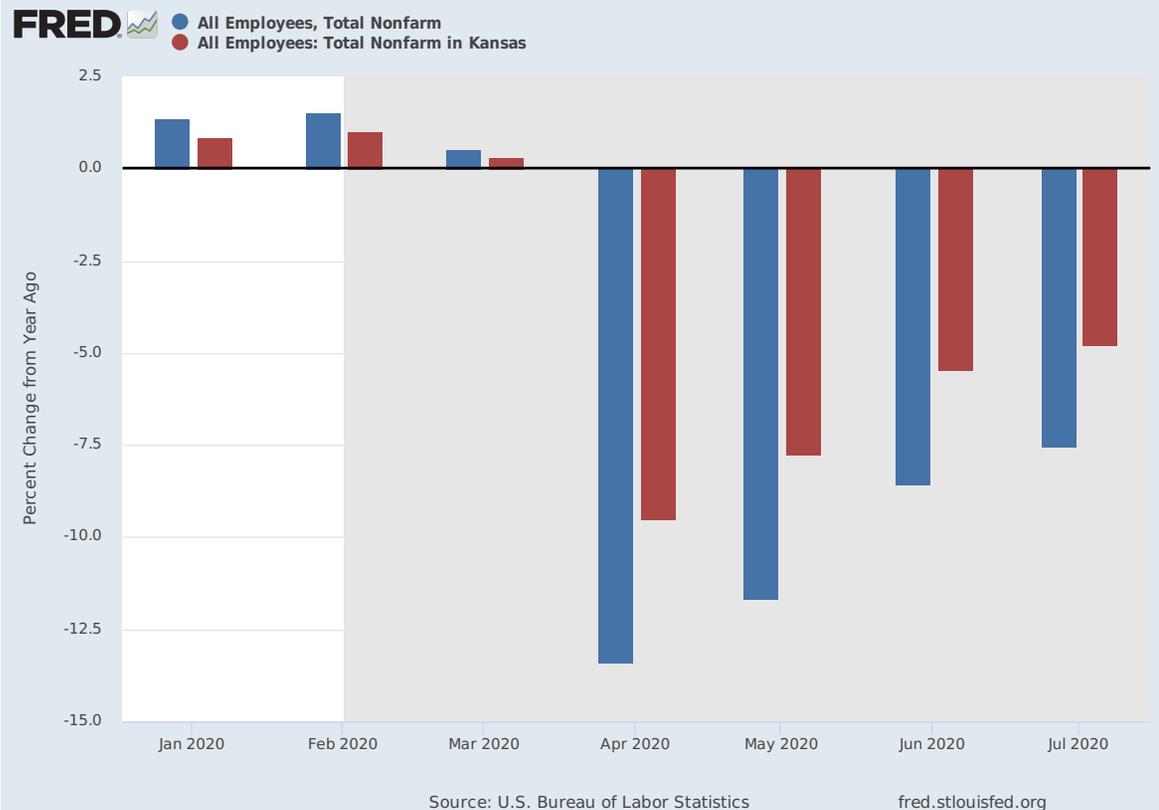
In **Kansas**, as of August 09 2020, total spending by all consumers decreased by **2.5%** compared to January 2020.

DOWNLOAD CHART 



- Consumer Spending in the US is down 4.4% and in Kansas down 2.5%.
 - It has not fully recovered and may be headed back down as COVID-19 cases accelerate.
- Consumption has improved through mid-August

Employment in Kansas and the US



- Kansas Employment is down 4.8% from a year ago.
- US down 7.5%.

Is this a K-shaped Recovery?

The Washington Post

Economy

The recession is over for the rich, but the working class is far from recovered

The stock market and home values are back at record levels, while jobs remain scarce for those earning less than \$20 an hour

August 13, 2020

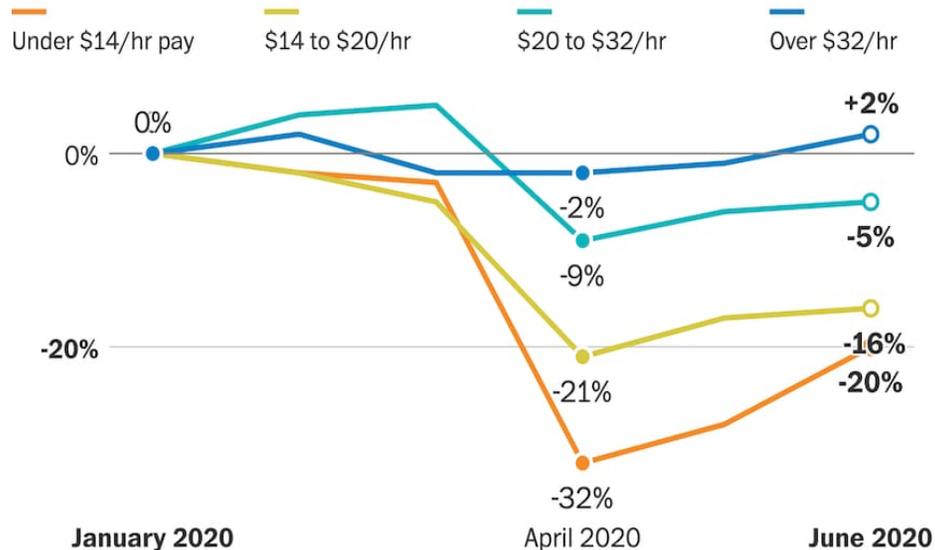
Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/08/13/recession-is-over-rich-working-class-is-far-recovered/?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_most

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The University of Kansas

Is this a K-shaped Recovery?

Jobs have rebounded for the top, but not for the bottom

(Chart shows percent change in employment since January 2020)

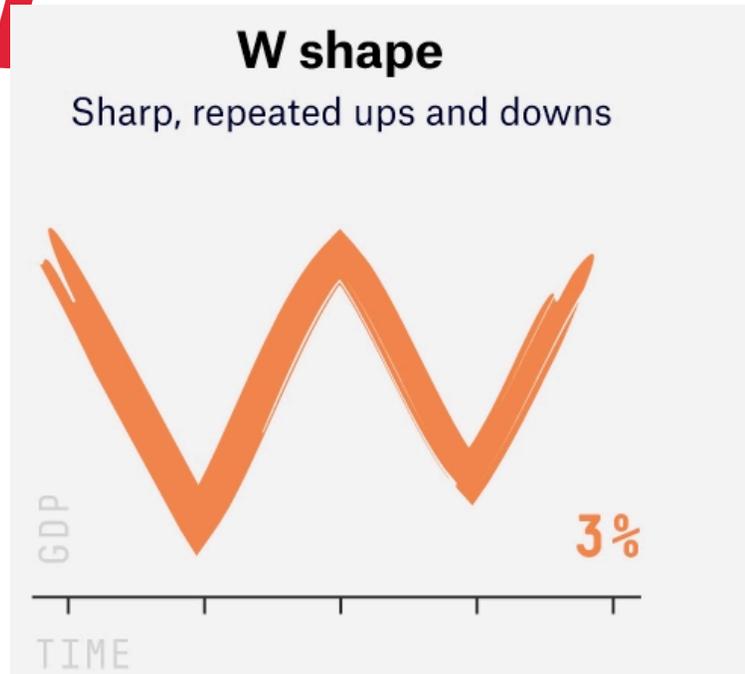


Source: Opportunity Insights analysis of Current Population Survey data

TOM PETERSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

- Jobs for those earning $> \$32$ per hour have recovered.
 - Jobs for those earning between $\$20$ - $\$32$ per hour down 5%
 - Jobs for those earning between $\$14$ - $\$20$ per hour down 16%
 - Jobs for those earning between $< \$14$ per hour down 20%
- The rich have recovered.
- The rest have not.

Could the K turn into a W?



- August 1st: Enhanced unemployment benefits ended.
 - Executive Order: 5 weeks of \$300 per week from federal government
 - States asked to pay the additional \$100

Trump wants states to pay a quarter of his new unemployment benefit. States say they can't afford it.

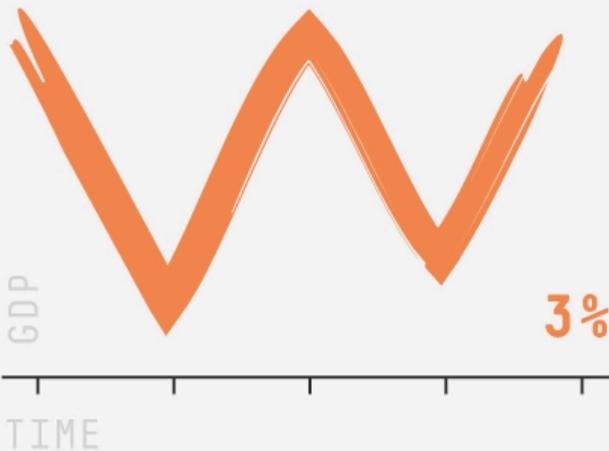
"The concept of saying to states 'you pay 25 percent of the unemployment insurance' is just laughable," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-wants-states-pay-25-his-new-unemployment-benefit-states-n1236291>

Could the K turn into a W?

W shape

Sharp, repeated ups and downs



State and Local Budget Pain Looms Over Economy's Future

Providing more aid to struggling governments has become one of the biggest issues tangling up the debate over another pandemic rescue package.

- The Fed chair, Jerome H. Powell, has repeatedly warned that state job cuts could drag down an economic recovery: **“It will hold back the economic recovery if they continue to lay people off and if they continue to cut essential services.”**

Source: August 14, 2020 New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/14/business/economy/state-local-budget-pain.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Whatever the letter, it will take longer to recover

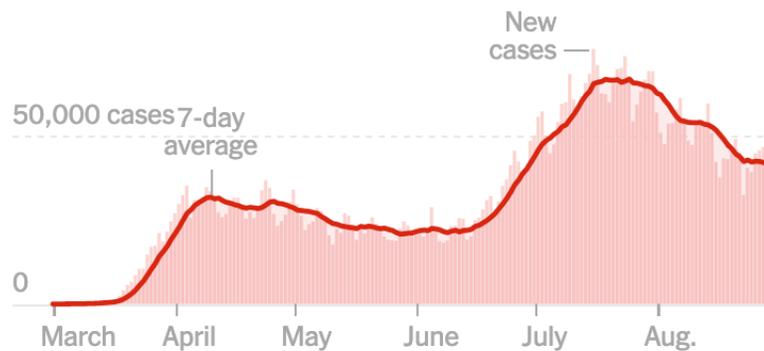
- According to Fivethirtyeight.com:
 - In that fantasy world where 75 percent of Americans wake up tomorrow and are certifiably immune to the coronavirus, the economists thought there was only a 15 percent chance that GDP would return to its pre-pandemic level by the end of 2020, and only a 35 percent chance that GDP would hit that mark by the end of the first quarter of 2021.
 - A vaccine, in other words, is not an economic panacea.

Source: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/even-with-a-vaccine-the-economy-could-take-many-months-to-return-to-normal/>

The Reverse Radical Could Easily Become a W

By The New York Times Updated August 31, 2020, 12:12 P.M. E.T.

[Leer en español](#)



TOTAL CASES

6.0 million+

DEATHS

183,113

Includes confirmed and probable cases where available

- Added restrictions to control the virus will slow economic activity.
 - Hopefully using masks will slow the spread

Economic Impacts of COVID-19

- We will be posting weekly updates on data.
- We are moving to update these briefings every month.
- Data and briefings are featured on the IPSR website:
<http://ipsr.ku.edu/covid19/>
- We will also monitor the policy responses.
- I hope that you all stay healthy!

Thank You!

Thank You *Mahalo*
Kiitos
Tack
Toda
Grazie
Thanks
Obrigado
Takk
Danke
Gracias **Merci**



Johnson County

Sensemaking Guide

What is Inside

Background

Community Profile

Themes: Emergent Patterns

Bright Spots

Disruptors

Unmet Needs

Unheard Voices

Strike Team Story Packs

**Working Draft:
August 31, 2020**

Navigating the Guide

SenseMaker is a unique approach to narrative research. The results of a SenseMaker study are meant to guide decision-making and take action in a complex environment. Below are three things to keep in mind as you begin to explore this new form of data.



The unit (n) is the story. Most graphs show percentages based on county story counts.

Be active. The report supports your own sensemaking and decision-making. Nobody knows your experience better than you. If your interpretation and ideas differ, it's your responsibility to share.



Interpretations of the data are intentionally provocative to spur your thought process and actions. The writers of this report do not make any claim that their interpretations are the only 'right' ones.

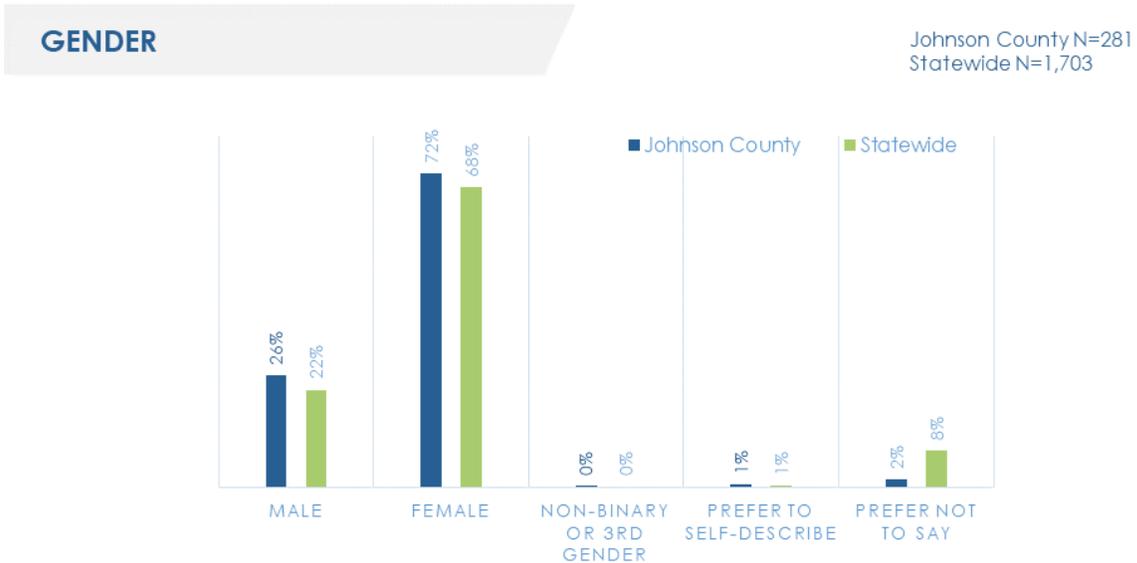
Please email the Our Tomorrows team- ourtomorrows@ku.edu - if you have questions or would like clarification.

Johnson County

The following statistics reflect the demographics of people who shared their story in Johnson County. Our Tomorrows data is not generalizable – the patterns we see are only based on those who chose to share their story. In some cases, these demographics will not reflect the actual demographics of the region. Help us by asking people who aren't represented to share their story!

These percentages are determined from the datasets of Johnson County (n=281) and statewide (n=1,703).

Each chart is based on the number of stories shared and how respondents answered questions, not on general demographic data.

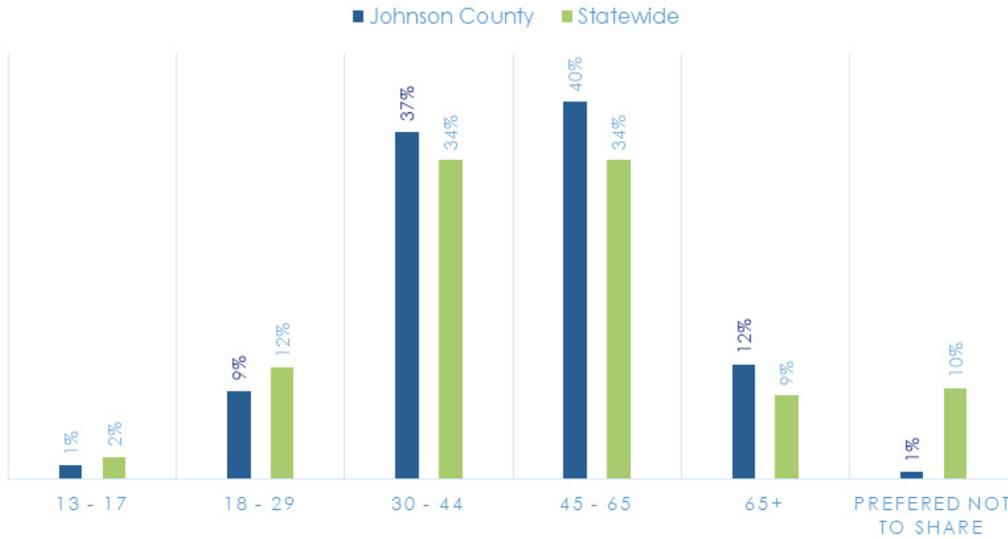


Johnson County

Demographics

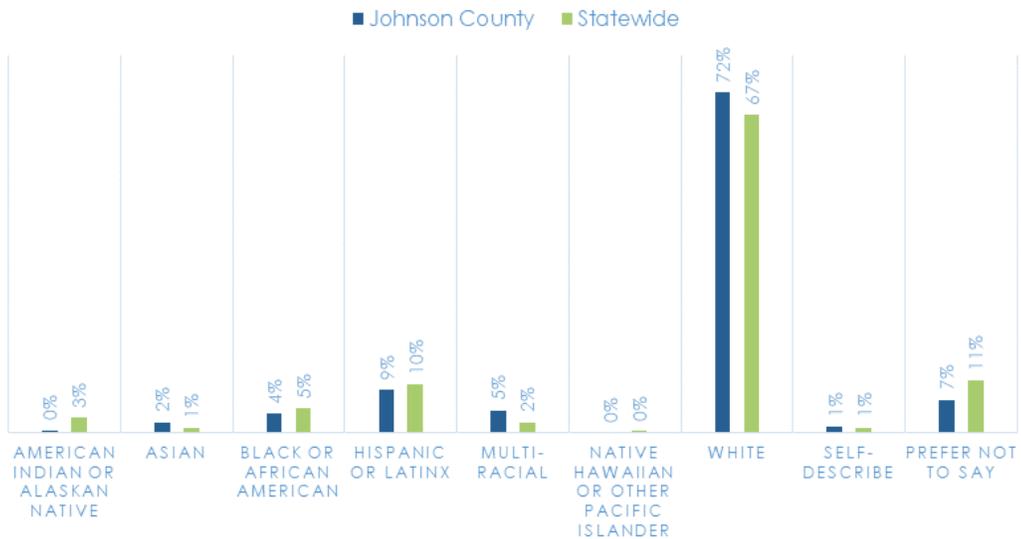
AGE

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



RACE

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703

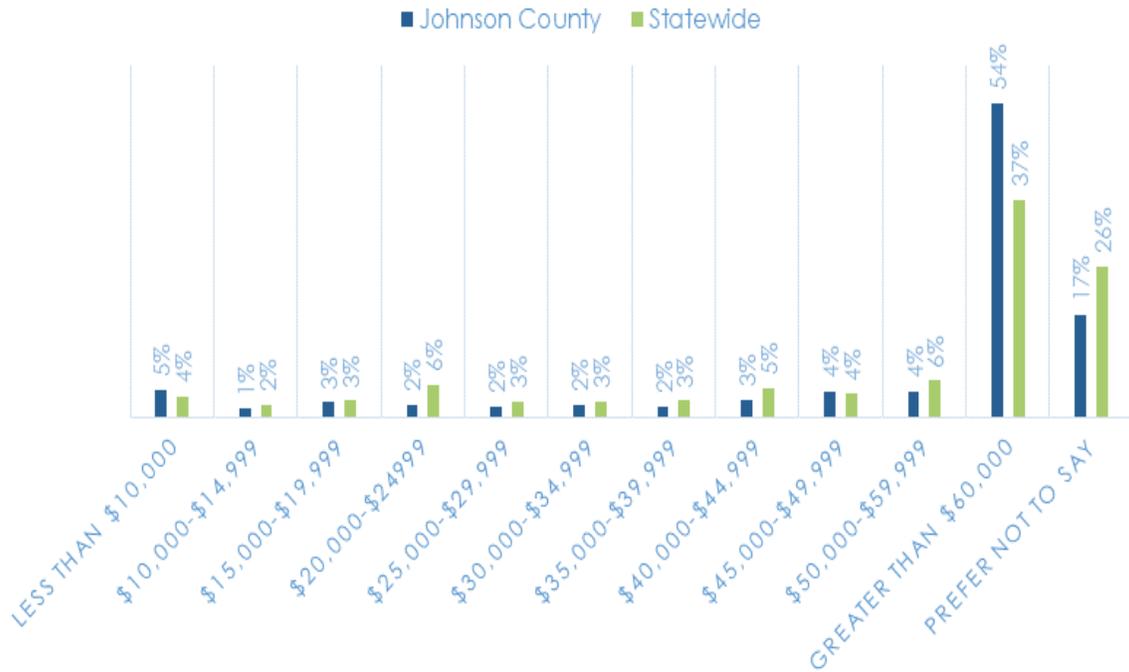


Johnson County

Demographics

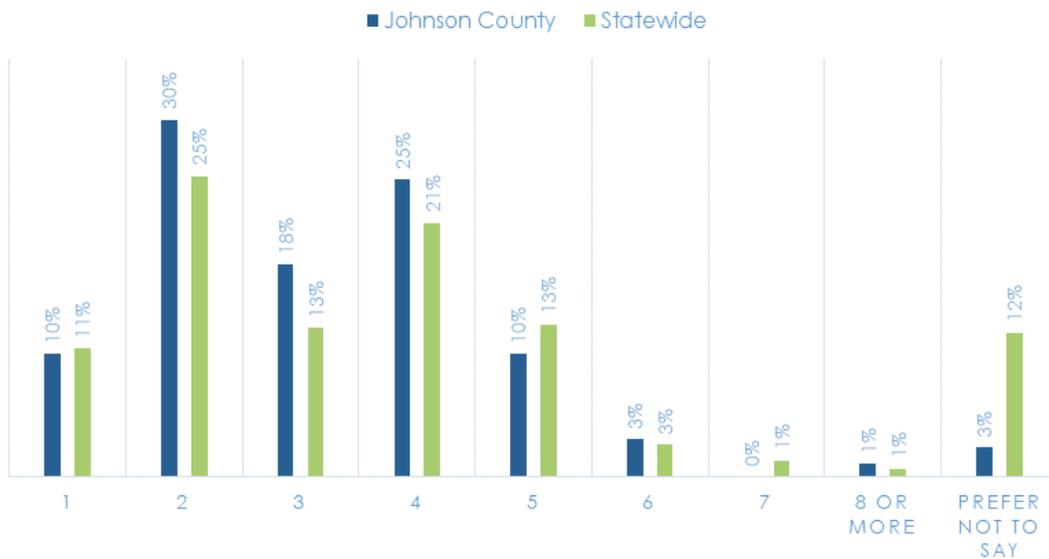
INCOME

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703

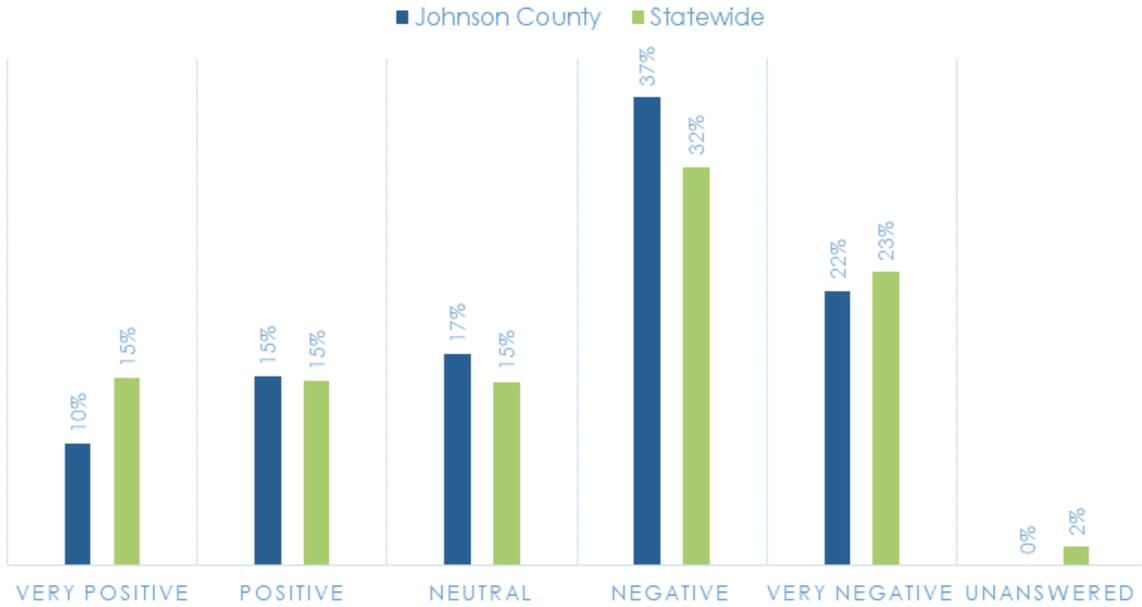


Johnson County

Demographics

EMOTIONAL EVALUATION

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



Johnson County: *Emergent*



Basic Needs: Food



This chart shows a concentration of people in Johnson county reporting they are able to provide food for their families on their own. However when it comes to ease of access, respondents respond across the spectrum.

What does this mean for how people are accessing and securing food for their families? What would the chart look like if the pandemic was over?

What does the cluster of responses on the left of the chart tell us about food assistance services?

COVID-19: Safe Place for Kids



The pattern of concentration on this chart shows that many Johnson county respondents are concerned about their ability to provide a safe place for their children during the pandemic.

What does this chart tell us about the availability of child care right now?

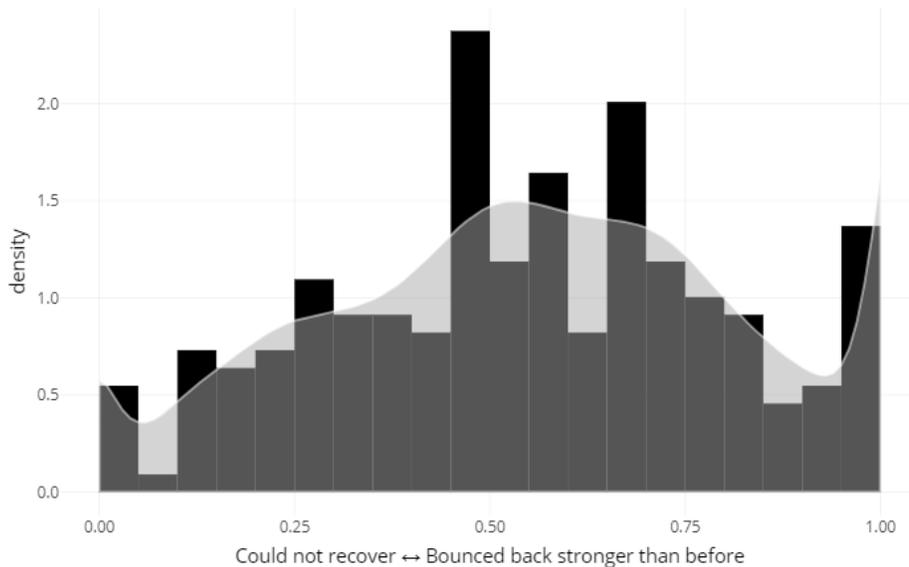
What can this chart tell us about how easy or difficult it is for people to afford child care right now?

What does this chart mean for child care service providers?

Johnson County: *Emergent*



Family Resilience: Johnson County



These two charts show us the concentration of responses for how people view their families' resilience in Johnson county (top) and statewide (bottom).

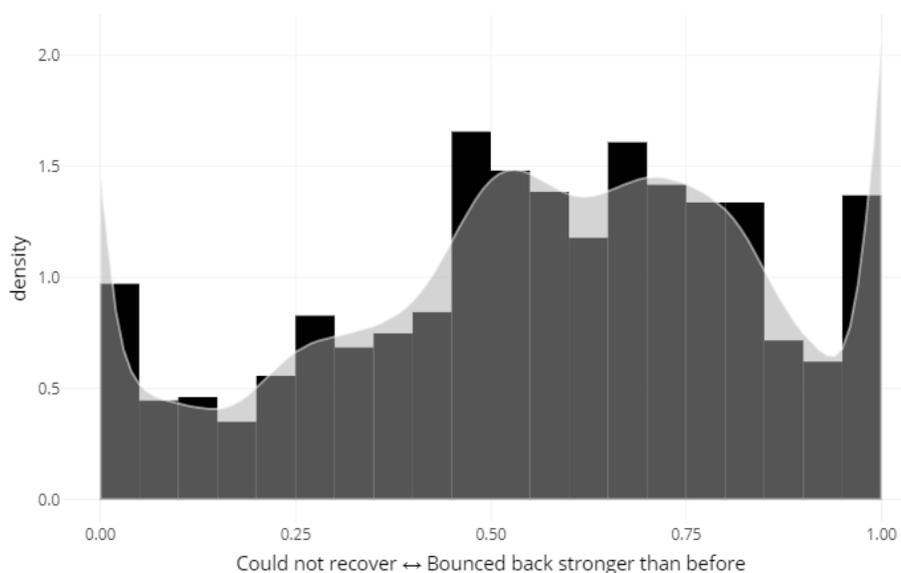
Fewer respondents in Johnson county say their families could not recover from the experience they shared, why?

Keeping the previous charts in mind, what can these charts tell us about how family resiliency is being impacted by the pandemic?

What does the higher concentration of responses in the middle of the chart mean for people in Johnson county versus the rest of the state?

Do you think we would have a significantly different pattern if the pandemic was over?

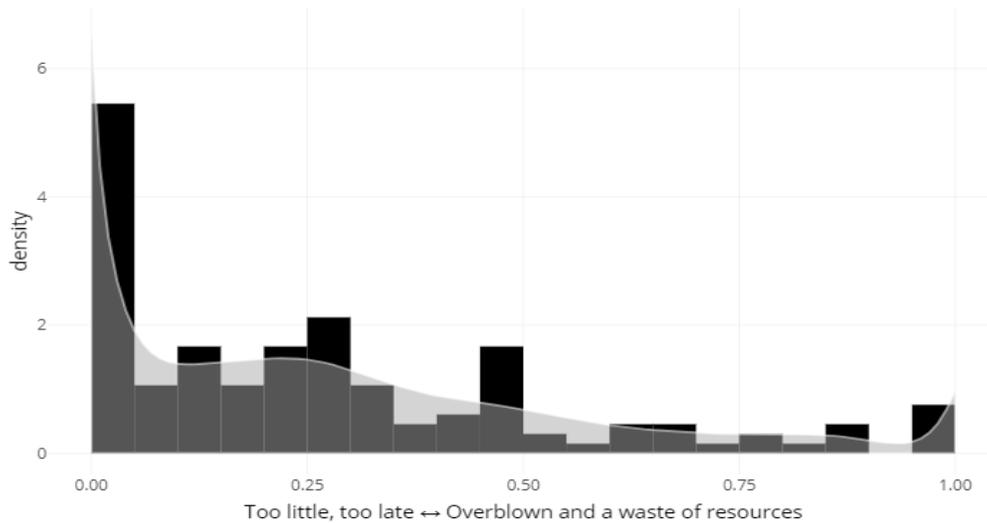
Family Resilience: Statewide



Johnson County: *Emergent*



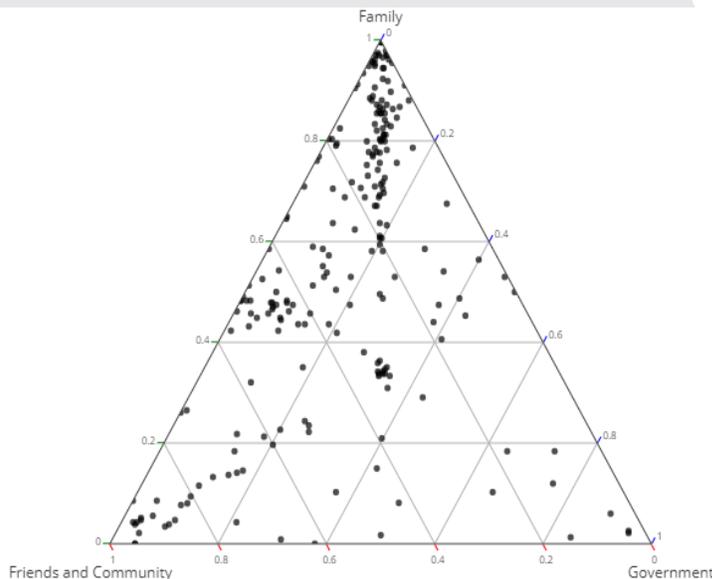
Government Response



The chart to the left asks respondents how they view the government response to COVID. For the purposes of this question, “government” level (federal, state, local) was not specified.

People in Johnson county are reporting at a high rate that they believe the government’s response to COVID-19 was too little, too late. Does this match your experiences with citizens?

Responsibility



We also see that a high concentration of Johnson county respondents shared that the family was responsible for making sure people got what they needed and very few said the government was responsible. What does this mean about the availability or awareness of government services?

What do these two charts say about how people view government services and help?

Themes: *Emergent Patterns*



To help us understand Kansans' lived experiences, we are focusing on the following key themes:

B BRIGHT *Spots*

We have defined Bright Spots as family experiences of thriving, resilience, and support. These are the stories we want to amplify and to have more of in our communities. These can be singular events or ongoing experiences.

D DISRUPTORS

We have defined Disruptors as unique and/or singular events that negatively interrupt a family's lifecourse broadly and trajectory in early childhood, specifically. Disruptors are negative experiences from which people need to "bounce back" and might indicate gaps that present opportunities for further support and programming. Disruptors include the following categories: unemployment, transportation, housing, health, safety, family separation, and new child.

N Unmet NEEDS

We have defined Unmet Needs as ongoing needs that are persistent issues. Unmet needs are chronic even if triggered by a specific event. The following are included in this category: stress/anxiety/depression, access to childcare, parenting knowledge, safety, basic needs, and financial needs.

V Unheard VOICES

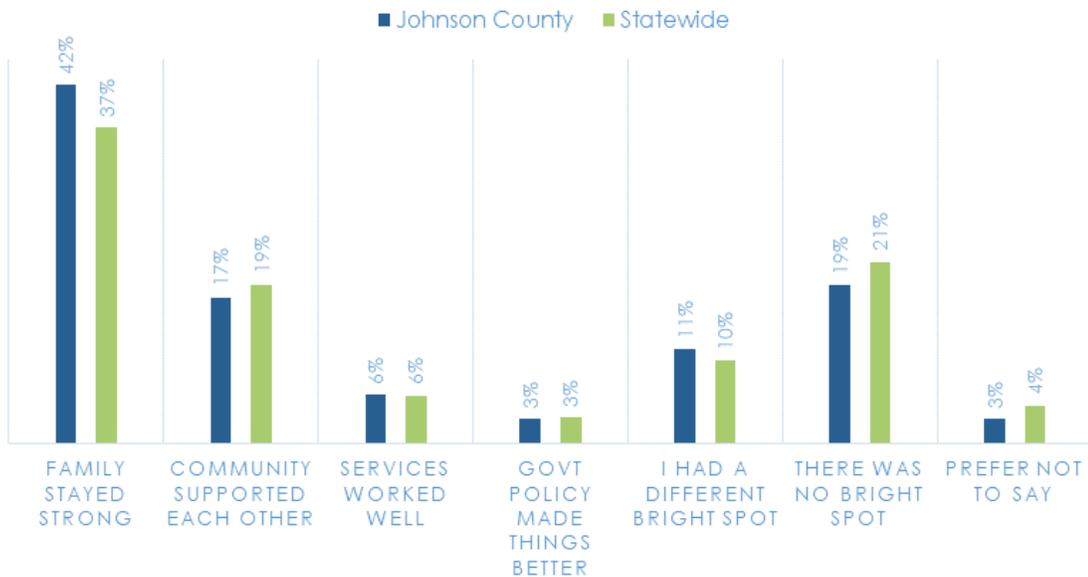
Unheard Voices are defined as Our Tomorrows experiences shared by vulnerable groups whose stories are often invisible and who do not have a seat at the decision-making table. We identified Unheard Voices when a story specifically mentions someone in one of these groups, or the storyteller self-identifies as a member of one of these groups. Unheard Voices were coded on narrative content, and are not based on demographic information. The following are often Unheard Voices we seek to elevate: Low income working families, incarcerated people, young children not in school, people with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions, people with special health care needs, people living in poverty in rural areas, people in the foster care system, and non-English speakers.

118 Johnson County stories (42.0%) had a bright spot of the family staying strong.

8 stories (2.8%) had a bright spot of government policy making things better or services working well.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



DISRUPTORS

69 Johnson County stories (24.6%) were about unemployment or financial problems that disrupted respondents' lives, about 7% higher than the rest of the state.

Health or health care issues was also a major disruptor in Johnson County. 17.1% of stories focused on health crisis, health care, or ongoing medical problems.

14.2% of stories did not include a disruptor. This was 3% lower than the average in the rest of the state (17.2%).

DISRUPTORS

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703





123 Johnson County stories (43.8%) were about times when families helped meet basic needs themselves.

4.3% of stories were about times when the government helped meet basic needs.

19.9% of stories were about times when respondents did not have help at all.

BASIC NEEDS

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



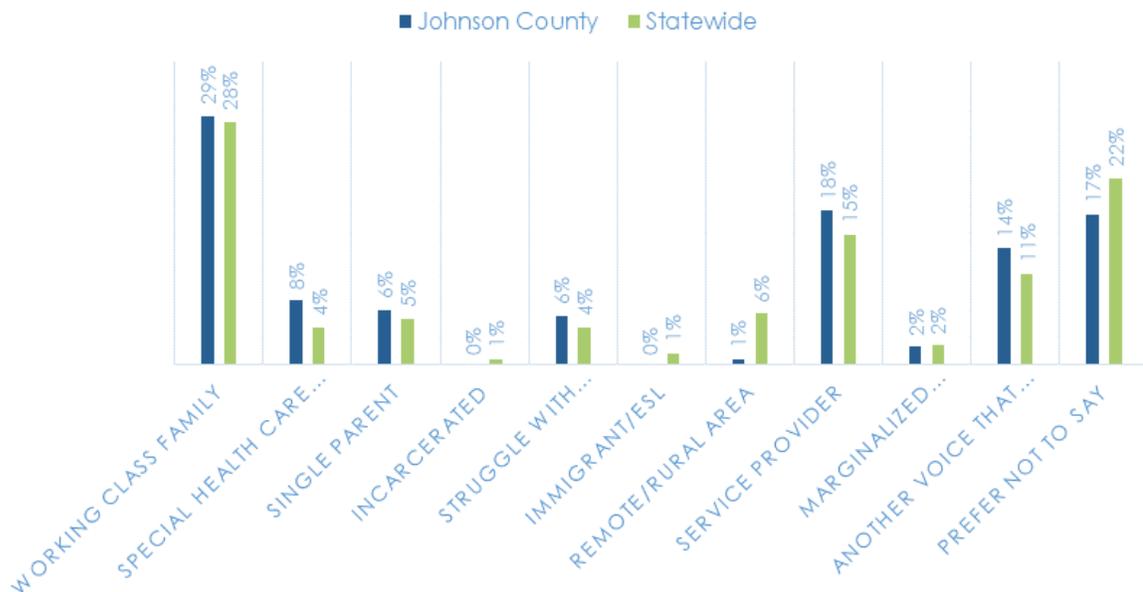


59 Johnson County stories (50%) were from working class families.

Working class families and service providers were the voices most represented in the data set. *There were no stories from immigrants or people who do not speak English as their first language.*

UNHEARD VOICES

Johnson County N=281
Statewide N=1,703



Appendix- Demographic Text

Age

Johnson County respondents identified as:

13 - 17	1.4%
18 - 29	9.3%
30 - 44	36.7%
45 - 65	39.9%
65+	12.1%
Prefer not to say	0.7%

Household Size

1	10.3%
2	29.9%
3	17.8%
4	24.9%
5	10.3%
6	3.2%
7	0.0%
8+	1.1%
Prefer not to say	2.5%

Race/Ethnicity

Johnson County respondents identified as:

White	72.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%
Black or African American	3.9%
Multi-Racial :	4.6%
Hispanic or Latino/a	8.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
Self-Describe	1.1%
Prefer Not to Say	6.8%

Income

<\$10,000	4.6%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	1.4%
\$15,000 - \$19,999	2.5%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	2.1%
\$25,000 - \$29,999	1.8%
\$30,000 - \$34,999	2.1%
\$35,000 - \$39,999	1.8%
\$40,000 - \$44,999	3.9%
\$45,000 - \$49,999	4.3%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	4.3%
\$60,000+	53.7%
Prefer Not to Say	17.4%

Appendix- Demographic Text

Gender

Johnson County respondents identified as:

Female **71.5%**

Male **25.6%**

Self-describe **0.7%**

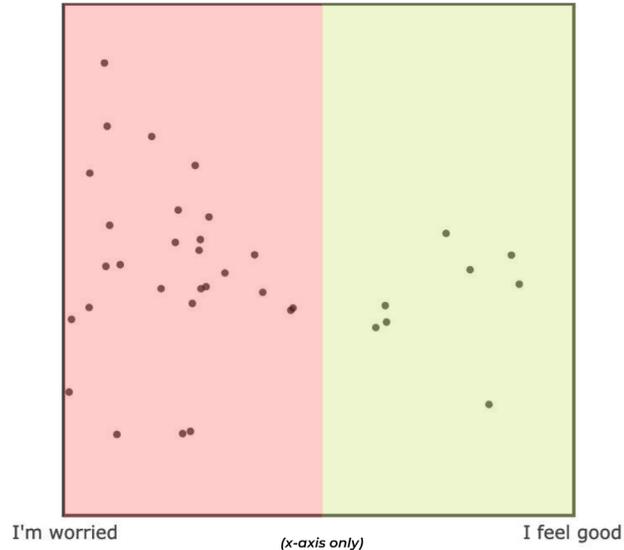
Prefer not to say **1.8%**

Strike Team One Housing Assistance

Thinking about the experience you shared, how worried are you about paying your rent/mortgage during the COVID-19 pandemic?

(Filtered to show stories from people who indicated they struggled with unemployment/financial problems)

COVID-19 Paying my rent/mortgage



Essentially Broke (1655)

As a grocery employee working full-time during the Covid-19 pandemic, let me just say: THIS SUCKS. My friends and coworkers, we come to work every day with kindness in our hearts and it is being trampled out of us. Anti-maskers are running rampant in our community. Along with endangering everyone's health, they are affecting morale and our mental health at unprecedented rates. Hi! Welcome to our store today! Could you please pull your mask up over your nose? NO! I HAVE RIGHTS/A MEDICAL CONDITION/NO EMPATHY FOR OTHER HUMANS! I Do NOT understand why empathy is something that some of us have and some of us don't. There are people, real people with families who absolutely HAVE to work in a high risk job right now. I shouldn't have to fear for my life because Danny Trumpster wants to pretend he's being oppressed and make a statement about rights. What about MY right to come to work without wondering if today is finally the day I catch it? If today is the day I start showing symptoms? If today marks the last day I can live my normal life? If I'll die alone in a hospital room hooked up to a ventilator in a few weeks. My company, along with many others, is offering monthly essential bonuses, but they amount to about \$100/month. We are being forced to risk our lives every day so that we can pay rent to prevent being evicted, and all we get is our hourly pay, plus maybe \$25/week. We need to do better. We are living in a pandemic, wondering if we will die in a few weeks. We shouldn't have to worry about being evicted, the rising prices of groceries, the overloaded hospitals. It's hard enough wondering if today is the day I catch Covid-19, but whats worse is wondering if today is the day it all falls apart. If today is the day I lose my home, my car, and my sanity. Today may be the day for me and my family. What about yours?

Me and my brother graduation at the lake :) (585)

My brother and I are both graduates of 2020, but of course lost our walk and celebration. Instead, my family took the party to the lake.

Coping with Kidney Cancer and the impacts COVID and being a S-corp (1566)

Our troubles started last year. I was diagnosed with Kidney Cancer at the end of last year. Unfortunately we work for ourselves and because of complications, I ended up in the hospital for over 30 days and was not able to return to work for an additional 60 days as I was receiving dialysis. Because of this our income was decreased during that time frame. We were in Bankruptcy and because I couldn't afford the Bankruptcy payments, our Bankruptcy was dismissed. Fortunately I was able to come off dialysis before the end of the year. I was left with a lot of medical bills and open items from Bankruptcy. Our business usually picks up in January, which it did and it looked like things were getting back on track. Then COVID hit and our business suffered as it is tied to elective medical procedures. Now in July of this year, the companies we work with for the medical procedures have tightened their guidelines and even though our number are similar to 2019, we are seeing 40% less being approved and in revenues. We took on side jobs to have income coming in, but it could have potentially exposed us to COVID. We tried applying for the PPP, but were denied because we are an S-Corporation and get paid through passive income and not directly with Payroll. We also tried to apply for other EIDL loans, but because of the bankruptcy my credit score hadn't recovered and we did not qualify. We try to keep a positive outlook and try look for opportunities, which we have tried diversifying into other opportunities.

Essential, but not deserving. (47)

Childcare is essential. I am essential. Without my love of children, compassion and willingness to teach, people, such as the teachers and nurses I care for, would not have creditable, affordable, daily childcare. When my hemoglobin dropped to 3.83 and I had torn my diaphragm while doing my job, I had no recourse but to close my business and relocate my childcare for 2 months. I had no insurance, no disability income, no healthcare options and no income. The recovery was HARD. I was told to not go back to work for 3 months after life saving surgery and blood transfusions. However, my husbands insurance didn't cover much (thank you national healthcare for erasing our benefits) so after 4 weeks I reopened - purely for the money. I was lucky. Everyone came back. But the bills. Oh my goodness the medical bills! My two very young daughters paid the price. They had NOTHING for 3 years while we struggled to pay off the mounting medical bills. My daycare families brought us food. Meals. Treats. Used clothing and some paid me extra knowing we couldn't make it. They were my lifeline. Where are my benefits? My health insurance? My LTD/STD? Life, Dental? Why is it so EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE and impossible for an honest, caring and dedicated self employed person to obtain ANY kind of help. A secondary insurance, supported by regular monthly payments from childcare workers throughout the country, would have greatly helped us. It has been about 12 years now. I never healed correctly because I needed to go back to work for the money since I didn't have benefits and the only way to pay off the bills was to take out a mortgage against our paid off home...with proof of my current wages. Americans can't have children and work without childcare providers, we ARE essential, and yet we are treated far less fair than immigrant workers. Thank you for reading my story.

Uncertainty and Unemployment (1688)

I was laid off from my job in February. By March, I had some promising prospects lined up, and then COVID hit. At this point, I've been unemployed for 6 months, and I still haven't received a dime in Unemployment Insurance from the Kansas Department of Labor (because they're so backed up?). My

wedding over the summer had to be scaled back from 350 guests to 30, and my wife, who is a teacher with an auto-immune disease, has been terrified about being forced back into a classroom where it is inevitable that she will be infected.

Uncertainty and Unemployment (1688)

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Cautiously Hopeful With A Sprinkling Of The Unknown (659)

What is hurting is that my income has dropped between 30% and 40%. I have lost two children directly to choosing to close down for six weeks due to lack of PPE and cleaning supplies. I've had another family prompted to seek preschool sooner than they would have had I not closed down. I have gained one new infant family and have one temporary spot filled for the summer by a school ager. I waffled between how much less stressful it is to have less children during the week but faced with the knowledge that I am running at a deficit. I had to use most of my stimulus check to pay June's mortgage. I strongly suspect I will be using the last stimulus check for whatever month it arrives? I am squirreling away most of my income to keep current on the mortgage. The rest is going mostly for food. This means I will probably fall behind on the rest of my bills? What has helped is that I received a EIDL. What has hurt is that there are so many unknowns on how to make it 100% forgivable so I've put it in my do-not-touch savings account until I file my 2020 taxes next year. If I have to pay it all back, at least I will only have to come up with the interest instead of \$1K plus interest. I file a Schedule E, which made me ineligible for a PPP so, that hurt. What helped a couple of weeks ago was that I participated in a Havester's drive through food distribution. What has helped is that I am a Hero Grant recipient. What has hurt is that, although I applied and was approved in April. I won't get my funds until the end of June. I am hoping to fill my open spots with safer essential workers (educators, office workers who can remote work) so that they can utilize me but are not having to work in public should we have to hunker down once again.

Perspective on the 2nd Recession of my Adult Years (350)

When the 2008 recession hit, my husband and I were early in our marriage. The way that financial crisis hit, we had some really scary times and questioned how we would make it work. There were so many times in which we had more month than money. We cut expenses, set goals, and just worked hard to get through. We always had a place to live and kept food on the table. It took us 10 years to accomplish the goal to buy a house but we did it. In the meantime, I opened an in home business which slowly but steadily has provided security for our family. Last fall, the business gave signs that it was time to pull back for a while. I had been pushing the business forward and growing but between staffing and clientele changes, I pulled back. When the COVID-19 crisis hit in March, I didn't face the initial insecurities that many of my colleagues did. I certainly face uncertainty, but our needs have

been met so far. In fact, we have continued to pay off the last of the remaining debt from the 1st recession in recent weeks.

We were cruising right along but can't seem to recover from the pandemic. (1524)

My wife and I are in our upper 30's and we share (4) children between us, one of which has special needs. We both went to college and continue to expand our education throughout our adult lives. We both work and live in Johnson County. We're not rich but we don't typically live paycheck to paycheck either; that is, until the pandemic. For both of us; our income, career, net worth and way of life were significantly affected during the recession in the late 2000's. We rebuilt our lives together which at the time seemed impossible without the support of one another. We were feeling pretty good about our life after years of recovery and decided to expand our family. About 2-1/2 years ago our new son was born with a rare genetic condition we didn't expect. Our lives again experienced a transitional phase as we worked through what became our new normal lifestyle. The opportunity to recover from this experience was brief and now we face yet another hardship we must work hard and smart to survive without significantly exposing our (4) young children to the trauma of a drastic change in their lifestyle. For my wife and I, our adult lives consist of half of our time on this earth of which half has been dedicated to recovering from unforeseen circumstances. We question whether our time spent with our children is positive enough to inspire them to pursue advanced education and work hard and smart to succeed in life. Like many families I presume, we're on the cusp of a new but not unfamiliar lifestyle focused solely on survival. We're thinking outside of the box when pursuing alternate means of income but opportunities just don't seem to be present. An option to connect my wife and I with opportunities where our marketable skills could be utilized to produce an income for ourselves and others would be greatly appreciated and beneficial for more families than just our own. We believe there is great strength in community and are looking for an opportunity to lead by example.

Extended Childcare Family (119)

I have always worked towards having close relationships with my daycare families! One of my newest families, has blown me away with their generosity! I have a single mom who is very concerned about getting sick. She lives with her mom, who is currently undergoing Chemotherapy. They have decided to shelter in place in order to keep their risk of getting sick lower. It's going to be quite awhile before they feel safe having the kiddo return to care. Each week we drop off a learning at home kit, as well as have a bedtime story session with all our kiddos who are at home to stay connected. This single mom, who is at home and trying to help her mother through cancer treatment has offered to help other families who are out of work cover their tuition. Not only to help the families but also to help me be able to stay open. Fortunately I've been able to make ends meet, but the incredible generosity has blown me away. As I worked my way through the awkward conversations with each family about paying for childcare, that they aren't using, I found that multiple families made the same offer! Imagine my surprise to find I have multiple families who are so incredibly selfless and giving, particularly during a time when things are tough!

One Essential Worker's Story (1674)

My Granddaughter's mother worked as a CNA in an assisted living facility with many Covid patients.

She worked with Covid patients 6-7 days a week for nearly 3 months before she contracted Covid herself. She was hospitalized for about a week during the worst of her illness. She has been unable to work for 12 weeks now, but has only received pay for four of those weeks. She is fighting to have the other weeks covered through disability insurance, but her efforts have been futile so far. The insurance company says that the residual effects of the illness are not supported under their guidelines. Her employer did not provide the additional two weeks of guaranteed pay covered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. She sees a cardiologist and pulmonologist now. They suspect that she has Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) and Costochondritis (inflammation of the chest wall). Many tests are scheduled. She hopes to go back to work in two weeks, but so far the lingering effects of Covid — chest pain, shortness of breath and headaches — have prevented her from returning to work. Without work, and without disability pay, my granddaughter's mother has trouble paying rent (they live in someone's basement), making car payments, and buying food for themselves. In an effort to protect my granddaughter from Covid and all the stressors she had to confront in surviving the disease, her mother decided to sign my granddaughter up for school in a purely virtual classroom setting this year. However, she is unsure how she will be able to provide adequate internet and computer technology in their rented space. These few months have been miserable for my granddaughter's family. Not only does her mother have to fight Covid and its after effects, she has to negotiate the convoluted systems of healthcare, insurance, and employment while being ill. The love of her daughter keeps her fighting for resolution of these issues so that they can get back to a normal life.

March 14, 2020 (837)

As an owner of 2 private childcare centers, the weekend of March 14, 2020 threw me into a launch of activity like I have not experienced before. I have been in early care and education since 1978 so have been through multiple altering events within our country. One of my centers is located in a state that locked everything down on March 12, including cancelling schools Friday, March 13th and the upcoming week, just until the Governor decided what to do long-term. This time frame is spring break for many districts so he had 2 weeks before the states school age children would need to report back to their schools. As a team of 10 teachers and administrators, we became very proactive, closing the center Friday and having all hands on deck - deep cleaning the center from 9 - 4. We had a meeting and set up our lockdown procedures so as to ensure that Monday, when we opened, we had extra systems in place to keep our children, their families and our staff safe. We felt good that we were ready. I took the above experience and applied it to my center in KS. I went shopping and bought multiple of all the materials I would need - bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and sanitizer. This has been the #1 lesson I will take moving forward as I am just now coming to the end of the extras I bought the week of March 15th. I closed the KS center down Friday, March 19th and did a deep clean with all staff. We had our staff meeting so all procedures were in place and ready to implement Monday, March 22. The most important support I have received during this time is from the County Public Health Department in the other state. They immediately implemented PH meetings every week Monday at noon for an hour. In addition to the County Health Department staff, there was also staff there from the childcare assistance program. This state has the Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Education such that each county has their own Early Childhood Council (ECC). The ECC started having Directors meetings each week Tuesday

evening for an hour. The attendance grew rapidly to over 50 site directors / owners / public school ece program administrators. Both of these meetings were via zoom and provided so much support both in conversation and in emotional/mental health wellbeing. Kansas eventually came along with limited meetings via Childcare Aware, the Children's Cabinet and the KS Early Childhood Council. The meetings were primarily informational, which is good, and it did not allow us to address the stress involved in the situation. I am really thankful I had the support from the other state as it allowed me to be proactive with my center in KS.

Unemployment Hiccups (500)

For the last few months unemployment was very easy to access. within the last few weeks it has been difficult. My claim was suddenly denied and it took me several days to be able to reach anyone.

Homelessness (1695)

Just last week me and my kids became homeless because I could not afford my apartment anymore. It is really hard on us especially my kids because my 5 year old keeps asking me if she is gonna have a birthday and Christmas this year. Her birthday is a week before Christmas and she thinks she is not gonna have either this year. That makes me sad that she feels that way.

Already struggling, then the pandemic hit (1609)

Several families I know were already struggling financially, barely keeping their heads above water, and then the pandemic hit. Additional stress of job insecurity, balancing the need to care for children no longer attending school in person, and trying to keep themselves and families healthy only added to their struggle. The adults are essential workers, unable to work from home, requiring them to put themselves at risk to keep the community moving, but risking their own and their family's health daily. As essential workers at constant risk of exposure, they had to further quarantine themselves from family members outside the home to try and keep them safe. These workers didn't get additional hazard pay or compensation, and had to constantly worry that if they contracted COVID-19, they would be unable to work and provide for their families. The bills don't stop just because someone got sick.

When will it stop? (1676)

I had been sick and finally went to the hospital. I was diagnosed with an auto immune disorder, that has debilitated me. I am unable to work and unable to collect unemployment, so I have no income and have lost my insurance. My husband then loses his job due to Covid-19, then it takes the unemployment check if \$320 weekly almost 10 weeks to FINALLY come in. We cashed out his retirement, pulled our son from daycare and cut back all expenses. Our family has had no insurance since March, no paycheck since December for me and March for my husband. I have no idea how we are going to pay our rent or utilities that are due. Our marriage is barely hanging on, my son is 4 and angry all the time and I'm crying daily. I know there are people out there that are worse off, but I'm sad and I'm scared. I can't leave my house, in fear I'll get sick and have no insurance. The utilities are stacking up and it was nice they put a hold on disconnects, but now I have double the bills because I didn't have the money before. How am I going to ever catch up from this?

Lack of part-time jobs (1540)

I'm a teacher and rely on part-time summer jobs to supplement my income to make ends meet. I applied to nearly 40 jobs in the area and only heard back from around ten of them. All ten were rejection emails. I've been able to find gig work here and there but it's been scarce. My wife and I both struggle from depression and anxiety and this pandemic has definitely exacerbated our experiences of both. On the flip side, the extra time at home has been really nice to spend with our young child. Additional income would go a long way in paying for on-going weekly counseling sessions. As a teacher, I'm also anxious about returning to school. I trust my school will put the necessary safety measures in place - but I'm also worried about the inevitable outbreak.

We are just surviving when six months ago we were thriving. I am a child care provider. (1542)

I am part of a small band of child care providers who live fairly close in proximity in WyCo and JoCo. We help each other out with food or extra supplies we come across them, share where to buy supplies at a good price and if we hear of grant or free training opportunities. I personally have shared extra food with a Wyco provider who literally lives on county line and cannot get the help I am getting. Her income is under half what it was in February. Another provider has sewn me child size face masks for a good price. These were purchased with Hero grant money! Another provider shared Lysol spray and cleaning wipes she came across. We all are very appreciative of the grant money. It is helping some stock up in case supplies are absent again. Others have had to use some of the money to pay utilities (as wages). My income is down by 1/3. I am able to pay bills, but with extremely careful budget planning. I count myself blessed.

Financial Hardship (1543)

I am the sole wage earner for a family of 3. I am a bar a restaurant manager. I have been returned to active status at my job, however I only work 5 - 15 hours in a 2 week period. My benefit cost is 51% of my pay check when I work 80 hours in a 2 week pay period.. I survived cancer last year and cannot be without insurance. Here is my quandary. If I work more than 16 hours I lose my unemployment benefits and if I work less than 21 hours a week I receive no paycheck as it is all taken for insurance this leaves me working with \$0 in take home pay. I have began looking for a new job and figure my family can survive if I have to take a 20% pay cut. The problem is I haven't been able to find anything at that pay rate. I have also considered continuing my education however I have to be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to keep my current job. I have taken the Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing Course, my family could not survive on the starting wage. I am eager to get back to work full time. I'm just not sure what that is going to look like.

High Risk (1545)

I'm a substitute for the [SCHOOL] district. I am a single mother of a freshman and sixth grader. I also care for my mother who has COPD and cancer. I have a position lined up for the fall, it starts in one month and I'm stuck with \$200 a week from unemployment until then. I have no idea what it's going to look like our training on any of the digital platforms they are using. I'm terrified of going back to the classroom and have an autoimmune disease. In the past weeks I lost my unemployment stimulus and food stamps. I've never been more scared for finances and illness before. It's made my entire house anxious.

Loss of Toe (1570)

Make sure to take care of yourself. I have been unable to work due to recent amputation of my toe. Which has taken me out of work for at least a month. Some of the small things you don't think about start to affect your life. When you save for the big things you forget about the small ones. I have to worry about renting a wheel chair to now buying insulin cause I found out I was a diabetic, but as much as I try and stay positive something brings me down. When I haven't been able to work I feel like I can't provide or help. Now doctor bills start to pile up among others. So my only words I can share is please take care of yourself in these times.

My friend was sleeping in her car (1573)

A friend of mine was asked to move out of the town home she had been renting in Johnson County for 3.5 years, because the landlord lost his job due to covid and needed to move back into that property. He offered a full month's rent returned if she could move quickly. Having friends and family she put her belongings in storage. Her hours had already been cut at work and she was spending significant time taking care of her mother who lived in a local retirement community in the independent living wing. Her job ultimately was eliminated and she moved to a friends place in Jefferson City while looking for a new job and place to live. During this transition her relationships with her mom, sister, and children deteriorated for reasons that happen in the middle of a crisis plus pandemic. My friend obtained a job at a local big box store back in Johnson County and stayed with her son a night before he moved in with friends also in response to losses due to the pandemic. When i finally caught up with her and pulled the story of the last couple months out of her i figured out she was sleeping at night in her car before going to work. She is now staying with me for 1 month while she attempts to find an apartment she can afford. I am limited to one month for many reasons, one of which is that my mother will be coming to stay with me until the pandemic is in control.

Counting Slices of Bread (1700)

We'd just moved back to the midwest from California. Daddy and Mom were struggling to reinvent their lives with us four kids. Our experience there wasn't good. I don't think we were prepared for how different and demanding life would be there. Now, we were back close to family, and voices sounded familiar. Daddy was still looking for work, and Mom was temping. Money has always been tight, but now things were different. Our parents didn't laugh as much, there weren't new shoes and clothes, and the fridge was more empty than full, more of the time. We never went hungry, but for a long time - years it seemed, we measured and counted everything. A gallon of milk should endure for x servings and meals. A loaf of bread should last x days if the slices were correctly divided among us six. Everything: boxes of cereal, pats of margarine, packages of cheap frozen meats, all purchased with maximum duration in mind. I remember sitting in the back seat of the car, outside of Grandma's, one night. She was at the passenger side window, leaning in to talk to mom, who was crying and saying 'I just don't know how we are gonna feed the kids this week.' I figured out that Daddy was inside asking her husband to borrow money.

Why am I essential? (342)

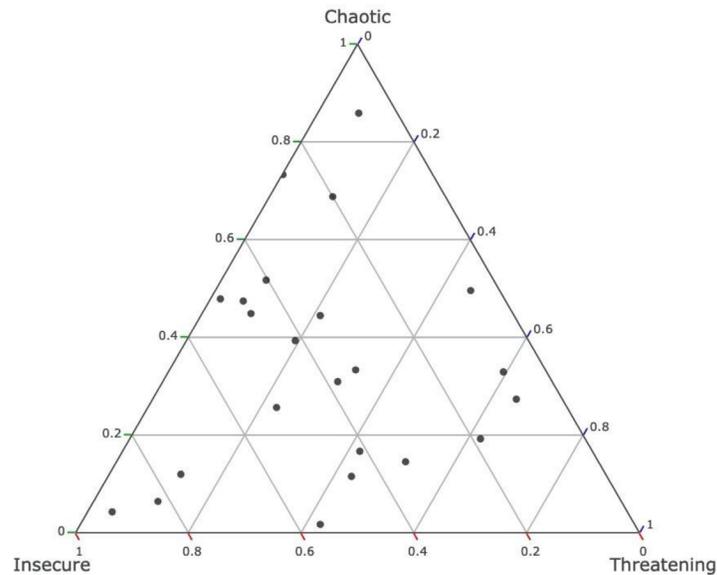
A friend of mine was extremely stressed out when everything began shutting down because his job was deemed essential. He has a child at home with a compromised immune system, so going to work

meant he could be opening up his family to risk. However, because carwashes were deemed essential during the shutdown, he was obligated to go to work as the main breadwinner in his family. He was desperate, confused, and upset. While he still decided to work, the risk brought him unnecessary stress.

Strike Team Two Mental Health

In the experience you shared, the family's homelife felt...

(Filtered to show stories from people who indicated
they struggled with their mental health)



Essentially Broke (1655)

As a grocery employee working full-time during the Covid-19 pandemic, let me just say: THIS SUCKS. My friends and coworkers, we come to work every day with kindness in our hearts and it is being trampled out of us. Anti-maskers are running rampant in our community. Along with endangering everyone's health, they are affecting morale and our mental health at unprecedented rates. Hi! Welcome to our store today! Could you please pull your mask up over your nose? NO! I HAVE RIGHTS/A MEDICAL CONDITION/NO EMPATHY FOR OTHER HUMANS! I Do NOT understand why empathy is something that some of us have and some of us don't. There are people, real people with families who absolutely HAVE to work in a high risk job right now. I shouldn't have to fear for my life because Danny Trumpster wants to pretend he's being oppressed and make a statement about rights. What about MY right to come to work without wondering if today is finally the day I catch it? If today is the day I start showing symptoms? If today marks the last day I can live my normal life? If I'll die alone in a hospital room hooked up to a ventilator in a few weeks. My company, along with many others, is offering monthly essential bonuses, but they amount to about \$100/month. We are being forced to risk our lives every day so that we can pay rent to prevent being evicted, and all we get is our hourly pay, plus maybe \$25/week. We need to do better. We are living in a pandemic, wondering if we will die in a few weeks. We shouldn't have to worry about being evicted, the rising prices of groceries, the overloaded hospitals. It's hard enough wondering if today is the day I catch Covid-19, but whats worse is wondering if today is the day it all falls apart. If today is the day I lose my home, my car, and my sanity. Today may be the day for me and my family. What about yours?

Daughter on line when I wasn't paying attention (848)

My 12 year old was on Instagram, I thought just looking at pictures like I do, but apparently it has more to offer than I'm used to. I was in the kitchen and heard some foreign accents from the other

room. I came in and found she was live video chatting with some wonderful girls from India, Germany and Russia, all sharing the same interest in a South Korean band (BTS). I was so happy to see these girls together from around the world. I was worried she has been so isolated, then found her to have discovered friends from all corners of the world talking like they were best friends. It blew my mind!

Single and Alone (1625)

Writing prompt #2: With the close of 2019, I also closed a chapter on a relationship I'd been in. I'd moved to Johnson County for the relationship and don't have family or a strong network close by. 2020 was my fresh start, and I'd been looking forward to dating, making friends, and building community as a single 30-something female. The pandemic has made it really difficult to do so. As a result of the virus, I went from being lonely in an unhappy relationship to being incredibly lonely, now living alone, and being cautioned to not see people or travel to see family. I hadn't given credit to the value of companionship, even when the relationship might not be perfect. I ached to see people, spend time with family, experience basic human touch. The spring and start of summer were very difficult on me, and I was certainly only surviving. Knowing that I wasn't alone in experiencing the distress and fear of this unknown virus made the loneliness a little more bearable. I reached out online and formed some digital social friendships. It didn't replace the vital connections of an in-person community, but it did help. I got through the initial lockdown and subsequent changes okay, and can say that I'm a stronger person for it. I wouldn't wish it on anyone, but I did use it as a time to reset, go inward, rediscover who I am as a person, and explore what it is I'm wanting out of life.

N95 Respirators needed for at risk populations, care givers and even teachers (1600)

I wrote once before but I neglected to say we need N95 respirators, not just N95 masks. A respirator has a tighter fit than a mask. Why can't we as a county provide these with the 30 million dollars? It's a novel idea because no other county in America is doing it. Yes, they are harder to breath through, but those who need to protect themselves, not just others, would have an option. I say we even create the jobs here in our county and make them ourselves. The teachers deserve masks too. I mean it's 30 million dollars. A N95 respirator could mean the difference between life and death too those who have no choice but to go out. And isn't life the bottom line? Those who need money could be the ones making them. We need a patriotic solidarity to all wear masks and get people to join in as they did in WW II. To ALL work together to stomp this pandemic into the ground. We did it before and we can do it again.

Career transitions during a time of global tumult (430)

The news of the coronavirus spreading and the idea that maybe it will be a big deal didn't seem real. We had good jobs, comfortable and safe lives, 2 young kids, a house, a dog, a couple of cars. It's the very beginning of March, 2020. A recruiter contacted me out of the blue and said I might be a good fit for this new job with this company I'd never heard of. But it was in line with my career goals and seemed like a great company. So on a lark, I started moving forward to give it a try and see what would happen. I updated my resume, I took the pre-screening phone call. Suddenly, overnight, there are talks of moving our entire business, that I've worked with over the course of more than a decade, to some sort of remote service delivery. Hundreds of people affected, instantly, scrambling to do business with new tools and challenges. While doing that, I do an interview by Zoom. Then another,

and another, and another. All while the world buttons up and tries to figure out how to stand still and keep moving at the same time. It's a month before all the interviews are done. And the whole time, I'm still working from home in this new way, with these new challenges, while my spouse does the same but also the heavier lifting dealing with our sometimes adorable more often out of control kids who've lost their entire daily structure and friends. My daughter was going through her first year of school - what a weird frame of reference she'll have, no matter what happens this fall. And so I get a new job, in the middle of a global pandemic and country in lockdown. And I am happy, and proud, and excited and nervous. All the things. It's a new job, after all. But on top of that, I feel guilty as I see 1 and 4 Americans has filed unemployment, and I know the deaths have hit communities of color disproportionately harder, and the country's more politicized and angrier than ever. You just juggle it, try to find your way through it, and hope we carry forward. Some new normal will be OK. And it will get here, eventually.

Not everyone is wearing masks. They only protect the other person, not the so much the person wearing them (1529)

My Mother is 88 years old and covid is life or death to her. I feel that if Johnson County has thirty million dollars that they should invest in medical grade Niosh N95 masks for our at risk population and their care givers. It seems like they are only for sell on ebay and many of them are fakes. I know we have to save them for our first line medical people, but but gee whiz...why with all that money can we not take the lead in this country and get N95 medical grade masks to caregivers and the at risk population. I don't like having to count on others to wear their masks to protect me and in turn protect my mother. There are so many people that do not wear masks and it only works to prevent them from giving it to someone. It doesn't protect us from getting it. It is a very progressive idea, but I think there would be someone who could make them for our county with 30 million dollars.

My brother's incarceration (212)

My brother was given a very lengthy sentence for a drug offense that left his two boys without a parent. The sentencing guidelines in Kansas are unbelievably ridiculous. Neither of the boys' mothers were involved in their life. I had to take one of his sons and my mother had to take the other. We have both struggled financially and emotionally. Not just emotionally because I feel my brother was ripped away so unfairly and not given any chance at rehab, but because his boys had their life ripped away from them as well. We have all gone through many stages of depression. Kansas desperately needs sentencing reform and more options for rehabilitation. Taking a father away from his family for 139 months on a first time conviction is asinine! All of our lives have changed for the worse. Now there is a pandemic running rampant in KDOC and no real protection is offered to them! My brother almost died two years ago from MRSA in his lung. He was finally brought to the hospital in custody when he had a 15% chance of living through the night. He was supposed to get part of his lung removed, but KDOC has never taken action on looking into that. Clearly the health, safety, and well being of their residents and their families does not matter to KDOC.

Having a baby during a pandemic (1634)

My family welcomed our second child into the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our daughter was born at the end of April 2020. It was a very different experience from bringing home our first child.

I feel so fortunate that she didn't have health complications and we were able to bring her home right away from the hospital. I had health complications during and after my pregnancy and the added stress of not having my family support system available to us during this time was incredibly difficult. My parents and sibling lives nearby, but we were not seeing anyone as we prepared for our daughter's arrival. Not having childcare for our 3 year old or even get a break taking him to his grandparents for an afternoon was exhausting-mentally, physically, and emotionally. I had a lot of days that ended or started in tears, for both me and my son. As we got closer to our daughter's birthday, my stress level soared. I have chronic hypertension, so this wasn't good for me or baby. But there was so much to worry about. Would my partner be there for the birth of our daughter? Would we be able to have family visit or even assist us with our toddler or our newborn when we got home? Would I make it to my induction date or would the added stress cause her to come early? In the end, we figured it out, made it work, and brought her home, but I still worry about exposing her to Covid everyday. I worry about going back to teach high school choir, which is now considered a high risk activity. I worry about sending my son to daycare. I worry about increasing my heart disease complications if I am exposed to Covid. I worry about my students and their families and friends and the impact this pandemic has had on all of us. Bottom line- I worry. My mental health has taken a toll, and I think it is safe to assume that everyone's mental health should be a concern right now. We have all been dealing with trauma in some form since March. I'm just grateful that my sweet perfect little girl is too young to remember the crazy world she came into this year. That might be the one positive of having a baby during a pandemic. They won't remember it.

Lack of part-time jobs (1540)

I'm a teacher and rely on part-time summer jobs to supplement my income to make ends meet. I applied to nearly 40 jobs in the area and only heard back from around ten of them. All ten were rejection emails. I've been able to find gig work here and there but it's been scarce. My wife and I both struggle from depression and anxiety and this pandemic has definitely exacerbated our experiences of both. On the flip side, the extra time at home has been really nice to spend with our young child. Additional income would go a long way in paying for on-going weekly counseling sessions. As a teacher, I'm also anxious about returning to school. I trust my school will put the necessary safety measures in place - but I'm also worried about the inevitable outbreak.

Pandemic problems (1728)

Pandemic problems During the pandemic my boss asked me to take a day off. The store had less customers and too many workers. I said okay and then had two more days off (my regular days off). However, my tooth began to ache so I had to call my dentist to make an appointment. However the dentist office was closed due to the pandemic. The secretary asked me questions and she said my situation (pain and swelling) was an emergency so the dentist could see me, but my daughter-in-law who was bringing me (I don't see well enough to have a driver's license anymore), could not come inside the office due to the pandemic. My dentist examined me and referred me to an endodontist who had 3D xray, to see my tooth better. My exam showed my tooth was infected, there was bone loss and my tooth was fractured. Since my tooth was too messed up to be fixed, I was referred back to my dentist to pull it out. I was taking antibiotic for the infection and had the tooth pulled out and my gums were sutured. I needed to take off two weeks to give my tooth surgery time to heal

properly. After that, the county and also the city commissioners asked people to continue to stay at home. Since I am 67 years old and in the age bracket of people who have more severe reactions to the coronavirus, I was afraid to go back to work, and I asked my boss if I could come back to work when the Governor said it would be okay. I went back to work on May 18, and it was difficult because I was afraid of getting covid-19. However, I wore a mask and gloves provided by my boss. I was off work for two months. Since I am a widow who lives alone, it was hard for me. I couldn't afford to buy the healthy foods I should be eating, just foods that were cheap and filling.

Friendship Comfort (1670)

I am a widow and live alone on retirement income. The isolation required during this pandemic has affected my mental state. I'm lonely and miss the human contact, hugs and conversation that lift my spirits. I can't touch my grand kids and do maintain the required distance. They don't really understand. A new grand baby was born during quarantine and I can't hold her. When a friend suggested she would come and spend some time with me on my outdoor patio, I was delighted. We had refreshments and conversation at a safe distance and I so enjoyed our time together. That small gesture left me with a feeling of renewal.

Birthday Breakfast (1736)

It was my birthday this past weekend and I felt disappointed that I would not be able to get together with my family to celebrate the way I had in the past, pre-Covid 19. My father invited me over for a breakfast celebration and although there were just six of us, we still had a great time. It was uplifting to connect with family members I hadn't seen in months and in some ways, the intimate gathering was nicer because we were able to spend more quality time with one another. Afterwards, we went to a park and got some exercise. I think that Covid-19 did shape the way we celebrated but that was a positive thing because we did things differently and as a result, got exercise, saved money and connected because of it.

Bummed out Pre-teen (1652)

The hardest thing that my family has dealt with during the pandemic is mental health issues. Financially, my husband and I are both employed full-time and have been able to work at home. This pandemic has been hardest on our 13 year-old son. He really has missed seeing his friends and classmates this summer. He sees a therapist and that has helped.

Vacation Delayed (1562)

My twin sister and I turned 40 this year. I had plane tickets to celebrate with her and her family in March. As COVID-19 was just coming on the scene. Her husband asked that we postpone. We all scheduled vacation time the first week of August as that is when our church always has reunion. When the reunion was cancelled, we decided to use that week for our belated birthday celebration. The week before, my work sent out an email company wide saying if you get COVID-19 while on vacation or are quarantined because of where you traveled, the company would not pay for your time off. I live in Olathe, KS, which a week before my flight, Ohio, where my sister lives, said I would have to quarantine 14 days once arriving there. My sister said they would have to quarantine 14 after I left. None of us could do that with our job situations. So, for a second time, my flight to see my twin sister

is postponed. I'm concerned the restrictions are going to get tighter and I will not be able to see her in person for a couple of years. This brings emotional stress, which I talk over with my Psychology every other week. I've also had to up my anti-depression and anxiety medication.

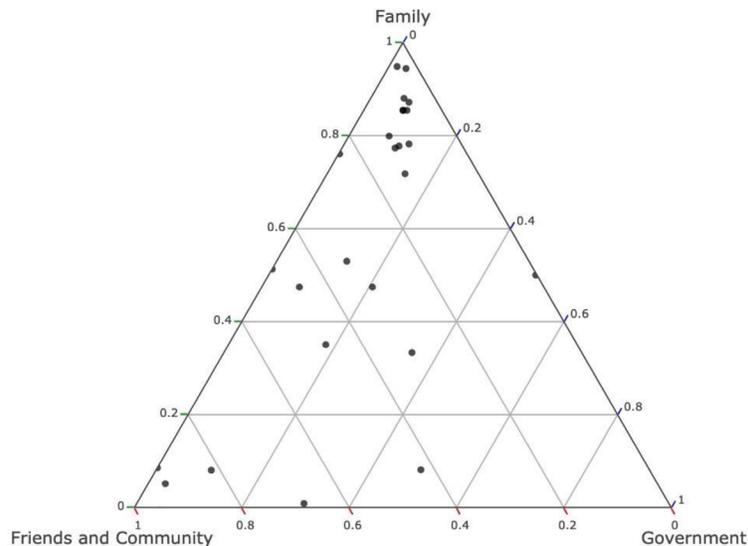
Baby G (1585)

2. just surviving, Baby G:It was my first experience post-partum. While I have helped with all my younger siblings, your own is a whole different world. People tell you that, but no one tells you how shitty it can really be. It started with not loving pregnancy, delivery wasn't bad/was what I expected, but shortly after they put my child on my chest it was not an instant feeling of love and tears and this beautiful moment every woman describes or you see in cinema. All I wanted was my baby off my chest while the trauma physician stuck his hands inside of me to scrape my placenta out. After nine months of being the ONLY person to carry this child, I wanted time to my body ALONE-and that still didn't happen. In all fairness, the Father wouldn't know what questions to ask, and none of my close friends were mother's yet either and could not fathom what I was going through. I don't know if it was PPD, but I just wanted ME back. Things did not get better; I then turned into less of me and more of a vending machine, feeling solely responsible for keeping this child alive, while physically and mentally draining my body. Things that made me me were gone-no work, no friends in the same situation, no more doing what I want when I want. I expressed this to my DR, but kind of got this, it is what it is, make sure to make time for yourself, but no help or guidance on what time for myself looked like as a new mother. I was truly in survival mode until about two months into my motherhood when I decided to switch from direct breast to pumping.

Strike Team Three Older Adult Services

In the experience you shared, who made sure people got what they needed?

(Filtered to show stories from people aged 65 or older)



Poor [REDACTED] Leadership (1596)

A friend and former supervisor of mine works for a well known health related social services agency. After the pandemic lockdown was relaxed my friend's supervisor ordered his executive staff to return to the office to resume working under his watchful eye. Never mind the fact that his staff had successfully proven their ability to adapt to a virtual work environment at home. During the lockdown staff collaborated at higher levels than before, and had higher job satisfaction than the routine office experience. No, to satisfy his ego the supervisor insisted all executive level staff return. My friend spoke with her supervisor regarding her returning to the office. She was very concerned for her husband's health should someone pass the virus to him through her at work. My friend was told in no uncertain terms she had to return to the office to work to show support for the team! I offered to speak to my friend's supervisor to explain the grave position his edict had put my friend and her husband in. She declined my offer. Less than a month later my friend and two of her executive level peers contracted the virus at work. Now the male chauvinist VP saw the damage his will had wrought. His realization of error in judgment was made clearer by the agency's VP of Legal Affairs and VP of HR. Now its okay to work from home, but my friend's family will never be the same again.

Transportation Provider (1597)

I am blessed to be a Transportation Provider working with Johnson County. We have been afforded many opportunities to Transport people throughout Johnson County as well as assist others through various programs sponsored by Johnson County. Being on the front line your team is exposed daily to numerous people we encounter from all walks of life. It is very challenging some days to keep our team focused and encouraged. Working with other members of the RideKC community that are dealing with the same challenges it is disheartening knowing that a key member of one of those teams who works in a similar capacity has succumb to COVID-19. This is very sad, but we must be

focused knowing that our efforts are helping others who otherwise would not be able to get to work, stores, pharmacies, medical appointments, or whatever their transportation needs are. I am ever thankful that we are making a difference and our efforts are not in vain.

retired but can't live on social security (1614)

As a 66 year old on social security. Life should be easy and relaxing. I came from a time when a lot of jobs had no retirement and not the greatest pay for women. Upon the death of my spouse, I received his social security. With rising taxes in Johnson county and living expenses, it is necessary to work at least part time to be able to buy groceries and gas. With the covid-19 virus even being able to work is a stretch. People have to be able to purchase what your work employer sells in order to pay the employees. This isn't happening.

Unemployment (1509)

My son bought a franchise to help food industry employers find people to employ Just as the virus hit. His son graduated from New York University. There were no new job openings in the food industry to work with. His son had a good job contract to start after graduation. Firstly, no graduation. Secondly, future employer cut one third of their employees, closed their new facility in KC, eliminated our grandson's job before he started. Thus, no unemployment but owes college loans. We are in our late 70's and late 80's and my husband has advanced cancer disease. We are helping as we can and both guys are looking for work. Grandson as of now has a job offer.

Thoughtless person entered a small shop just ahead of me with no mask (1510)

We're a couple in our 70's rarely leave home these days unless it's absolutely necessary. This day, we had a package that we really needed to drop off a a shipping service in Leawood. Just as we were about to enter the small shop, a man went inside wearing no mask and coughing repeatedly. We were forced to abandon our errand and come back at another time. I would suggest some funding be used to formulate and enforce stricter rules about the wearing of masks in any place of business.

The Great Sameness (1716)

The author Arnold Loebel wrote a fable for children called The Great Blueness. It was about a village that lived in a black and white and gray world and grew very tired of it. So a wizard invented blue paint and they were so delighted to have the world painted all blue. Until it made me sad then they moved on to a red world and then yellow and so on in an attempt to reach a world that made them happy. It wasn't until the pots of paint got mixed up, and the world turned into pink and purple and green and orange and yellow and gray and brown and white did they break free of the dreaded, limiting sameness of their days. Our family has good support, good resources, the ability to comfortably go into seclusion, so we are luckier than most. Still, we wait for the pots of paint to become mingled again. We wait for the color.

Isolation is scary! (1673)

I get on a zoom meeting for meditation. I call a friend to find out how they are doing. I water my outdoor plants. I disinfected my house again. I have taken a 30 min walk. It is now Saturday and I have run out of things to do. I am recovering from Cancer and will not get around anyone who does not

wear a mask. My friends and family are all busy with work, family, and their life. I don't know who or where to turn to. Last year at this time I was receiving Chemo and Radiation treatments and isolated myself from everyone. I would let my daughter take me to the treatment. She dropped me off at home and left. I vowed then that I would get a room mate or find friends that I could be with and talk to. Now I am doing the same thing. Looking for friends to talk to. To be sit with. My neighbors are either are not going out of their homes or not wearing mask. I don't know where to turn. I am not going to give up! I am going to fight and find those people I can talk to and sit with. This is the worst feeling to be alone in the midst of all these people. It is scary to think I will not hug anyone again!

Home at last (1512)

In the past few weeks, I have been inundated by phone calls from women seeking shelter during this time of great uncertainty. I am the founder and executive director of transitional house for women seeking a healthy lifestyle. I have experienced a increase in people seeking a way to find safe, clean housing. I hear the fear and panic of women who have lost their jobs, who have no safe place to live, who are yearning for a better life. The sweetest words are "welcome home" that I have the privilege of saying to each new member of the Lorraine's House community.

people need to be responsible (1520)

It is extremely obvious to myself and my wife that people simply live above their means and have been doing so for years and THAT IS THE PROBLEM! We continually see people asking for help, crying they don't have anouilh money to buy groceries however, they have a smartphone, a newer car and I am sure a big screen tv at home and on and on. We continually give to family's who cry help but refuse to i've within their means and am tired of it. We who have lived below their means all of their lives (almost 50 years of married life) are tired of being taken advantage of. When are you going to give a relief to home owners who continually pay higher and higher property taxes so you can throw more money at schools who demand students have needless supplies e.g. computers, many multicolored pencils, pens highlighters etc. We who built this country and computer organizations did not have or need them to lean in schools. It is just one xcuse after another what our students need and why they can't learn. This all boils down to personal responsibility and our current society refuses to accept it! Stop throwing money at problems and realize that our national deficit is out of control, if our elected officials continue this trend wise up and realize our country is broke and we will lose not only our standing in the world but also crash outr economy for good. Oh yeah, our teachers don't teach economics to our students so they don't understand this either!

Surviving Again (27)

I am an older daycare provider. I have a lot os experience being on the poor side of life. During the recession we were on the food lines. We begged churches for help. Many time the food was out of date. We ate whatever we could. Bills were paid as we could and only by the grace of help were we able to keep our home. Times are so scary now! I do not qualify for unemployment or stimulus so I wish they would work off licensing lists. I'm sure there are people who will get money who are not even licensed. I have been for 9 years and it's my income along with my husbands. I would love some hope that when this is over I will have my business for the kids I love so much!

Positive aspects of a pandemic (1602)

Rather than an event of a week ago I think it appropriate to recognize that my occupation requires that I have a somewhat intense and personalized relationship with disputants. I mediate family and civil disputes and help people/organizations reach a point in their issue where they can agree to cooperate and resolve the issue. I don't strive to make them happy ... my goal is to leave them content with the results of their decision. The courts often assign me to cases and I work with the parties, usually in a face to face environment. Since the pandemic started the environment has changed and today almost all of my mediations are held electronically. I now meet with people who are not sitting in a room with me talking about what brought them to the table but are often separated by thousands of miles. More often than not they are sitting in the comfort of their living room and often feel more freedom to express their concerns. The scope of work has expanded for me and my workload has increased. Granted, personal isolation has increased personal anxiety and animosity and having the parties physically separated often slows the process but technology (heavily influenced by the pandemic) has allowed a greater percentage of the population to use a neutral third party to mediate the issue.

COVID 19 (1473)

My Partner and I are Ballroom dancers. We go to many Dances per week on a regular basis. When the OURS group shut down in March we searched out what might be open. We attended two dances at the Camelot Ballroom where we danced only with our partners with masks on. There were only thirty people on the ballroom to dance. With the COVID growing that place closed and we are not able to safely dance any where we are waiting out this until it is over to a more safe time to gather.

Single mom and waitress in the time of COVID (1607)

My daughter is a single mom of a 4 year old and a waitress. In good times she struggles to pay the bills and to get everything done in her busy life. when COVID hit and her restaurant closed she was at a total loss. She moved to our home with her son for 7 weeks. Her unemployment was delayed and she never did receive the extra \$600 per week. She is emotionally fragile at the best of times and COVID pushed her to the edge. We helped with the bills and she eventually got some phone counseling that was helpful. It is the people living in the margins with hourly jobs and no health insurance that really struggle during things like this.

At a time of crisis you know what hope means. (1525)

Unexpected crises change people in all different ways. In March this year, the news of Covid-19 made people panicky and run to the stores to buy paper products--toilet papers, facial tissues, paper towels--and even some food-- in preparation for the worst scenario. President Trump then told the citizens not to worry. Coronavirus will miraculously be gone by April. It wasn't. Five months later, Covid-19 has spread all over the U.S., like a prairie fire that devours everything it can reach. Every day, we hear of the American War with the pandemic: how many had died, how many captured by the virus in what state, why, and what was expected. No one seems to know the Enemy well enough; even so-called experts only speculate what to be expected and what we must do, suggesting wearing face-masks and social distancing and isolations. And no one knows when school should be safe enough to open as before or safe to get together with family members for birthdays, weddings, graduations or funerals. But I

feel fortunate because such crises--the pandemic, the leaders' cluelessness about what we're facing, and the uncertain future--are familiar to me. As a Korean child who lived through the Korean War (June 1950-July 1953), I had seen all the above. So, I say to myself, This isn't as bad as when the North Korean communists launched a surprise attack against South Korea, and we took a day at a time. Our family lived in Busan at the south east end of the peninsula, thus we had no immediate danger of death, but the panic was certainly there. Suddenly rice disappeared from the market, and when it was available, the price of rice was the price of gold as the vendors saw a good chance to make a fortune. And our normal life was forever lost. We elementary schoolkids lost our school buildings to the South Korean Army that needed shelters for the injured soldiers transported from the battleground, and for months, we had no school to attend, except a short time on a mountain slope without roof or walls or desks and chairs. As refugees migrated to Busan, any empty spaces in our cities disappeared as they built their make-shift tents with donated American military blankets, cardboard boxes, and flattened cans. Those who owned homes, such as our parents and our neighbors, gave food to countless homeless refugees who lined up in front of our door three times a day, rain or shine. For months, two refugee families lived in our home by the order of the city officials who had decided that our home was large enough for an army. What did our president (Syng man Rhee) do to help? As soon as he learned of North Korea's invasion, Rhee called Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo, complaining that he had turned a deaf ear when he warned of North Koreans preparing war against the South by lining up the Russian tanks on the north end of the 38th Parallel. Now you must save us, he said. After MacArthur told him he'll send U.S. military help immediately, Rhee made a radio announcement to the citizens that Americans were on their way to help and not to worry, certainly not to abandon their homes, that'd make invading easier. On the third day, when the Communists entered the capital, Rhee, his wife, and a handful of cabinet members escaped in an unmarked vehicle. After they safely crossed the Han Bridge, the only bridge through which people could escape Seoul, Rhee ordered the military demolition squad to blow up the bridge, to delay the Communists' advance. The refugees with children, retreating military trucks, merchants that had been crossing bridge landed in the fast-moving current as the explosion shattered the bridge to pieces. Hope gives people the strength to go on. Thinking and contemplating what's right and wrong is a privilege given to only humans by the Creator. And knowing that my life in the U.S. was possible only because American troops saved our country from the communist with their blood, some with their precious lives, makes me feel I owe so much to America. I have not lived fully yet, thus I must go on in spite of Covid-19. Thank you!

March 14, 2020 (837)

As an owner of 2 private childcare centers, the weekend of March 14, 2020 threw me into a launch of activity like I have not experienced before. I have been in early care and education since 1978 so have been through multiple altering events within our country. One of my centers is located in a state that locked everything down on March 12, including cancelling schools Friday, March 13th and the upcoming week, just until the Governor decided what to do long-term. This time frame is spring break for many districts so he had 2 weeks before the states school age children would need to report back to their schools. As a team of 10 teachers and administrators, we became very proactive, closing the center Friday and having all hands on deck - deep cleaning the center from 9 - 4. We had a meeting and set up our lockdown procedures so as to ensure that Monday, when we opened, we had extra systems in place to keep our children, their families and our staff safe. We

felt good that we were ready. I took the above experience and applied it to my center in KS. I went shopping and bought multiple of all the materials I would need - bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and sanitizer. This has been the #1 lesson I will take moving forward as I am just now coming to the end of the extras I bought the week of March 15th. I closed the KS center down Friday, March 19th and did a deep clean with all staff. We had our staff meeting so all procedures were in place and ready to implement Monday, March 22. The most important support I have received during this time is from the County Public Health Department in the other state. They immediately implemented PH meetings every week Monday at noon for an hour. In addition to the County Health Department staff, there was also staff there from the childcare assistance program. This state has the Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Education such that each county has their own Early Childhood Council (ECC). The ECC started having Directors meetings each week Tuesday evening for an hour. The attendance grew rapidly to over 50 site directors / owners / public school ece program administrators. Both of these meetings were via zoom and provided so much support both in conversation and in emotional/mental health wellbeing. Kansas eventually came along with limited meetings via Childcare Aware, the Children's Cabinet and the KS Early Childhood Council. The meetings were primarily informational, which is good, and it did not allow us to address the stress involved in the situation. I am really thankful I had the support from the other state as it allowed me to be proactive with my center in KS.

School (1433)

I will send my children to school. I cannot do homeschool. This is what a parent told me. She works full time.

Thank You for Asking (1594)

This request to share my story of coping with the pandemic landed in my inbox this morning, sitting brightly at the top of a long list of emails to be answered, deleted, spammed or otherwise dealt with. This request can be categorized under the latter description. I have to sit and think a moment—how, indeed, to describe this utterly overwhelming event. We vacillate between, well, we're handling this quite well: staying indoors and isolating carefully, discovering new technical skills, emotional resources, and dropping suddenly into terrified despair: What will happen to our adult children, their jobs, their finances, our grandchildren struggling with the challenges of remote schooling, what will happen to ourselves, threatened with clogged lungs, cardiac issues, neurosystem damage, financial catastrophe. That roller coaster describes the bad days. The good days go a little better, thank heaven. We've learned the joys of Zoom meetings to keep up with our book discussion group and our life story/poetry writing group. And Zoom is allowing us to participate in local political races in our efforts to maintain a rational, science-based approach to mandatory mask wearing, adequate testing and, most especially, sufficient awareness of current infection rates (much too high right now, thanks to the reluctance of certain high ranking, self-serving county politicians to actually require the health-safeguard of masks for our residents.) We've lost friends during this outbreak to untreated heart disease and other conditions. We've listened to our doctor and nurse friends describe their own despair at crowded, unprotected COVID floors as they work to care for too many patients here in Johnson County, friends who must remain anonymous, but who work tirelessly to care for us. We count the days and make careful arrangements to ensure we have enough groceries, prescription

medications and other supplies to get through another shut down and what looks to be many more months of disease. We nurse our computers along, check our Internet connections, our lifeline to the world, help our children and friends the best we can, and above all, we follow our county Health and Epidemiology Director, Dr. Areola's warning: "Stay home! Wear a Mask! Wash Your Hands." And we pray. Every day. We pray for the students forced back into crowded poorly ventilated (for a pandemic) buildings, the teachers with serious health conditions forced back into perilous classrooms for fear of losing their own health insurance, for all of us caught in this catastrophe that could have been avoided by experienced, competent national leadership. Instead, we are forced to handle an international disease on an individual basis, state by state, county by county, school district by school district, individual bar owner, restaurant owner and retail store. This is wrong, and history will be right to judge us by it. Thank you for asking. (Would not think of posting this anonymously) [NAME REDACTED]

Pandemic problems (1728)

Pandemic problems During the pandemic my boss asked me to take a day off. The store had less customers and too many workers. I said okay and then had two more days off (my regular days off). However, my tooth began to ache so I had to call my dentist to make an appointment. However the dentist office was closed due to the pandemic. The secretary asked me questions and she said my situation (pain and swelling) was an emergency so the dentist could see me, but my daughter-in-law who was bringing me (I don't see well enough to have a driver's license anymore), could not come inside the office due to the pandemic. My dentist examined me and referred me to an endodontist who had 3D xray, to see my tooth better. My exam showed my tooth was infected, there was bone loss and my tooth was fractured. Since my tooth was too messed up to be fixed, I was referred back to my dentist to pull it out. I was taking antibiotic for the infection and had the tooth pulled out and my gums were sutured. I needed to take off two weeks to give my tooth surgery time to heal properly. After that, the county and also the city commissioners asked people to continue to stay at home. Since I am 67 years old and in the age bracket of people who have more severe reactions to the coronavirus, I was afraid to go back to work, and I asked my boss if I could come back to work when the Governor said it would be okay. I went back to work on May 18, and it was difficult because I was afraid of getting covid-19. However, I wore a mask and gloves provided by my boss. I was off work for two months. Since I am a widow who lives alone, it was hard for me. I couldn't afford to buy the healthy foods I should be eating, just foods that were cheap and filling.

Our daughter came home from living on the streets for four years. (1541)

Our daughter has been living on the streets for four years and returned home this week. She is having withdrawal from drugs, is verbally abusive to all her siblings and to us, her parents. AND we don't know her COVID-19 status yet due to lack of available testing (of course, she does not have insurance). The family stress level is horrendously high.

Dr visit anxiety (1667)

Entering Dr.s building I had a panic attack, very frightening. Fortunately my Dr can provide a zoom meeting next time.

Another day, another... (1650)

gesture left me with a feeling of renewal.

Visitors from out of state (1638)

My husband and I are in our late 60's and retired. Although we are in good health, husband is a former smoker and had heart surgery 5 years ago. Several weeks ago a couple we have known forever who live on the West coast, informed us they will be visiting our area, staying at an Air B&B but would like to see us. They visit every few years as they have relatives here but usually stay with us. I was surprised they were willing to take the chance of flying etc...they were stopping at another city beforehand to visit someone there too. My husband and I decided we would be honest with them and let them know we were concerned they may have been exposed to COVID. (She told me how careful they have been at home). So we had a cookout at our house, wearing masks and keeping our distance. They only came in to use the restroom. They were in total agreement and admitted they wished they hadn't done the trip. We saw them the first night they were here but since they were going to visit others, we told them it would be the only time. This was an awkward situation...we felt weird telling them that but had to realize that they were the ones putting us in that position. I really wanted to see them again but we didn't. However, we did communicate and there are no hard feelings. The good news is that we and others they saw are so far ok and they tested negative when they returned home.

visit to the farmers' market (1610)

Just returned from the Wednesday Overland Park Farmers Market and noticed as I put my bags down in my kitchen how positive I felt compared to when I went to bed last night, feeling low and looking forward to sleep as an escape. Being outdoors (not too hot at 9 AM), learning from farmers, chatting with farmer friends from last year, knowing my purchases were going right into the hands of the farmers, and looking forward to eating the tomatoes, corn, melon, and roast pork I bought - beautiful and sustainably grown food - were all reasons the experience dramatically improved my mental health from just 12 hours earlier. I am acutely aware that I am one of the fortunate ones. I have a car, I can walk and carry things, I feel I am careful enough that I can (and do) leave my home without being overly worried about catching the virus, and I have the financial resources to buy what I want. (I wish that SNAP funds could be increased so that families that are hurting now more than ever can buy more healthy food). It's surprising how one little experience like I had can lift one's spirits.

School or not? (1557)

I have 8 grandchildren, 7 are school aged. The oldest is a senior in HS., the youngest will start kindergarten. My oldest child is a teacher in the SMSD. My daughter is choosing to teach in person, because the district won't guarantee her current assignment for next year, if she teaches remotely. She is a high risk person, but will teach in person. My grandchildren have decided to learn in school. The senior doesn't want to miss that experience in her H.S. The others miss the people. I will be cut off from my grandchildren because being almost 70, I'm not sure I would survive Covid 19. Please use money to help the schools in JoCo do all they can to prevent transmission of this disease. Personally, I feel strongly that JoCo schools should all teach remotely, as long as the infection rate continues to rise.

I'm not going to be much help. I am past 80 years old and my cousin, who lives with me, is just past 70 years old. This virus has not really changed our lives except that our church meetings and services have been on Zoom or FaceBook. We have only cut back on the number of times we visit the grocery store and the drug store. Our doctors have continued to have appointments and we have not missed any of them. We wear our masks when we are out and the hand sanitizer that was always in the car console is now out in plain site in a cup holder. Other than those few changes for us our lives go on as before. I pray for serenity and peace for others whose lives have been drastically changed.

Resting in God's Almighty Hands (1544)

This week I was blessed to enjoy several days in the Lake of the Ozarks. Each morning the weather was amazing and I was able to sit on the deck watching the sun rise and read God's Word. He is so near in the beauty and splendor of His creation. The time spent without the sounds of traffic and city lights was so refreshing. I had the time to reflect and search for the reason in life. What is this time of unprecedented change mean? What can I learn from this and how can I help others in their journey. All of us are experiencing this season of our lives differently. We may all be in the storm of COVID-19, political stress, racial unrest, financial unevenness, and mental stress, but we all come into this with different personalities, different faith bases, different backgrounds, different financial situations, different family concerns, and different support systems. Many have struggled greatly during this time. I praise the Lord that I have been blessed to have a strong family support system, a strong faith, a strong family of faith for support, comfortable financial situation and excellent health. The time at the Lake gave me a peace and calm that brings back memories of childhood and carefree times. I am blessed!

Youth Help Out Those of Us That Really Can't Leave Our Homes (1734)

The youth of my neighborhood (and I'm talking youngsters not HS age kids) realized that all us retirees are stuck in our houses. We don't leave to do much and it's lonely living alone. I know we hear about HS Trapped in their basements, but at least they have a family and people to be with. On my block there are 5 of us senior citizens who live alone and who are at high risk. So the kids designed and hosted a block gathering. They chalked up boxes that were more than 20 feet from each other (just to be sure they said) and all of us had our own box seat (like at the theatre where the box seats are the best). All other adults sort of gathered in the back. The kids put on a show--with dumb magic tricks, songs, lots of lip sync songs and jokes. Everyone wore masks, no touching and we stayed apart. It was the best thing that has happened to me since March. I just think we need lots more of this kind of creative thinking. It's going to be horrible once the weather gets cold, snowy and rainy. I don't know what I'll do. It will be devastatingly lonely again. So I'm thankful for what the kids of the block did.

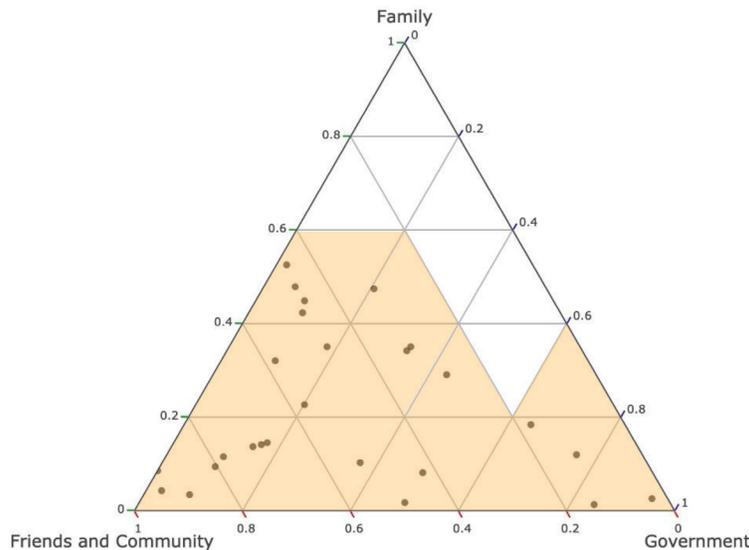
Friendship Comfort (1670)

I am a widow and live alone on retirement income. The isolation required during this pandemic has affected my mental state. I'm lonely and miss the human contact, hugs and conversation that lift my spirits. I can't touch my grand kids and do maintain the required distance. They don't really understand. A new grand baby was born during quarantine and I can't hold her. When a friend suggested she would come and spend some time with me on my outdoor patio, I was delighted. We had refreshments and conversation at a safe distance and I so enjoyed our time together. That small

Strike Team Four Digital Access

In the experience you shared, who made sure people got what they needed?

(Filtered to show stories from people who indicated that either the government or local organizations helped meet basic needs)



Poor [REDACTED] Leadership (1596)

A friend and former supervisor of mine works for a well known health related social services agency. After the pandemic lockdown was relaxed my friend's supervisor ordered his executive staff to return to the office to resume working under his watchful eye. Never mind the fact that his staff had successfully proven their ability to adapt to a virtual work environment at home. During the lockdown staff collaborated at higher levels than before, and had higher job satisfaction than the routine office experience. No, to satisfy his ego the supervisor insisted all executive level staff return. My friend spoke with her supervisor regarding her returning to the office. She was very concerned for her husband's health should someone pass the virus to him through her at work. My friend was told in no uncertain terms she had to return to the office to work to show support for the team! I offered to speak to my friend's supervisor to explain the grave position his edict had put my friend and her husband in. She declined my offer. Less than a month later my friend and two of her executive level peers contracted the virus at work. Now the male chauvinist VP saw the damage his will had wrought. His realization of error in judgment was made clearer by the agency's VP of Legal Affairs and VP of HR. Now its okay to work from home, but my friend's family will never be the same again.

I Love You Because (411)

Don't just tell someone you love them, tell them WHY you love them. When our family was directly affected by COVID-19 this quote was our daily motto. Each day, as I was told my son will not survive this I wrote him a paragraph about WHY I loved him. I love you because you take time to think about decisions before you make them. I love you because you paid your speeding ticket before I even knew you received one. I love you because you wad up your clothes and stuff them in your dresser. I love you because you send me funny pictures or memes randomly. I love you because you are goal driven. My son did survive, and I am forever grateful because I do love him so much. I love Kansas because the

entire community rallied around our family in our time of greatest need.

How it feels to be drowning every day. (1713)

I own a small business that works with children. For the past five months we have both endured normal attrition plus Covid attrition and a lack of both resources and ability to recruit new customers. We are hanging on by a thread and the business that has ran in Johnson county since the late 90's is slowly failing it's way out of existence. I'm fortunate to be single in this case and only have to provide for myself but I'm now expecting to be living in my car by early next year after dealing with both business and personal bankruptcies.

Lost job (404)

An acquaintance I know was laid off from his job. He was the sole provider for his family of four. The company provided little in compensation and he now is looking for another job, uncertain of how he will pay for food or utilities. He was with the company for over 12 years, and is concerned that the economic recovery and the return of his job will take a long time.

PPP Please let me rest (608)

I am a banker and have been overwhelmed with the workload that the PPP Loan has brought with it. We are working as hard and as fast as we can to get these loans out and into the right hands. The guidance has been spotty at best, leaving us with questions that we are not able to answer.

Keeping COVID-19 out of Daycare (1679)

I've done home daycare for nearly 30 years in Johnson County. We have had some families choose not to come for some or even many of the days, but we have been able to remain open since COVID-19 has started. I have changed some policies and procedures due to the pandemic. We clean even more than we did before. Our drop off and pick up procedures seem to be the biggest change for our families. I have received some funds from PPP and daycare grants that have truly helped. I appreciate the help very much. This funding came mostly at the beginning of the pandemic. It was really needed at that time and I appreciate it, but this pandemic has lasted a lot longer than I think any of us expected it to. There are still needs that I am unable to meet but I think would make things better for my daycare. One of the things that I have found that I think that would make a huge difference in my kids and family's safety is a device that hooks on my HVAC that will kill COVID-19 and other germs and make the whole daycare a healthier place to be for everyone. I don't know all the details about this yet but it appears to cost between six and \$700. I wish that there was funding specifically for this so that my kids could be healthier and safer in my daycare. This is what is on my mind this Monday morning as I strive to provide love and care to my precious kiddos. Thanks for asking.

Home at last (1512)

In the past few weeks, I have been inundated by phone calls from women seeking shelter during this time of great uncertainty. I am the founder and executive director of transitional house for women seeking a healthy lifestyle. I have experienced a increase in people seeking a way to find safe, clean housing. I hear the fear and panic of women who have lost their jobs, who have no safe place to live, who are yearning for a better life. The sweetest words are "welcome home" that I have the privilege of

saying to each new member of the Lorraine's House community.

The struggle for parents of students with special needs (1165)

Our five-year-old son is on the autism spectrum. We are fortunate that we can afford (and have the insurance) for private therapy. The ability to receive direct services from them during the shutdown and ongoing pandemic has been invaluable. Unfortunately, the services provided from the local public school district during the shutdown and the virtual extended school year weren't very helpful to him or to us. We desperately want to send him back to school in August, he will start kindergarten. We know he thrives in a social environment and is able to benefit from services provided directly from district service providers. However, at what risk does his attending school bring into our home? We have yet to feel comfortable with any decision on the horizon for August.

Isolation leads to suicide plan in 16 yr old. (1718)

Four months into the COVID-19 lockdown the overwhelm of isolation, uncertainty, complete departure from any previously known "normal" became too much for my 16 year old son. He made a plan to suicide. He had committed to his plan and was making the first moves to act on it. Only by the grace of God were his father and I able to intervene and get him to inpatient treatment through police and co-responder efforts. Only through counseling did we learn of the deep level of despair that having school cancelled, all his activities cancelled, his connection to people limited to digital means, and fear brought on by the constant bombardment of COVID-19 related information had created for not just him, but all four of our children. With his normal coping skills failing to help him in the extremely abnormal situation he found himself in and only continued promise of uncertainty in all parts of his life, he believed he would rather die than continue to live in isolation and fear. While he has found a way to cope and is longer committed to suicide ideation, he just learned of a classmate from his high school that completed suicide bringing back much of his old feelings of despair. It is without question that the detriment to mental health and wellness that the COVID-19 response has caused, will forever impact our family.

COVID Adjustments (653)

Corona virus has not negatively impacted my life but this experience has been far from positive. I am a college student and when my institution decided to go online after spring break, I was relieved for many different reasons. For starters, having online classes allows more flexibility and since I do not live on campus, I did not have to worry about commuting. Secondly, I was able to work more hours since I did not have to physically attend class. Although as the semester came to an end, I realized that if we were still on campus, my final grades would have been better, mainly due to the lack of motivation I had. In terms of health and precautions, I have a hair business and I had to stop taking clients until I felt like it was safe and even now, clients are required to wear masks and to attend their appointments alone. Although I live alone and fairly healthy, it is still very important that I take preventative measures. I feel like people apart of my generation are not taking this pandemic seriously because we are younger with no underlying health conditions, which is a selfish way of thinking. I am still committed to doing everything I can to flatten the curve.

Masks (1722)

I walked into a store. This was not unusual. Everyone I saw was wearing a mask. This was unusual. It was the first time I had entered this store after masks were mandated in Kansas. What surprised me was the sense of relief I felt. A burden had been lifted from my shoulders. In ordinary times I feel responsible for the health of myself, my spouse, my children, my mom, and some of my siblings. During the pandemic that feeling of responsibility has extended to my community. In that moment, walking into that store, I felt my government cared for me.

Teaching Online (128)

As a teacher I have really appreciated the state orders to provide continuous learning from home. Even though it is different, I believe that many of my students who also have other medical conditions have been protected during at home learning. As a person who has a lowered immune system, I thank you for helping to protect me and other teachers with compromised immune systems during this time. It is important to continue to consider the health needs of all teachers and students including those with fragile health conditions and compromised immune systems when deciding when to open the schools again. Thank you again for your support for the children and teachers of Kansas.

[NAME REDACTED] (1723)

Seventeen-year-old [NAME REDACTED] came to KidsTLC's Lotus Clinics for outpatient therapy. While she seemed to have everything going for her—straight As in all her honors courses—at KidsTLC, [NAME REDACTED] revealed her daily struggle with suicidal thoughts and urges to harm herself. At times, she was at risk of being hospitalized to keep her safe. It was a challenge for her mother, a survivor of significant trauma with daily struggles of her own, to be a supportive parent. With support from KidsTLC, [NAME REDACTED] and her mother received help in working through their struggles. Mom has become a more present and supportive parent, and [NAME REDACTED] has learned healthy ways to cope when she is overwhelmed or depressed. She's on track to graduate with honors and receive a full academic scholarship for college!*KidsTLC respects everyone who comes to us for help. While their stories are true, names and images have been changed.

Flexible Childcare Options (768)

These unprecedented times have brought about many new challenges and daily decision fatigue. In a world with so many unknowns, how can we go about making informed decisions that will surely impact the health of our families? In this past week I have been grappling with the decision of when to send my child back to daycare. I have been feeling a lot of stress and anxiety about this decision, and have received no guidance from our healthcare providers as they too are unsure how to advise their patients through all of the unknowns. As someone with a rare lung disease, I have additional concerns regarding my health during the pandemic. Living with this condition adds pressure to the already complicated decision making process. I have been very pleasantly surprised by the flexible policies and support provided by our daycare provider. They allowed us to drop out immediately, they have not charged us any fees while we have been absent, they have been very flexible in allowing us to determine when we will return, and have been reaching out to support us during this time. I am aware that this is not the case at every child care facility, and I feel especially grateful for this flexibility we have experienced. It is one less burden and one less worry for me to stress about amidst all of the

change.

Lack of broadband access. (1606)

Lack of high speed broadband is an absolute necessity and has been highlighted by working, learning, shopping, worshipping, and socializing at home. Many parts of Johnson County suffer from broadband inequity (lack of accessible terrestrial broadband service). Families are struggling with dealing with the school from home situation. Funding must be provided to competitive internet service providers to speed up deployment of fiber to the home. Two companies that are making a difference in De Soto are RG Fiber and Zoom Fiber. Both companies need resources to support expansion through suburban and rural Johnson County.

March 14, 2020 (837)

As an owner of 2 private childcare centers, the weekend of March 14, 2020 threw me into a launch of activity like I have not experienced before. I have been in early care and education since 1978 so have been through multiple altering events within our country. One of my centers is located in a state that locked everything down on March 12, including cancelling schools Friday, March 13th and the upcoming week, just until the Governor decided what to do long-term. This time frame is spring break for many districts so he had 2 weeks before the states school age children would need to report back to their schools. As a team of 10 teachers and administrators, we became very proactive, closing the center Friday and having all hands on deck - deep cleaning the center from 9 - 4. We had a meeting and set up our lockdown procedures so as to ensure that Monday, when we opened, we had extra systems in place to keep our children, their families and our staff safe. We felt good that we were ready. I took the above experience and applied it to my center in KS. I went shopping and bought multiple of all the materials I would need - bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and sanitizer. This has been the #1 lesson I will take moving forward as I am just now coming to the end of the extras I bought the week of March 15th. I closed the KS center down Friday, March 19th and did a deep clean with all staff. We had our staff meeting so all procedures were in place and ready to implement Monday, March 22. The most important support I have received during this time is from the County Public Health Department in the other state. They immediately implemented PH meetings every week Monday at noon for an hour. In addition to the County Health Department staff, there was also staff there from the childcare assistance program. This state has the Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Education such that each county has their own Early Childhood Council (ECC). The ECC started having Directors meetings each week Tuesday evening for an hour. The attendance grew rapidly to over 50 site directors / owners / public school ece program administrators. Both of these meetings were via zoom and provided so much support both in conversation and in emotional/mental health wellbeing. Kansas eventually came along with limited meetings via Childcare Aware, the Children's Cabinet and the KS Early Childhood Council. The meetings were primarily informational, which is good, and it did not allow us to address the stress involved in the situation. I am really thankful I had the support from the other state as it allowed me to be proactive with my center in KS.

Our Children's Mental Health Needs A Boost (1538)

Parents call KidsTLC in Olathe everyday! They have questions, need help & support! Last week in

particular we fielded numerous calls on anxiety related to the potentially challenging school year ahead...parents are anxious about the decisions they are making & it is impacting their mental health & that of their children. We also heard from families that can no longer wait to access intensive outpatient as well as residential mental health services for their children...they need help now & can no longer wait for the community to feel "safer" to take the next step. We must continue to provide of children & their families immediate access to mental & behavioral health services & support!

Thankful for Free Lunches (419)

My family has been so thankful for free lunches/breakfasts through the Shawnee Mission School District. During the end of this school year, it was very stressful for me as a working mom to continue to go to work, then come home and help guide my children through distance learning. Picking up the food from the school not only served a practical need, eliminating the stress of one more thing, but the people directing traffic and handing out food are ALWAYS smiling (it seems like smiles through the masks!), waving, and so friendly. What a wonderful gift all around.

Really struggling with behaviors of a child with special needs and limited by insurance on how to receive help. (1635)

A lovely family with a child who has special needs lives next to my in-laws. This child has anger outbursts and has really been challenged with being home with the covid 19 pandemic. The father has been laid off and insurance limits the resources they can access for help with behavior. The child has literally been physically aggressive and very threatening with language and behavior. I feel that we don't have enough resources as a community for folks to access for in home support. For families to support a child with significant behavioral issues needs coaching in real time on what to do before during and after a crisis. Folks need more than a therapy visit. there is a need for in home support on an ongoing basis. While it would have to be somewhat virtual at this time, this is a need in our community and has been for some time. This is just one example in the last week. I have worked with many families that need more intensive in-home support.

We are just surviving when six months ago we were thriving. I am a child care provider. (1542)

I am part of a small band of child care providers who live fairly close in proximity in WyCo and JoCo. We help each other out with food or extra supplies we come across them, share where to buy supplies at a good price and if we hear of grant or free training opportunities. I personally have shared extra food with a Wyco provider who literally lives on county line and cannot get the help I am getting. Her income is under half what it was in February. Another provider has sewn me child size face masks for a good price. These were purchased with Hero grant money! Another provider shared Lysol spray and cleaning wipes she came across. We all are very appreciative of the grant money. It is helping some stock up in case supplies are absent again. Others have had to use some of the money to pay utilities (as wages). My income is down by 1/3. I am able to pay bills, but with extremely careful budget planning. I count myself blessed.

Municipality selected my firm for new work (1595)

My parents came and visited us for the first time since Christmas. We didn't hug or have any physical contact. My dad had to make an ER visit and we were thankful they were here (and not in rural KS)

where he could be evaluated and get the help he needed to reduce pain and rule out the worst case scenarios.

Worries about school reopening (1639)

A family I work with is deeply concerned about the start of school. For health reasons, they want their children to attend school online only, but they do not have internet access. This is representative of so many families in our area.

People in need (1640)

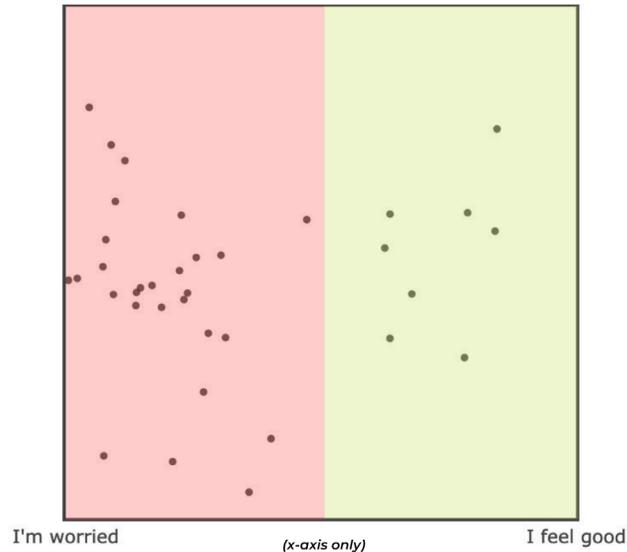
We have suffered several months while wife out of work due to COVID- she has since started working again. We have turned attention to a church food pantry in our area, and enjoy serving- these people come out every week to stock up on basics that last a week. It is awful to see not only the regulars but also the likely more financially stable families who have lost jobs in the past 6 months and the hardship increases. It would be great to see places like this funded better to ensure plenty of people get what they need.

Strike Team Five Workforce Development

**Thinking about the experience you shared,
how worried are you about keeping your job and/or
steady income during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

*(Filtered to show stories from people who indicated
they struggled with unemployment/financial problems)*

COVID-19 Keeping my job/steady income



Essentially Broke (1655)

As a grocery employee working full-time during the Covid-19 pandemic, let me just say: THIS SUCKS. My friends and coworkers, we come to work every day with kindness in our hearts and it is being trampled out of us. Anti-maskers are running rampant in our community. Along with endangering everyone's health, they are affecting morale and our mental health at unprecedented rates. Hi! Welcome to our store today! Could you please pull your mask up over your nose? NO! I HAVE RIGHTS/A MEDICAL CONDITION/NO EMPATHY FOR OTHER HUMANS! I Do NOT understand why empathy is something that some of us have and some of us don't. There are people, real people with families who absolutely HAVE to work in a high risk job right now. I shouldn't have to fear for my life because Danny Trumpster wants to pretend he's being oppressed and make a statement about rights. What about MY right to come to work without wondering if today is finally the day I catch it? If today is the day I start showing symptoms? If today marks the last day I can live my normal life? If I'll die alone in a hospital room hooked up to a ventilator in a few weeks. My company, along with many others, is offering monthly essential bonuses, but they amount to about \$100/month. We are being forced to risk our lives every day so that we can pay rent to prevent being evicted, and all we get is our hourly pay, plus maybe \$25/week. We need to do better. We are living in a pandemic, wondering if we will die in a few weeks. We shouldn't have to worry about being evicted, the rising prices of groceries, the overloaded hospitals. It's hard enough wondering if today is the day I catch Covid-19, but whats worse is wondering if today is the day it all falls apart. If today is the day I lose my home, my car, and my sanity. Today may be the day for me and my family. What about yours?

Me and my brother graduation at the lake :) (585)

My brother and I are both graduates of 2020, but of course lost our walk and celebration. Instead, my family took the party to the lake.

Coping with Kidney Cancer and the impacts COVID and being a S-corp (1566)

Our troubles started last year. I was diagnosed with Kidney Cancer at the end of last year. Unfortunately we work for ourselves and because of complications, I ended up in the hospital for over 30 days and was not able to return to work for an additional 60 days as I was receiving dialysis. Because of this our income was decreased during that time frame. We were in Bankruptcy and because I couldn't afford the Bankruptcy payments, our Bankruptcy was dismissed. Fortunately I was able to come off dialysis before the end of the year. I was left with a lot of medical bills and open items from Bankruptcy. Our business usually picks up in January, which it did and it looked like things were getting back on track. Then COVID hit and our business suffered as it is tied to elective medical procedures. Now in July of this year, the companies we work with for the medical procedures have tightened their guidelines and even though our number are similar to 2019, we are seeing 40% less being approved and in revenues. We took on side jobs to have income coming in, but it could have potentially exposed us to COVID. We tried applying for the PPP, but were denied because we are an S-Corporation and get paid through passive income and not directly with Payroll. We also tried to apply for other EIDL loans, but because of the bankruptcy my credit score hadn't recovered and we did not qualify. We try to keep a positive outlook and try look for opportunities, which we have tried diversifying into other opportunities.

Essential, but not deserving. (47)

Childcare is essential. I am essential. Without my love of children, compassion and willingness to teach, people, such as the teachers and nurses I care for, would not have creditable, affordable, daily childcare. When my hemoglobin dropped to 3.83 and I had torn my diaphragm while doing my job, I had no recourse but to close my business and relocate my childcare for 2 months. I had no insurance, no disability income, no healthcare options and no income. The recovery was HARD. I was told to not go back to work for 3 months after life saving surgery and blood transfusions. However, my husbands insurance didn't cover much (thank you national healthcare for erasing our benefits) so after 4 weeks I reopened - purely for the money. I was lucky. Everyone came back. But the bills. Oh my goodness the medical bills! My two very young daughters paid the price. They had NOTHING for 3 years while we struggled to pay off the mounting medical bills. My daycare families brought us food. Meals. Treats. Used clothing and some paid me extra knowing we couldn't make it. They were my lifeline. Where are my benefits? My health insurance? My LTD/STD? Life, Dental? Why is it so EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE and impossible for an honest, caring and dedicated self employed person to obtain ANY kind of help. A secondary insurance, supported by regular monthly payments from childcare workers throughout the country, would have greatly helped us. It has been about 12 years now. I never healed correctly because I needed to go back to work for the money since I didn't have benefits and the only way to pay off the bills was to take out a mortgage against our paid off home...with proof of my current wages. Americans can't have children and work without childcare providers, we ARE essential, and yet we are treated far less fair than immigrant workers. Thank you for reading my story.

Uncertainty and Unemployment (1688)

I was laid off from my job in February. By March, I had some promising prospects lined up, and then COVID hit. At this point, I've been unemployed for 6 months, and I still haven't received a dime in Unemployment Insurance from the Kansas Department of Labor (because they're so backed up?). My

wedding over the summer had to be scaled back from 350 guests to 30, and my wife, who is a teacher with an auto-immune disease, has been terrified about being forced back into a classroom where it is inevitable that she will be infected.

Cautiously Hopeful With A Sprinkling Of The Unknown (659)

What is hurting is that my income has dropped between 30% and 40%. I have lost two children directly to choosing to close down for six weeks due to lack of PPE and cleaning supplies. I've had another family prompted to seek preschool sooner than they would have had I not closed down. I have gained one new infant family and have one temporary spot filled for the summer by a school ager. I waffled between how much less stressful it is to have less children during the week but faced with the knowledge that I am running at a deficit. I had to use most of my stimulus check to pay June's mortgage. I strongly suspect I will be using the last stimulus check for whatever month it arrives? I am squirreling away most of my income to keep current on the mortgage. The rest is going mostly for food. This means I will probably fall behind on the rest of my bills? What has helped is that I received a EIDL. What has hurt is that there are so many unknowns on how to make it 100% forgivable so I've put it in my do-not-touch savings account until I file my 2020 taxes next year. If I have to pay it all back, at least I will only have to come up with the interest instead of \$1K plus interest. I file a Schedule E, which made me ineligible for a PPP so, that hurt. What helped a couple of weeks ago was that I participated in a Havester's drive through food distribution. What has helped is that I am a Hero Grant recipient. What has hurt is that, although I applied and was approved in April. I won't get my funds until the end of June. I am hoping to fill my open spots with safer essential workers (educators, office workers who can remote work) so that they can utilize me but are not having to work in public should we have to hunker down once again.

Perspective on the 2nd Recession of my Adult Years (350)

When the 2008 recession hit, my husband and I were early in our marriage. The way that financial crisis hit, we had some really scary times and questioned how we would make it work. There were so many times in which we had more month than money. We cut expenses, set goals, and just worked hard to get through. We always had a place to live and kept food on the table. It took us 10 years to accomplish the goal to buy a house but we did it. In the meantime, I opened an in home business which slowly but steadily has provided security for our family. Last fall, the business gave signs that it was time to pull back for a while. I had been pushing the business forward and growing but between staffing and clientele changes, I pulled back. When the COVID-19 crisis hit in March, I didn't face the initial insecurities that many of my colleagues did. I certainly face uncertainty, but our needs have been met so far. In fact, we have continued to pay off the last of the remaining debt from the 1st recession in recent weeks.

We were cruising right along but can't seem to recover from the pandemic. (1524)

My wife and I are in our upper 30's and we share (4) children between us, one of which has special needs. We both went to college and continue to expand our education throughout our adult lives. We both work and live in Johnson County. We're not rich but we don't typically live paycheck to paycheck either; that is, until the pandemic. For both of us; our income, career, net worth and way of life were significantly affected during the recession in the late 2000's. We rebuilt our lives together

which at the time seemed impossible without the support of one another. We were feeling pretty good about our life after years of recovery and decided to expand our family. About 2-1/2 years ago our new son was born with a rare genetic condition we didn't expect. Our lives again experienced a transitional phase as we worked through what became our new normal lifestyle. The opportunity to recover from this experience was brief and now we face yet another hardship we must work hard and smart to survive without significantly exposing our (4) young children to the trauma of a drastic change in their lifestyle. For my wife and I, our adult lives consist of half of our time on this earth of which half has been dedicated to recovering from unforeseen circumstances. We question whether our time spent with our children is positive enough to inspire them to pursue advanced education and work hard and smart to succeed in life. Like many families I presume, we're on the cusp of a new but not unfamiliar lifestyle focused solely on survival. We're thinking outside of the box when pursuing alternate means of income but opportunities just don't seem to be present. An option to connect my wife and I with opportunities where our marketable skills could be utilized to produce an income for ourselves and others would be greatly appreciated and beneficial for more families than just our own. We believe there is great strength in community and are looking for an opportunity to lead by example.

Extended Childcare Family (119)

I have always worked towards having close relationships with my daycare families! One of my newest families, has blown me away with their generosity! I have a single mom who is very concerned about getting sick. She lives with her mom, who is currently undergoing Chemotherapy. They have decided to shelter in place in order to keep their risk of getting sick lower. It's going to be quite awhile before they feel safe having the kiddo return to care. Each week we drop off a learning at home kit, as well as have a bedtime story session with all our kiddos who are at home to stay connected. This single mom, who is at home and trying to help her mother through cancer treatment has offered to help other families who are out of work cover their tuition. Not only to help the families but also to help me be able to stay open. Fortunately I've been able to make ends meet, but the incredible generosity has blown me away. As I worked my way through the awkward conversations with each family about paying for childcare, that they aren't using, I found that multiple families made the same offer! Imagine my surprise to find I have multiple families who are so incredibly selfless and giving, particularly during a time when things are tough!

One Essential Worker's Story (1674)

My Granddaughter's mother worked as a CNA in an assisted living facility with many Covid patients. She worked with Covid patients 6-7 days a week for nearly 3 months before she contracted Covid herself. She was hospitalized for about a week during the worst of her illness. She has been unable to work for 12 weeks now, but has only received pay for four of those weeks. She is fighting to have the other weeks covered through disability insurance, but her efforts have been futile so far. The insurance company says that the residual effects of the illness are not supported under their guidelines. Her employer did not provide the additional two weeks of guaranteed pay covered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. She sees a cardiologist and pulmonologist now. They suspect that she has Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) and Costochondritis (inflammation of the chest wall). Many tests are scheduled. She hopes to go back to work in two weeks, but so far the lingering effects

of Covid — chest pain, shortness of breath and headaches — have prevented her from returning to work. Without work, and without disability pay, my granddaughter's mother has trouble paying rent (they live in someone's basement), making car payments, and buying food for themselves. In an effort to protect my granddaughter from Covid and all the stressors she had to confront in surviving the disease, her mother decided to sign my granddaughter up for school in a purely virtual classroom setting this year. However, she is unsure how she will be able to provide adequate internet and computer technology in their rented space. These few months have been miserable for my granddaughter's family. Not only does her mother have to fight Covid and its after effects, she has to negotiate the convoluted systems of healthcare, insurance, and employment while being ill. The love of her daughter keeps her fighting for resolution of these issues so that they can get back to a normal life.

March 14, 2020 (837)

As an owner of 2 private childcare centers, the weekend of March 14, 2020 threw me into a launch of activity like I have not experienced before. I have been in early care and education since 1978 so have been through multiple altering events within our country. One of my centers is located in a state that locked everything down on March 12, including cancelling schools Friday, March 13th and the upcoming week, just until the Governor decided what to do long-term. This time frame is spring break for many districts so he had 2 weeks before the states school age children would need to report back to their schools. As a team of 10 teachers and administrators, we became very proactive, closing the center Friday and having all hands on deck - deep cleaning the center from 9 - 4. We had a meeting and set up our lockdown procedures so as to ensure that Monday, when we opened, we had extra systems in place to keep our children, their families and our staff safe. We felt good that we were ready. I took the above experience and applied it to my center in KS. I went shopping and bought multiple of all the materials I would need - bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and sanitizer. This has been the #1 lesson I will take moving forward as I am just now coming to the end of the extras I bought the week of March 15th. I closed the KS center down Friday, March 19th and did a deep clean with all staff. We had our staff meeting so all procedures were in place and ready to implement Monday, March 22. The most important support I have received during this time is from the County Public Health Department in the other state. They immediately implemented PH meetings every week Monday at noon for an hour. In addition to the County Health Department staff, there was also staff there from the childcare assistance program. This state has the Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Education such that each county has their own Early Childhood Council (ECC). The ECC started having Directors meetings each week Tuesday evening for an hour. The attendance grew rapidly to over 50 site directors / owners / public school ece program administrators. Both of these meetings were via zoom and provided so much support both in conversation and in emotional/mental health wellbeing. Kansas eventually came along with limited meetings via Childcare Aware, the Children's Cabinet and the KS Early Childhood Council. The meetings were primarily informational, which is good, and it did not allow us to address the stress involved in the situation. I am really thankful I had the support from the other state as it allowed me to be proactive with my center in KS.

Unemployment Hiccups (500)

For the last few months unemployment was very easy to access. within the last few weeks it has been difficult. My claim was suddenly denied and it took me several days to be able to reach anyone.

Homelessness (1695)

Just last week me and my kids became homeless because I could not afford my apartment anymore. It is really hard on us especially my kids because my 5 year old keeps asking me if she is gonna have a birthday and Christmas this year. Her birthday is a week before Christmas and she thinks she is not gonna have either this year. That makes me sad that she feels that way.

Already struggling, then the pandemic hit (1609)

Several families I know were already struggling financially, barely keeping their heads above water, and then the pandemic hit. Additional stress of job insecurity, balancing the need to care for children no longer attending school in person, and trying to keep themselves and families healthy only added to their struggle. The adults are essential workers, unable to work from home, requiring them to put themselves at risk to keep the community moving, but risking their own and their family's health daily. As essential workers at constant risk of exposure, they had to further quarantine themselves from family members outside the home to try and keep them safe. These workers didn't get additional hazard pay or compensation, and had to constantly worry that if they contracted COVID-19, they would be unable to work and provide for their families. The bills don't stop just because someone got sick.

When will it stop? (1676)

I had been sick and finally went to the hospital. I was diagnosed with an auto immune disorder, that has debilitated me. I am unable to work and unable to collect unemployment, so I have no income and have lost my insurance. My husband then loses his job due to Covid-19, then it takes the unemployment check if \$320 weekly almost 10 weeks to FINALLY come in. We cashed out his retirement, pulled our son from daycare and cut back all expenses. Our family has had no insurance since March, no paycheck since December for me and March for my husband. I have no idea how we are going to pay our rent or utilities that are due. Our marriage is barely hanging on, my son is 4 and angry all the time and I'm crying daily. I know there are people out there that are worse off, but I'm sad and I'm scared. I can't leave my house, in fear I'll get sick and have no insurance. The utilities are stacking up and it was nice they put a hold on disconnects, but now I have double the bills because I didn't have the money before. How am I going to ever catch up from this?

Lack of part-time jobs (1540)

I'm a teacher and rely on part-time summer jobs to supplement my income to make ends meet. I applied to nearly 40 jobs in the area and only heard back from around ten of them. All ten were rejection emails. I've been able to find gig work here and there but it's been scarce. My wife and I both struggle from depression and anxiety and this pandemic has definitely exacerbated our experiences of both. On the flip side, the extra time at home has been really nice to spend with our young child. Additional income would go a long way in paying for on-going weekly counseling sessions. As a teacher, I'm also anxious about returning to school. I trust my school will put the necessary safety measures in place - but I'm also worried about the inevitable outbreak.

We are just surviving when six months ago we were thriving. I am a child care provider. (1542)
I am part of a small band of child care providers who live fairly close in proximity in WyCo and JoCo. We help each other out with food or extra supplies we come across them, share where to buy supplies at a good price and if we hear of grant or free training opportunities. I personally have shared extra food with a Wyco provider who literally lives on county line and cannot get the help I am getting. Her income is under half what it was in February. Another provider has sewn me child size face masks for a good price. These were purchased with Hero grant money! Another provider shared Lysol spray and cleaning wipes she came across. We all are very appreciative of the grant money. It is helping some stock up in case supplies are absent again. Others have had to use some of the money to pay utilities (as wages). My income is down by 1/3. I am able to pay bills, but with extremely careful budget planning. I count myself blessed.

Financial Hardship (1543)

I am the sole wage earner for a family of 3. I am a bar a restaurant manager. I have been returned to active status at my job, however I only work 5 - 15 hours in a 2 week period. My benefit cost is 51% of my pay check when I work 80 hours in a 2 week pay period.. I survived cancer last year and cannot be without insurance. Here is my quandary. If I work more than 16 hours I lose my unemployment benefits and if I work less than 21 hours a week I receive no paycheck as it is all taken for insurance this leaves me working with \$0 in take home pay. I have began looking for a new job and figure my family can survive if I have to take a 20% pay cut. The problem is I haven't been able to find anything at that pay rate. I have also considered continuing my education however I have to be available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to keep my current job. I have taken the Johns Hopkins Contact Tracing Course, my family could not survive on the starting wage. I am eager to get back to work full time. I'm just not sure what that is going to look like.

High Risk (1545)

I'm a substitute for the [SCHOOL] district. I am a single mother of a freshman and sixth grader. I also care for my mother who has COPD and cancer. I have a position lined up for the fall, it starts in one month and I'm stuck with \$200 a week from unemployment until then. I have no idea what it's going to look like our training on any of the digital platforms they are using. I'm terrified of going back to the classroom and have an autoimmune disease. In the past weeks I lost my unemployment stimulus and food stamps. I've never been more scared for finances and illness before. It's made my entire house anxious.

Loss of Toe (1570)

Make sure to take care of yourself. I have been unable to work due to recent amputation of my toe. Which has taken me out of work for at least a month. Some of the small things you don't think about start to affect your life. When you save for the big things you forget about the small ones. I have to worry about renting a wheel chair to now buying insulin cause I found out I was a diabetic, but as much as I try and stay positive something brings me down. When I haven't been able to work I feel like I can't provide or help. Now doctor bills start to pile up among others. So my only words I can share is please take care of yourself in these times.

My friend was sleeping in her car (1573)

A friend of mine was asked to move out of the town home she had been renting in Johnson County for 3.5 years, because the landlord lost his job due to covid and needed to move back into that property. He offered a full month's rent returned if she could move quickly. Having friends and family she put her belongings in storage. Her hours had already been cut at work and she was spending significant time taking care of her mother who lived in a local retirement community in the independent living wing. Her job ultimately was eliminated and she moved to a friends place in Jefferson City while looking for a new job and place to live. During this transition her relationships with her mom, sister, and children deteriorated for reasons that happen in the middle of a crisis plus pandemic. My friend obtained a job at a local big box store back in Johnson County and stayed with her son a night before he moved in with friends also in response to losses due to the pandemic. When i finally caught up with her and pulled the story of the last couple months out of her i figured out she was sleeping at night in her car before going to work. She is now staying with me for 1 month while she attempts to find an apartment she can afford. I am limited to one month for many reasons, one of which is that my mother will be coming to stay with me until the pandemic is in control.

Counting Slices of Bread (1700)

We'd just moved back to the midwest from California. Daddy and Mom were struggling to reinvent their lives with us four kids. Our experience there wasn't good. I don't think we were prepared for how different and demanding life would be there. Now, we were back close to family, and voices sounded familiar. Daddy was still looking for work, and Mom was temping. Money has always been tight, but now things were different. Our parents didn't laugh as much, there weren't new shoes and clothes, and the fridge was more empty than full, more of the time. We never went hungry, but for a long time - years it seemed, we measured and counted everything. A gallon of milk should endure for x servings and meals. A loaf of bread should last x days if the slices were correctly divided among us six. Everything: boxes of cereal, pats of margarine, packages of cheap frozen meats, all purchased with maximum duration in mind. I remember sitting in the back seat of the car, outside of Grandma's, one night. She was at the passenger side window, leaning in to talk to mom, who was crying and saying 'I just don't know how we are gonna feed the kids this week.' I figured out that Daddy was inside asking her husband to borrow money.

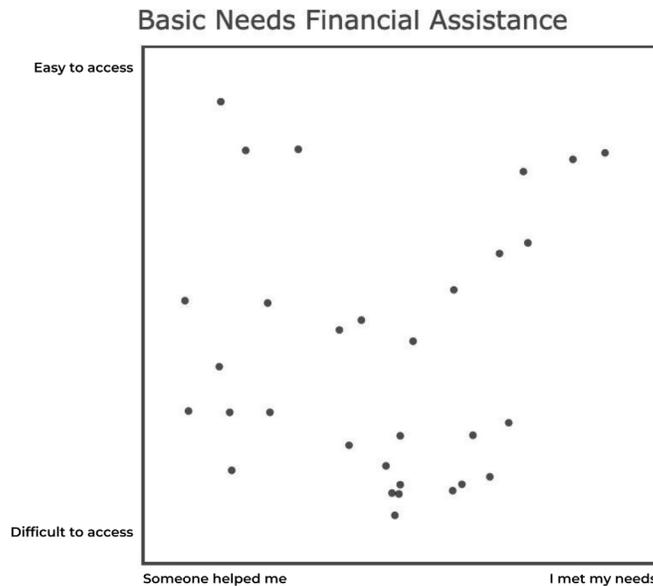
Why am I essential? (342)

A friend of mine was extremely stressed out when everything began shutting down because his job was deemed essential. He has a child at home with a compromised immune system, so going to work meant he could be opening up his family to risk. However, because carwashes were deemed essential during the shutdown, he was obligated to go to work as the main breadwinner in his family. He was desperate, confused, and upset. While he still decided to work, the risk brought him unnecessary stress.

Strike Team Six Business Stabilization

Thinking about the experience you shared, how did, and how well could, the family meet the basic need of financial assistance?

(Filtered to show stories from people who indicated they struggled with unemployment/financial problems)



Essentially Broke (1655)

As a grocery employee working full-time during the Covid-19 pandemic, let me just say: THIS SUCKS. My friends and coworkers, we come to work every day with kindness in our hearts and it is being trampled out of us. Anti-maskers are running rampant in our community. Along with endangering everyone's health, they are affecting morale and our mental health at unprecedented rates. Hi! Welcome to our store today! Could you please pull your mask up over your nose? NO! I HAVE RIGHTS/A MEDICAL CONDITION/NO EMPATHY FOR OTHER HUMANS! I Do NOT understand why empathy is something that some of us have and some of us don't. There are people, real people with families who absolutely HAVE to work in a high risk job right now. I shouldn't have to fear for my life because Danny Trumpster wants to pretend he's being oppressed and make a statement about rights. What about MY right to come to work without wondering if today is finally the day I catch it? If today is the day I start showing symptoms? If today marks the last day I can live my normal life? If I'll die alone in a hospital room hooked up to a ventilator in a few weeks. My company, along with many others, is offering monthly essential bonuses, but they amount to about \$100/month. We are being forced to risk our lives every day so that we can pay rent to prevent being evicted, and all we get is our hourly pay, plus maybe \$25/week. We need to do better. We are living in a pandemic, wondering if we will die in a few weeks. We shouldn't have to worry about being evicted, the rising prices of groceries, the overloaded hospitals. It's hard enough wondering if today is the day I catch Covid-19, but what's worse is wondering if today is the day it all falls apart. If today is the day I lose my home, my car, and my sanity. Today may be the day for me and my family. What about yours?

Me and my brother graduation at the lake :) (585)

My brother and I are both graduates of 2020, but of course lost our walk and celebration. Instead, my family took the party to the lake.

Coping with Kidney Cancer and the impacts COVID and being a S-corp (1566)

Our troubles started last year. I was diagnosed with Kidney Cancer at the end of last year. Unfortunately we work for ourselves and because of complications, I ended up in the hospital for over 30 days and was not able to return to work for an additional 60 days as I was receiving dialysis. Because of this our income was decreased during that time frame. We were in Bankruptcy and because I couldn't afford the Bankruptcy payments, our Bankruptcy was dismissed. Fortunately I was able to come off dialysis before the end of the year. I was left with a lot of medical bills and open items from Bankruptcy. Our business usually picks up in January, which it did and it looked like things were getting back on track. Then COVID hit and our business suffered as it is tied to elective medical procedures. Now in July of this year, the companies we work with for the medical procedures have tightened their guidelines and even though our number are similar to 2019, we are seeing 40% less being approved and in revenues. We took on side jobs to have income coming in, but it could have potentially exposed us to COVID. We tried applying for the PPP, but were denied because we are an S-Corporation and get paid through passive income and not directly with Payroll. We also tried to apply for other EIDL loans, but because of the bankruptcy my credit score hadn't recovered and we did not qualify. We try to keep a positive outlook and try look for opportunities, which we have tried diversifying into other opportunities.

Essential, but not deserving. (47)

Childcare is essential. I am essential. Without my love of children, compassion and willingness to teach, people, such as the teachers and nurses I care for, would not have creditable, affordable, daily childcare. When my hemoglobin dropped to 3.83 and I had torn my diaphragm while doing my job, I had no recourse but to close my business and relocate my childcare for 2 months. I had no insurance, no disability income, no healthcare options and no income. The recovery was HARD. I was told to not go back to work for 3 months after life saving surgery and blood transfusions. However, my husbands insurance didn't cover much (thank you national healthcare for erasing our benefits) so after 4 weeks I reopened - purely for the money. I was lucky. Everyone came back. But the bills. Oh my goodness the medical bills! My two very young daughters paid the price. They had NOTHING for 3 years while we struggled to pay off the mounting medical bills. My daycare families brought us food. Meals. Treats. Used clothing and some paid me extra knowing we couldn't make it. They were my lifeline. Where are my benefits? My health insurance? My LTD/STD? Life, Dental? Why is it so EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE and impossible for an honest, caring and dedicated self employed person to obtain ANY kind of help. A secondary insurance, supported by regular monthly payments from childcare workers throughout the country, would have greatly helped us. It has been about 12 years now. I never healed correctly because I needed to go back to work for the money since I didn't have benefits and the only way to pay off the bills was to take out a mortgage against our paid off home...with proof of my current wages. Americans can't have children and work without childcare providers, we ARE essential, and yet we are treated far less fair than immigrant workers. Thank you for reading my story.

I own rental property. Several of my tenants have lost their jobs and can't pay rent. The income I get from my rental property is the only income I have for my home to support me and my son. When tenants cannot pay I struggle to pay bills. (1515)

I own rental properties. I am a single mom. The people who rent for me are struggling to pay rent. If

rent isn't paid I cannot pay the mortgage on the home. If rent isn't paid I struggle to pay bills. If rent isn't paid I struggle to provide food for my family. If rent isn't paid what am I supposed to do? Do I just let people live in my house for free? Do I just get deeper in debt? There's no way to improve the situation.

homess (1518)

This is the worst time ever for me and my family. We are about to be put out of our home with nowhere to go during a time like this and winter is approaching. My no payment of rent was due to this pandemic and out of my control and the Gov did a very poor job of not looking out for ppl and it's just not right. I believe people in my situation should be allowed more time to restore our lives and get things back on track. I did not receive a stimulus check and I just recently found out about unemployment in June when I received my eviction. This is very unfair and really could have been handled better we can barely afford to grocery shop. During a time like this it should be more ways to handle things like this not just for me but for others as well so I hope you all can come up with something that helps me and others in my situation as well

Cautiously Hopeful With A Sprinkling Of The Unknown (659)

What is hurting is that my income has dropped between 30% and 40%. I have lost two children directly to choosing to close down for six weeks due to lack of PPE and cleaning supplies. I've had another family prompted to seek preschool sooner than they would have had I not closed down. I have gained one new infant family and have one temporary spot filled for the summer by a schoolager. I waffled between how much less stressful it is to have less children during the week but faced with the knowledge that I am running at a deficit. I had to use most of my stimulus check to pay June's mortgage. I strongly suspect I will be using the last stimulus check for whatever month it arrives? I am squirreling away most of my income to keep current on the mortgage. The rest is going mostly for food. This means I will probably fall behind on the rest of my bills? What has helped is that I received a EIDL. What has hurt is that there are so many unknowns on how to make it 100% forgivable so I've put it in my do-not-touch savings account until I file my 2020 taxes next year. If I have to pay it all back, at least I will only have to come up with the interest instead of \$1K plus interest. I file a Schedule E, which made me ineligible for a PPP so, that hurt. What helped a couple of weeks ago was that I participated in a Harvester's drive through food distribution. What has helped is that I am a Hero Grant recipient. What has hurt is that, although I applied and was approved in April. I won't get my funds until the end of June. I am hoping to fill my open spots with safer essential workers (educators, office workers who can remote work) so that they can utilize me but are not having to work in public should we have to hunker down once again.

Perspective on the 2nd Recession of my Adult Years (350)

When the 2008 recession hit, my husband and I were early in our marriage. The way that financial crisis hit, we had some really scary times and questioned how we would make it work. There were so many times in which we had more month than money. We cut expenses, set goals, and just worked hard to get through. We always had a place to live and kept food on the table. It took us 10 years to accomplish the goal to buy a house but we did it. In the meantime, I opened an in home business which slowly but steadily has provided security for our family. Last fall, the business gave signs that it

was time to pull back for a while. I had been pushing the business forward and growing but between staffing and clientele changes, I pulled back. When the COVID-19 crisis hit in March, I didn't face the initial insecurities that many of my colleagues did. I certainly face uncertainty, but our needs have been met so far. In fact, we have continued to pay off the last of the remaining debt from the 1st recession in recent weeks.

We were cruising right along but can't seem to recover from the pandemic. (1524)

My wife and I are in our upper 30's and we share (4) children between us, one of which has special needs. We both went to college and continue to expand our education throughout our adult lives. We both work and live in Johnson County. We're not rich but we don't typically live paycheck to paycheck either; that is, until the pandemic. For both of us; our income, career, net worth and way of life were significantly affected during the recession in the late 2000's. We rebuilt our lives together which at the time seemed impossible without the support of one another. We were feeling pretty good about our life after years of recovery and decided to expand our family. About 2-1/2 years ago our new son was born with a rare genetic condition we didn't expect. Our lives again experienced a transitional phase as we worked through what became our new normal lifestyle. The opportunity to recover from this experience was brief and now we face yet another hardship we must work hard and smart to survive without significantly exposing our (4) young children to the trauma of a drastic change in their lifestyle. For my wife and I, our adult lives consist of half of our time on this earth of which half has been dedicated to recovering from unforeseen circumstances. We question whether our time spent with our children is positive enough to inspire them to pursue advanced education and work hard and smart to succeed in life. Like many families I presume, we're on the cusp of a new but not unfamiliar lifestyle focused solely on survival. We're thinking outside of the box when pursuing alternate means of income but opportunities just don't seem to be present. An option to connect my wife and I with opportunities where our marketable skills could be utilized to produce an income for ourselves and others would be greatly appreciated and beneficial for more families than just our own. We believe there is great strength in community and are looking for an opportunity to lead by example.

Extended Childcare Family (119)

I have always worked towards having close relationships with my daycare families! One of my newest families, has blown me away with their generosity! I have a single mom who is very concerned about getting sick. She lives with her mom, who is currently undergoing Chemotherapy. They have decided to shelter in place in order to keep their risk of getting sick lower. It's going to be quite awhile before they feel safe having the kiddo return to care. Each week we drop off a learning at home kit, as well as have a bedtime story session with all our kiddos who are at home to stay connected. This single mom, who is at home and trying to help her mother through cancer treatment has offered to help other families who are out of work cover their tuition. Not only to help the families but also to help me be able to stay open. Fortunately I've been able to make ends meet, but the incredible generosity has blown me away. As I worked my way through the awkward conversations with each family about paying for childcare, that they aren't using, I found that multiple families made the same offer! Imagine my surprise to find I have multiple families who are so incredibly selfless and giving, particularly during a time when things are tough!

One Essential Worker's Story (1674)

My Granddaughter's mother worked as a CNA in an assisted living facility with many Covid patients. She worked with Covid patients 6-7 days a week for nearly 3 months before she contracted Covid herself. She was hospitalized for about a week during the worst of her illness. She has been unable to work for 12 weeks now, but has only received pay for four of those weeks. She is fighting to have the other weeks covered through disability insurance, but her efforts have been futile so far. The insurance company says that the residual effects of the illness are not supported under their guidelines. Her employer did not provide the additional two weeks of guaranteed pay covered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. She sees a cardiologist and pulmonologist now. They suspect that she has Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) and Costochondritis (inflammation of the chest wall). Many tests are scheduled. She hopes to go back to work in two weeks, but so far the lingering effects of Covid — chest pain, shortness of breath and headaches — have prevented her from returning to work. Without work, and without disability pay, my granddaughter's mother has trouble paying rent (they live in someone's basement), making car payments, and buying food for themselves. In an effort to protect my granddaughter from Covid and all the stressors she had to confront in surviving the disease, her mother decided to sign my granddaughter up for school in a purely virtual classroom setting this year. However, she is unsure how she will be able to provide adequate internet and computer technology in their rented space. These few months have been miserable for my granddaughter's family. Not only does her mother have to fight Covid and its after effects, she has to negotiate the convoluted systems of healthcare, insurance, and employment while being ill. The love of her daughter keeps her fighting for resolution of these issues so that they can get back to a normal life.

Suicide (1632)

During the pandemic, my daughter tried to commit suicide twice and was hospitalized twice. The second time I called 911 and OP police interrupted her hanging herself. They committed her and I kept my grandson while she was hospitalized. Even before the pandemic, she struggled, I think this just exacerbated it. The main thing that adds to this is financial stress. She is a single mother and every time she starts to see a light at the end of the tunnel she loses services and starts to feel incredible stress again. She works at Costco making 15.50 an hr and get about 24/32 hours per week. When her Johnson county counselor helped her with a budget, she has \$40 left for the month and this does not include the \$8,000 copay she racked up from her recent hospital stays, any form of entertainment, eating out, toys/fun activities for her son AT ALL. She is constantly filling out paperwork because she loses her son's Kancare and food stamps on months she makes too much. She drives an old beat up car that constantly breaks down and if we don't pay to have it fixed, she can't buy food. The bar for qualifying for food assistance and healthcare for a single mother should be much lower. Further, there really should be something in place where a family should be food secure for a significant period (maybe 6 months to a year) before taking benefits away if they are within a certain threshold. Basically, unless someone has solidly moved up into a significantly higher income bracket that is permanent due to a raise or job change (vs getting more hours in a particular month) people should not abruptly lose services and support. This roller coaster of insecurity adds a ton of pressure and provides no safety net as people transition from poverty to security. When she told me she couldn't do it anymore, before she hung herself (which gratefully was stopped by OP PD) she was sobbing that she just couldn't get

ahead. That every time she made a little progress, got a little bigger paycheck, she felt like she got kicked. She would lose food stamps, her sons health care, child care, the car breaks, etc. So she felt like she was in this perpetual cycle of progress/failure—all over about \$300 a month in food assistance and healthcare for her son. My husband and I try to help as much as we can but the financial burden of paying for our grandsons childcare and/or helping our daughter with medical and auto bills is taking it's toll on us too. There has to be help more help for mental illness, single mothers, and those that are on the cusp of making it out of poverty but need a little help and stability. Thank you

Unemployment Hiccups (500)

For the last few months unemployment was very easy to access. within the last few weeks it has been difficult. My claim was suddenly denied and it took me several days to be able to reach anyone.

The struggle (1530)

COVID-19 is no joke. This year I started the year planning on buying my first house with my wife and I. Unfortunately after everything was going well, covid happens. In the beginning, I thought it was a joke, but its a for real deal. This is no joke. Covid has thrown me financially and stress to max levels. I have 3 kids and im really trying to hold it down as a dad. Me and my wife are stressed. I have been without work since March. I barley am getting jobs here and there to try to make ends. My wife has been working but with cut hours. Its a struggle. Then I catch covid. And 2 weeks after my wife catches it. Just like that another month and a half with no work. I don't know what the city can do but I write this out of desperation. I love my family and im trying my best here. And I ask the people, pray, pray for assistance and help. We must stay strong. Our kids depend on it. Thank you

Homelessness (1695)

Just last week me and my kids became homeless because I could not afford my apartment anymore. It is really hard on us especially my kids because my 5 year old keeps asking me if she is gonna have a birthday and Christmas this year. Her birthday is a week before Christmas and she thinks she is not gonna have either this year. That makes me sad that she feels that way.

Already struggling, then the pandemic hit (1609)

Several families I know were already struggling financially, barely keeping their heads above water, and then the pandemic hit. Additional stress of job insecurity, balancing the need to care for children no longer attending school in person, and trying to keep themselves and families healthy only added to their struggle. The adults are essential workers, unable to work from home, requiring them to put themselves at risk to keep the community moving, but risking their own and their family's health daily. As essential workers at constant risk of exposure, they had to further quarantine themselves from family members outside the home to try and keep them safe. These workers didn't get additional hazard pay or compensation, and had to constantly worry that if they contracted COVID-19, they would be unable to work and provide for their families. The bills don't stop just because someone got sick.

When will it stop? (1676)

I had been sick and finally went to the hospital. I was diagnosed with an auto immune disorder,

that has debilitated me. I am unable to work and unable to collect unemployment, so I have no income and have lost my insurance. My husband then loses his job due to Covid-19, then it takes the unemployment check if \$320 weekly almost 10 weeks to FINALLY come in. We cashed out his retirement, pulled our son from daycare and cut back all expenses. Our family has had no insurance since March, no paycheck since December for me and March for my husband. I have no idea how we are going to pay our rent or utilities that are due. Our marriage is barely hanging on, my son is 4 and angry all the time and I'm crying daily. I know there are people out there that are worse off, but I'm sad and I'm scared. I can't leave my house, in fear I'll get sick and have no insurance. The utilities are stacking up and it was nice they put a hold on disconnects, but now I have double the bills because I didn't have the money before. How am I going to ever catch up from this?

Lack of part-time jobs (1540)

I'm a teacher and rely on part-time summer jobs to supplement my income to make ends meet. I applied to nearly 40 jobs in the area and only heard back from around ten of them. All ten were rejection emails. I've been able to find gig work here and there but it's been scarce. My wife and I both struggle from depression and anxiety and this pandemic has definitely exacerbated our experiences of both. On the flip side, the extra time at home has been really nice to spend with our young child. Additional income would go a long way in paying for on-going weekly counseling sessions. As a teacher, I'm also anxious about returning to school. I trust my school will put the necessary safety measures in place - but I'm also worried about the inevitable outbreak.

We are just surviving when six months ago we were thriving. I am a child care provider. (1542)

I am part of a small band of child care providers who live fairly close in proximity in WyCo and JoCo. We help each other out with food or extra supplies we come across them, share where to buy supplies at a good price and if we hear of grant or free training opportunities. I personally have shared extra food with a Wyco provider who literally lives on county line and cannot get the help I am getting. Her income is under half what it was in February. Another provider has sewn me child size face masks for a good price. These were purchased with Hero grant money! Another provider shared Lysol spray and cleaning wipes she came across. We all are very appreciative of the grant money. It is helping some stock up in case supplies are absent again. Others have had to use some of the money to pay utilities (as wages). My income is down by 1/3. I am able to pay bills, but with extremely careful budget planning. I count myself blessed.

COVID19 There is nothing in the Kansas handbook that prepare us for this. (37)

I am a Home Licensed Daycare. In two weeks our lives changed forever. School was cancelled. I just told my child it was so the virus COVID 19 wouldn't spread. But days later when my husband lost his job of 15 years. Just like that they paid him for what he worked. That was it. No vacation pay or anything. What about Health Insurance. We now have no Coverage. Then the kids started to leave one by one. I am still open. Thankful for the few day care kids I have left. I knew I had enough to cover April's bills. But what about May and so on? I can't even buy the everyday stuff I use for my day care. Like clorox wipes, Hand soap, paper towels and toilet paper. As a day care provider our job is hard. Not everyone can do this job. Give the care of a child. Making sure every child gets one on one care. Now you have the added stress of COVID19. Stay home but go out side. We go on a walk. Then cleans everyone's shoes with clorox. Wash hands before we go out side, wash them when we come inside.

Check temperature 3 times a day. This COVID19 is silent. You don't know who has it or where it's going to hit next. Almost like a tornado. The weather person will say possible storm. Then when the storm hits. This house will be hit but the one next door will not. On top of all this I get up. I smile hear the birds. The sound of spring. I don't watch the news in the morning be for the kids arrive because If I did I think I would start to cry. Kids know when you are stressed. I know they can feel the stress from home. They don't need to feel my stress too. Art is a big help for the kids. Now our new norm is wash hands all day long. I know the healthcare need help too. My sister had to buy her own gloves and hat for work. She will soon be getting her N95 mask. Only One until this COVID19 is over. She said if they get sick then they will give her 50% pay. There is no Hazard Pay! Really but other companies are getting Hazard Pay. They are not on the front line like the health care workers. What about the day care's who have the kids of health care workers that are starting and ending with longer hours. Because parents are working longer hours. It's a Hazard having the kids come in and leave every day. Please Help!