



# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CARES Act Reimbursement & Direct Aid Approved in Wyandotte County**

*County Commissioners approve funding recommendations provided by CARES Act Working Group*

The Wyandotte County Board of Commissioners gathered for a Special Meeting on August 10 at 7:00 PM and approved the allocation of over \$37 million in CARES Act funding intended to support the community response to the COVID-19 pandemic across public health, human services, education, and local government. The funding provides over \$9 million in direct aid to local organizations that are assisting in the COVID response, including assistance for rent, utilities, and food. The funding was allocated using a data-informed scoring method. Applications from local organizations and institutions were received through an open submission portal on the Unified Government's website.

The Commission adopted three resolutions related to the CARES Act Working Group's direct aid and reimbursement recommendations:

1. Adoption of the funding request for the Unified Government's Public Health Department, which serves Wyandotte County
2. Adoption of the funding requests specific to the Unified Government, Bonner Springs, and Edwardsville
3. Adoption of the funding allocations for non-profit organizations and educational entities

The approval of the CARES Act Working Group's funding recommendations marks a major step in the disbursement of \$37,330,934 in funding received from the State of Kansas through the CARES Act for combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The allocation of this CARES Act funding is a step towards addressing the effects of COVID-19 on our community, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the CARES Act Working group for their recent hard work and efforts," said Mayor/CEO David Alvey. "They produced a funding allocation structure that will benefit residents, help our cities, increase our Public Health Department's ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide meaningful support to non-profits and small businesses in Wyandotte County. Although these funds will not make our community whole in the pandemic's wake, they will provide much-needed relief for many."

To view a recording of the August 10 Special Meeting, visit [www.wycokck.org/CARES](http://www.wycokck.org/CARES) and click on the "Videos" tab.

The CARES Act Working group was established by Mayor/CEO David Alvey and tasked with distributing funds to local entities in a clear and transparent manner.

The Committee's funding priorities were to reimburse the Unified Government, Bonner Springs, and Edwardsville for allowable expenses; strengthen the ability for robust public health responses; improve the adaptability of taxing entities; grow requisite health & human services and build community resiliency. Funds may not be used to replace lost revenue, supplant budgeted expenses, or perform capital construction. Committee members are:

- Commissioner Angela Markley, Chair
- Commissioner Melissa Bynum
- Commissioner Jane Philbrook
- Alan Howze, Unified Government, Assistant County Administrator
- Maureen Mahoney, Mayor/CEO David Alvey's Office, Chief of Staff
- Juliann Van Liew, Unified Government, Public Health Department Director
- Kathleen VonAchen, Unified Government, Chief Financial Officer
- Michael Webb, City of Edwardsville, City Manager
- Matthew Zayas, City of Bonner Springs, Assistant to the City Manager

"The amount of work this Committee put in over a short period of time is impressive. Members worked long hours to review every application and formulate the best response for our community. It has really been a marathon where the course that we were running seemed to change daily. This committee met almost daily for several weeks and several hours in each of those meetings," said Commissioner Angela Markley, CARES Act Committee Chair. "In addition, they did hours and hours of homework as every committee member reviewed every application and scored it on a scoring matrix. For some of us on the Committee, our work is nearly done, but I will recognize that for staff that the fun is just beginning as they will continue to track and monitor the allocations that we approved."

The CARES Act Committee met regularly in open forums beginning July 21. To view these meetings, visit [wycokck.org/CARES](http://wycokck.org/CARES) and click the "Videos" tab.

The \$37,330,934 of approved CARES Act funding is allocated across three focus areas:

1. **Public Health** – \$13,026,125
2. **Cities/County** – \$18,004,781
3. **Education & Non-profit** – \$6,300,028

The funding allocations for each group were approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 30, 2020. Specific funding allocations were then made within each of the groups and approved by the Board of County Commissioners on August 10. The CARES Act Committee reviewed each application individually, and then ranked those applications according to how well their proposals or programs met funding priorities. Eighty-three applications were ultimately funded across the three groups. Allocations approved by the Board of County Commissioners must now be submitted to the State of Kansas' Recovery Office for final approval before funds can be released.

To view or download a line-by-line allocation for the Education & Non-Profit groups, visit [www.wycokck.org/CARES](http://www.wycokck.org/CARES) and click the "News" Tab.

To ensure continued transparency and accountability, the CARES Act Planning Team will provide periodic reports to the Unified Government's Administration and Human Services Standing Committee.

To learn more about the CARES Act in Wyandotte County, visit [www.wycokck.org/CARES](http://www.wycokck.org/CARES).

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