



CITY OF TOPEKA

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For Immediate Release

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COVID-19 Basic Needs Assistance Program

TOPEKA, KS – Funding is still available for the COVID-19 Basic Needs Assistance Program. In 2020 the City of Topeka Housing Services Division created COVID-19 assistance programs to help with basic needs for people who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. These federal dollars have been and continue to be a great resource to the individuals struggling in Topeka. The City of Topeka has helped 232 individuals since the program started.

Applications for the Basic Needs Assistance Program were accepted beginning on December 1st, 2020. Thirty-one percent of the funds have been committed and expensed in two months. 232 applications have been approved so far with \$629,533 in funds having been paid. 46% of the funds have been committed and expensed for an average of \$2,713 per approved household.

“The need for rent and utility assistance has never been so needed in our community. With the eviction moratorium ending soon, we need to focus on those most vulnerable people negatively affected by COVID” said Corrie Wright, Division Director of Housing Services.

The Operation COVID-19 Basic Needs Assistance Program is a foreclosure/eviction mitigation and utility prevention shut-off program created by the City of Topeka and administered by the Community Resources Council. \$1.5 million in CARES Act funds are available to qualified applicants to help cover expenses and help keep people housed and with utilities. The program is by appointment only and applicants must be city residents, have COVID related outstanding bills after March 2020 and make no more than 100% of area median income. Appointments can be scheduled over the phone from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling (785) 233-1365. If the line is busy, leave your name and phone number and CRC staff will call back to schedule an appointment.

More information on the COVID assistance programs can be found on the City of Topeka website.
<https://www.topeka.org/neighborhoodrelations/housing-services/covid-assistance-programs/>

You can view the full report on the COVID Assistance Programs here: <https://cot-wp-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/planning/HSRptJan2021.pdf>