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CARES Act Grant Administration Follow Up Report

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The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package delivers on the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19-19.

Harvey County received funding as a part of the CARES Act to address health and economic needs in our county, and those dollars were distributed through the State of Kansas' Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) task force. The SPARK task force issued funding in three phases; the first round focused on county governments, and the second and third phases addressed public and private entities. Harvey County was allocated a total of \$6,988,960.

Central Kansas Community Foundation and the Harvey County Commission entered a partnership to manage the grant application, review and award process for the final phase of the CARES Act distribution. CKCF was a logical collaborator because of their experience with grantmaking and their deep investment in relationships across the county. The availability of a solid software program and staff with expertise in the area streamlined the process which was on a tight timeline. Four Central Kansas Community Foundation staff and one contractual worker participated in the work on this initiative.

The Harvey County Commission appointed a seven-member Review Committee that evaluated applications after they passed through an initial screening process for completion and accuracy. Representation from county and city government, area school districts, and not-for-profits served on this committee to determine how the funds could best be used to make positive health impacts in our community with special attention to minority communities, business and industry, health and mental health. The team met several times to review grants and make funding recommendations to the County Commission for their final approval of the grants.

With the intention of accepting applications for funding from business, economic development, education, health, government, long-term care and not-for-profit entities, the process began with a needs survey to gain information on the impact of COVID-19 related expenses in our area. Following completion of the need's assessment, applications were developed by Central Kansas Community Foundation in collaboration with the administrative office of the County.

Organizations could submit one application per program area but could apply across multiple programs in which they meet the program criteria.

The decision was made to award reimbursement for prior COVID-19 related expenses and planned COVID-19 related expenditures gave organizations flexibility as well as encouragement for the anticipated needs surfacing over the final months of 2020.

Applications were grouped as follows:

Community Testing This funding category reflected the CARES committee’s top priority. Despite careful protocols, challenges in the supply chain and a rapidly changing testing environment. There were five organizations that submitted applications, and given the careful guidelines associated with conducting testing, this was a good representation for our County. The funds designated to this area totaled \$1,000,000 with \$615,782.23

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
Bethel College	\$28,957.23		\$28,957.23
Halstead Health/Rehab LLC		\$39,825.00	\$39,825.00
Kansas Christian Home		\$147,000.00	\$147,000.00
Kidron Bethel Retirement Inc.		\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Schowalter Villa	\$138,292.10	\$86,707.90	\$225,000.00
TOTAL AWARDED	\$167,249.33	\$448,532.90	\$615,782.23
		Allocated	\$1,000,000.00
		Difference	-\$384,217.77

Community Support This was the funding category for non-business entities that provide subsistence support for those in need or deemed at risk; eligible groups included not-for profits, churches or quasi-government organizations who have pandemic-related expenses tied to subsistence activities for populations at-risk or in need. Subsistence activities include, but are not limited to providing food assistance, basic consumables and rent/utility assistance programs for individuals or families in need or at-risk due to the economic strain. Five organizations, all located in Newton, submitted applications.

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
Dist. Council St. Vincent de Paul	\$2,814.00		\$2,814.00
New Jerusalem Ministries	\$7,082.13		\$7,082.13
Newton Meals on Wheels	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00
Newton Ministerial Alliance	\$12,377.89	\$3,277.35	\$15,655.24
Peace Connections	\$1,193.08	\$4,345.00	\$5,538.08
TOTAL	\$73,467.10	\$7,622.35	\$81,089.45
		Allocated	\$100,000.00

		Difference	-\$18,910.55

Long-Term Care These facilities in our county are experiencing an especially high level of cases and challenges. The funding guidelines in this category were broad, allowing for support with personal protective equipment, cleaning and hygiene supplies, information technology, improvements to support telework enhancements or online service delivery, small capital improvements that promote social distancing and mental health accessibility. There were five applicants in this category.

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
EmberHope, Inc.	\$9,502.76	\$7,177.24	16,680.00
Halstead Health/Rehab LLC	\$19,219.35	\$5,865.23	\$25,084.58
Kidron Bethel Retirement Inc.	\$26,546.96	\$48,453.04	75,000.00
Newton Presbyterian Manor		\$44,449.10	\$44,449.10
Schowalter Villa	\$21,666.47	\$53,333.53	75,000.00
TOTAL	76,935.54	\$159,278.14	\$236,213.68
		Allocated	\$300,000.00
		Difference	-\$63,786.32

Private Schools & Colleges The category had a smaller pool of applicants from which there was the potential for requests, but a broad age range of individuals served by these institutions ranging from K-12 to higher education. Four organizations applied for funding in this category.

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
Bethel College	\$15,672.42	\$52,112.00	\$67,784.42
Hesston College	\$78,782.85	\$8,874.22	\$87,657.07
Newton Bible Christian School	\$1,481.50		\$1,481.50
St. Mary's Catholic School	\$12,101.66	\$8,019.00	\$20,120.66
TOTAL	\$108,038.43	\$69,005.22	\$177,043.65
		Allocated	\$350,000.00
		Difference	-\$172,956.35

Public Health This board category was designated to include small businesses, not-for-profits, churches or quasi-governmental organization. With applications from 55 entities, one was deemed ineligible and three did not elect to pay their outstanding tax bill, upon which their award was contingent.

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
Acapulco	\$9,288.64		\$9,288.64
Agape Resource Center		\$1,962.41	\$1,962.41
American Legion Post #231	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Bella Veil			\$0.00
Bethel College Menn. Church	\$8,962.14	\$252.95	\$9,215.09
BM, LLC Sky Palace Inn	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Budde Enterprises, Inc.	\$9,596.41	\$403.59	\$10,000.00
Carol's Skin Care	\$917.84	\$2,267.70	\$3,185.54
CC Enterprises	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Central Kansas Comm. Found.	\$6,896.00		\$6,896.00
Dr. Thomas McCabe Dental	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
EmberHope, Inc.		\$1,511.83	\$1,511.83
Grace Hill Winery		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Harvey Co. Historical Society		\$9,355.59	\$9,355.59
Harvey Co. Extension Council	\$993.46	\$6,349.75	\$7,343.21
Heart to Heart		\$9,207.00	\$9,207.00
Hesston Community Child Care		\$9,509.04	\$9,509.04
Hesston Recreation/Comm. Ed.	\$1,409.59	\$792.49	\$2,202.08
Hesston United Method. Church	\$5,630.50	\$2,642.36	\$8,272.86
House of Glass	\$289.04	\$996.33	\$1,285.37
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$1,791.87	\$731.00	\$2,522.87
Jay's Place, LLC			\$0.00
Kauffman Museum/Bethel Col	\$5,263.54	\$1,389.09	\$6,652.63
Kidron Bethel Retirement	\$798.00	\$9,202.00	10,000.00
Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$5,184.93	\$799.80	\$5,984.73
Mackey and Sons, Inc.	\$9,159.18	\$840.82	\$10,000.00

Maegan Kater Day Care Home	\$810.97	\$159.28	\$970.25
Menn. Board of Missions (SVilla)	\$8,015.36	\$1,984.64	\$10,000.00
Mid-America Youth Basketball	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Midwest Health (Halst Health)	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Midwest Health Homestead of Halstead	\$5,030.39	\$4,969.61	10,000.00
NDKM, LLC (Hesston Prestige)	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Newton Area Chamber Comm.	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Newton Breadbasket, LLC	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Newton Christian Church	\$9,753.54		\$9,753.54
Newton Dental Studio	\$5,577.94		\$5,577.94
Newton EtCetera Shop, Inc.	\$1,399.93	\$540.50	\$1,940.43
Newton Hotel Investment, Inc (Holiday Inn Express)		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Newton Meals on Wheels	\$7,087.73	\$2,912.27	\$10,000.00
Newton Performing Arts Center	\$2,634.89		\$2,634.89
Newton Public Library	\$1,109.65	\$4,225.04	\$5,334.69
Newton Recreation Commission	\$8,878.92		\$8,878.92
Newton Rock & Mulch	\$347.18	\$3,091.16	\$3,438.34
Offender/Victim Ministries	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Patricia Meier DBA Mojo's	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Peace Connections		\$3,199.14	\$3,199.14
Platinum PDR Plus Paint	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00

S Gough DBA Burger Garage	\$6,802.62	\$1,494.32	\$8,296.94
Sedgwick Veterinary Clinic, Inc.	\$8,203.90		\$8,203.90
So Shine Foundation	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
The American Legion (Newton)	\$7,453.00	\$2,547.00	\$10,000.00
The Gathering Community Church	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
The Kansas Learning Center for Health	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
The Mirror, Inc.		\$3,949.26	\$3,949.26
The Nest @ 112	\$2,365.00	\$1,942.12	\$4,307.12
Warkentin House Association	\$3,091.00	\$137.39	\$3,228.39
TOTAL	\$294,743.16	\$109,365.48	\$404,108.64
		Allocated	\$732,234.76
		Difference	-\$328,126.12

Senior Center Sustainment This category had four of the five centers in Harvey County submit applications for support with expenses for personal protective equipment, cleaning and hygiene supplies, information technology, improvements to support telework enhancements or online service delivery, utilities and/or rent, small capital improvements that promote social distancing, and mental health accessibility. Additionally, the applicants could request funding for lost revenue incurred between 3/1/20 and 12/30/20. Four of the five senior centers in Harvey County applied for funding.

Organization	Reimbursement	Planned Expenditure	Total
Grand Central	\$22,326.85	\$7,673.15	\$30,000.00
Halstead Sixty Plus Club	\$9,183.24	\$710.57	\$9,893.81
Hesston Area Senior Center	\$18,641.69	\$570.00	\$19,211.69
Sedgwick Senior Center	\$12,161.01	\$1,145.73	\$13,306.74
TOTAL	\$62,312.79	\$10,099.45	\$72,412.24
		Allocated	\$90,000.00
		Difference	-\$17,587.76

SUMMARY

PROGRAM	AVAILABLE	AWARDED
Community Testing	\$1,000,000.00	\$615,782.23
Community Support	\$100,000.00	\$81,089.45
Long-Term Care	\$300,000.00	\$236,213.68
Private Schools & Colleges	\$350,000.00	\$177,043.65
Public Health Grant	\$732,234.76	\$404,108.64
Senior Centers	\$90,000.00	\$72,412.24
TOTAL	\$2,572,234.76	\$1,586,649.89

OBSERVATIONS

1. Application organizations broke out by key county communities as follows: Halstead-3, Hesston-6, Newton-65, North Newton-4, Sedgwick-2. Burrton and Walton did not have any submissions.
2. Many organizations did not have application requests that met even the maximum funding level allowed. This was surprisingly noted.
3. Also noteworthy there were many organizations who made requests that met the maximum funding available and further communicated that they had expenses for which they would still like to have the opportunity for support.
4. Documentation of expenditures for both Reimbursement and Planned Expenditures was a challenge for many organizations. Many did not have consistent accounting practices, easily accessed receipts, hard copies of rental agreements or other information that was needed for completing the process.
5. A lack of or unreliable technology for completion of the online process was a challenge for many organizations in the online format provided. CKCF offered support to these organizations as able. Overall, there were representatives from many organizations and businesses who shared frustrations during this process.
6. In the case of some of the not-for-profits, volunteer board members completed the process. These individuals are, in many instances, are not trained in how to support this type of role. There has been in many cases familiarity with submitting grant applications but the detailed accounting function of tracking and monitor purchases and receipts for the CARES Act was more intensive for these volunteers, it appeared.
7. Generally, the applicant organizations was a smaller pool than initially expected. In retrospect there is question if respondents were a true reflection the diversity of our County.
8. Applicants were willing to engage with CKCF staff and the office of the Harvey County Administrator's office throughout the process. CKCF interacted with some agencies providing support, guidance and examples numerous times throughout the process.

9. Central Kansas Community Foundation and Harvey County had what appears to be a unique partnership in the collaborative work to grant the CARES funds from our discussion with other communities across the state.

LEARNINGS TO TAKE FORWARD

Central Kansas Community Foundation (CKCF) is entering our fifth year as a member of a cohort group of community foundations in the Midwest who are committed to learning about the importance of our role in philanthropic response to disasters. While our primary emphasis has been on flood, fire and tornado, since March the conversations have been very focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. There are some several key learnings that CKCF gleaned from this experience.

1. Organizations inexperienced with applying for funding as well as those dealing with an extended time of stress will also be extremely taxed for rapid response if another event occurs like a “quick” disaster such as a tornado. This pandemic event has exhausted a lot of people and systems.
2. Advanced board training could be a consideration for the not-for-profit sector and could strengthen many not-for-profits and small businesses for readiness to apply for and manage resources in times of disaster.
3. Uncertainty of mission and duplication of services may be preventing some not-for-profits from building a solid donor base.
4. Too many organizations are very reliant on signature events for a significant portion of their budget with many cancelled in 2020 their bottom line has been significantly impacted.
5. Support for improved basic accounting practices could be helpful to both the not-for-profit and small business sector.
6. Overall, Harvey County continues to benefit from a high level of collaboration and trust. However, this does appear to exist in each of our communities or across all sectors as we reflect on the CARES Act grant administration.
7. Interactions with community foundation partners throughout the Midwest leads CKCF to anticipate there will be many opportunities to engage in post-COVID-19 conversations utilizing a trauma-informed perspective to develop long-term recovery plans in preparation for future challenges.
8. Our communities and residents can be resilient if proper support and tools provided. We look forward in our community role to be a part of rebuilding, restoring and responding as needs continue to unfold during and following this pandemic.