



United Community Services of Johnson County

2025 HUMAN SERVICE FUND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

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Human service programs are vital to the well-being, safety, and stability of Johnson County residents. United Community Services (UCS) commends city and County government leaders for recognizing the important role of local government in supporting human service programs. Together, Johnson County Government and 14 cities have budgeted \$473,140 for the **Human Service Fund** (HSF) in 2025.

This is a highly competitive grant year; HSF received twenty-one applications requesting a total of \$544,030 in funding. Two applicants are welcomed through the Small Grants Program, which provides grants of less than \$5,000 for new, growing, and/or grassroots organizations working to build their footprint and grant capacity.

The HSF offers local governments a cost-efficient, accountable mechanism to support an array of services that help residents of every city and township who are facing difficult circumstances. Funding is competitive and is awarded to local nonprofit agencies which provide vital programs that meet the needs of Johnson County residents who live with income at or near the federal poverty level. Priority is given to programs that address work support services, emergency aid and shelter, child/adult abuse, child welfare, and health care. (See Appendix B for all funding priorities.)

Agencies recommended for grants demonstrate positive outcomes and are working collaboratively with other organizations in the community. Funding recommendations represent the maximum HSF award for the calendar year(s), and UCS is not responsible for reductions in grant awards that may occur due to reduction in allocated funds by participating jurisdictions.

Thanks to your support, in 2023, programs receiving HSF grants provided over 175,000 units of service to more than 58,000 Johnson County residents. In 2023, “units of service” included medical and dental appointments, mental health supports, nights of safe housing, counseling and case management, emergency rental and utility assistance, food pantries, employment training and more. These programs benefit more than just the individual and their family; the entire community, including local government, benefits.

Without a strong human service infrastructure to address issues such as unemployment, lack of childcare and transportation, homelessness, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and untreated medical conditions, our community will experience higher crime rates and lower tax revenue, a decline in the standard of living, and weakened economic health.

Jurisdictions are asked to accept the funding recommendations by December 31, 2024.

2025 Human Service Fund Applicant History and Recommendations

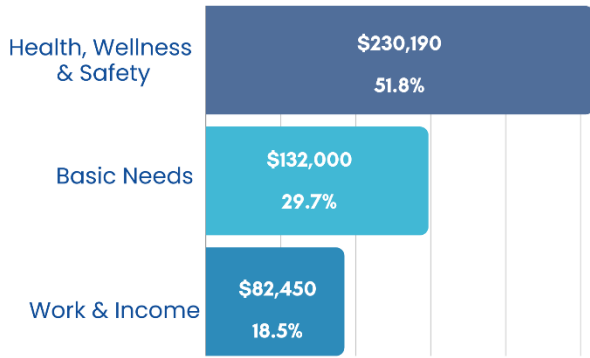
<i>Small</i> /HSF Grant Applicant	2023 Grant	2024 Grant	2025 Recommended	HSF Small Grant Program Description Small grants new beginning in 2022, grants in amounts <\$5,000
Community Center of Shawnee	\$4,900	\$4,950	\$4,950	Food pantry, clothing, and emergency financial assistance for shelter, fuel, utilities, healthcare, and transportation to support basic needs, healthcare access, and employment in Johnson County.
Fountain of Life	-	-	\$4,950	Healthy GenerAsians (HG): supports health equity for Asian American and Pacific Islander seniors who are Limited English Proficient by offering affordable counseling and free psychosocial education groups.
Gateway of Hope	\$4,999	\$4,950	No Request	Sisters of Hope/Hermanas en la Esperanza: behavioral healthcare accessible to low income, under/uninsured teen girls and women in Johnson County through free and reduced fee services with services provided in English and Spanish.
Starfish	-	\$3,000	No Request	A Life With Dignity: provides necessities including clothing, hygiene products, meals, rent and utility assistance, and health screenings to families at or below poverty in Johnson County.

Regular HSF Grant Applicant	2023 Grant	2024 Grant	2025 Recommended	HSF Regular Grant Program Description
CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte*	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$45,000	Child Advocacy: court-ordered intervention by trained volunteers for children determined by a judge to be a "Child in Need of Care" due to abuse or neglect, or as high concern for safety and placement.
Catholic Charities of NE Kansas*	\$68,500	\$67,000	\$67,000	Emergency assistance and supportive housing, including case management to meet basic needs of low-income families and help them work towards self-sufficiency.
Center of Grace (CoG)	-	\$7,500	\$7,500	Free preschool for English language learner children, supporting caregivers as they attend JCCC classes at COG. COG is a community hub serving low-income, diverse families through emergency assistance, food, clothing, hygiene items, and connection to employment.
East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation	-	-	\$0	Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance provides emergency rent and utility payments, car repairs, gas vouchers, holiday assistance, school supplies, prescription, dental and medical vouchers, and case management supports to low-income residents facing poverty.
El Centro*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Johnson County Family Services Center supports low-income, under/uninsured households through economic empowerment (emergency assistance, financial literacy, assistance filing taxes), and access to healthcare (health navigation and health promotion).
FosterAdopt Connect	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$9,740	Community Connections YouThrive (CCYT): supports youth aging out of foster care by assigning specialists who offer guidance and connect them to necessary resources for a smoother transition into adulthood.
Growing Futures EEC*	\$19,398	\$20,000	\$20,000	Wrap-around Care: provides scholarships for pre-kindergarten childcare fees for low-income families, supporting full-time education/employment of caregivers, provides family support, and results in strong kindergarten preparedness.
Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000	\$5,000	No Request	Neighborhood Revitalization: minor home repair, critical home repair, and home weatherization projects for low-income clients, who provide "sweat equity," to support home retention and safe and adequate housing.
Health Partnership Clinic*	\$49,500	\$49,500	\$49,500	Free and sliding-scale health care, dental care, and behavioral healthcare, through a medical home model, for uninsured and low-income Johnson County residents.
Hillcrest Ministries*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Transitional housing for youth, single adults, and families experiencing homelessness; case management, budget counseling, and supportive services.

HopeBuilders	-	\$5,000	\$5,000	Supports adequate housing and retention of affordable housing stock by providing accessibility modifications and home repair for older adults and individuals living with disabilities in Johnson County.
JoCo IHN	\$8,000	\$8,000	No Request	Case management, including shelter for single women and families with children experiencing homelessness.
Inclusion Connection	-	-	\$10,000	PawsAbilities: supports adults with development disabilities secure and sustain meaningful, competitive jobs, through personalized coaching and transportation support.
Ks Children's Service League*	\$20,340	\$20,000	\$20,000	Healthy Families: Home-based education and family support for new parents whose children are at-risk for child abuse and neglect.
Kansas Parents as Teachers	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Bright Futures: an in-home assistance program providing developmental, social-emotional, and health screenings for children and resources for families to support family health and reduce the need for foster care.
KidsTLC	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$25,000	Thriving Communities: Crisis counseling, parent education, and assistance navigating health and mental healthcare, housing, and resources to support positive family outcomes.
NCircle	\$19,696	\$23,790	\$30,000	Intensive, on-site 30 day cognitive and behavioral therapy, skills training, financial literacy, and job placement assistance for clients in Department of Corrections custody assessed as at high risk of recidivism and unprepared to obtain/maintain employment.
Pathway to Hope	\$4,999	\$5,000	\$10,000	Reclamation Clubhouse empowers adults diagnosed with serious mental illness to secure and maintain stable employment and self-sufficiency through job training, transportation, work tools and attire, and employment support.
SAFEHOME*	\$22,310	\$24,000	\$24,000	Case management services for clients of the domestic violence shelter, including emergency shelter, housing assistance, therapy, legal services, and advocacy.
Salvation Army Family Lodge*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Olathe Family Lodge: transitional housing for families in Johnson County experiencing homelessness, including related services and comprehensive case management utilizing strengths-based case management.
Sunflower House*	\$46,898	\$47,000	\$47,000	Personal safety, education and prevention programs for children and youth. Prevention and education programs for childcare professionals and caregivers, including mandated reporters, provided both online and in-person.
Subtotal Regular HSF	\$397,142	\$421,790	\$434,740	
Subtotal Small HSF	\$14,898	\$12,900	\$9,900	
Administration	\$27,000	\$28,500	\$28,500	Fee for administration of HSF.
Total	\$439,040	\$463,190	\$473,140	The 2024 federal poverty level for a family of three is \$25,820

*Applicants are returning grantees with established programs for which jurisdictions approved a two-year funding recommendation for 2024 and 2025 and the returning grantee met requirements of continued performance, timely semi-annual reporting, and affirmed that it wishes to continue substantially the same program at the same level of funding in calendar year 2025.

HSF Funding Recommendations by Program Type



The HSF funding priorities are determined every year to reflect the needs of the community. Components of the safety net investment that are supported by the HSF are: 1) basic needs, 2) work and income supports, and 3) health, wellness, and personal safety. Programs funded change year over year. The image on the left provides a visual illustration of how the funding was distributed in this cycle.

2025 HSF *Small Grants* Recommendations

HSF Small Grants were developed and launched in 2022 after consultation with contributing jurisdictions. HSF Small Grants are for amounts less than \$5,000 for agencies that are new, growing, and/or grassroots and working to build their footprint and grant capacity in Johnson County. Like regular HSF applicants, these nonprofits must meet Human Service Fund guidelines (*see* Appendix B), including funding priorities, eligibility criteria, and reporting requirements. A total of \$9,900 is recommended for these applicants in 2025.

Community Center of Shawnee

\$4,950

Recommendation

Funding is recommended to support transportation assistance and food pantry services to decrease food insecurity and increase self-sufficiency of Johnson County’s low-income residents as part of the emergency assistance program, which includes food, clothing, holiday meals, school supplies, and transportation assistance. Transportation is a recognized barrier to employment and healthcare access in Johnson County.

2025 Results Projected: Reduction of food insecurity through the provision of food; and increase in transportation supporting employment, housing and employment retention, and access to healthcare by serving monthly 30 Johnson County households.

Outcomes Achieved 2023: 8,105 individuals, including 3,132 Johnson County residents, were served in 2023. Food boxes were provided for 300 families during Thanksgiving and 325 families at Christmas. To assist with transportation needs, the Center provided \$30 gas gift cards to an average of 60 households per month and assistance to 6 households with car repairs. Transportation assistance supported households in maintaining employment, accessing healthcare, and securing shelter.

Fountain of Life Inc.

\$4,950

Recommendation

Funding is recommended for a new applicant, Fountain of Life, which provides affordable counseling, free psychosocial education groups, and family bonding experiences. All participants, caregivers and children, are English language learners. Target low to medium income Asian American and Pacific Islanders seniors (60+ years); serving a gap of affordable mental health care in a linguistic and culturally relevant manner.

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, Fountain of Life expects to serve 75 Johnson County residents through this program. Program results include increased mental health and wellness in Asian American and Pacific Islander families.

2025 HSF Regular Grants Recommendations

Note: applicants designated with an asterisk (*) are returning grantees with established programs for which jurisdictions approved a two-year funding recommendation for 2024 and 2025. The two-year funding recommendation is contingent on: continued agency performance and timely semi-annual reporting; jurisdiction funding commitment and review; and agency affirmation that it wishes to continue substantially the same program at the same level of funding from HSF in 2025.

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties*

\$ 45,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for the Child Advocacy Program, a court-ordered program that serves children from birth to age 18. Most children in the program are those whom a Juvenile Court Judge has determined to be a “Child in Need of Care” due to abuse or neglect by parent or caretaker (commonly placed in foster care). Children may also be referred by a Family Court Judge when child safety and placement are of great concern in a high conflict divorce or separation. In these cases, the judge determines if the child can reside in a safe placement without having to be placed in state custody (foster care). A trained CASA volunteer advocate regularly meets with the child and focuses on the child’s situation, including safety, mental health, education needs, etc. The volunteer also gathers information from the parents, foster parents, social workers, attorneys, and teachers, then with the CASA supervisor, identifies service needs. CASA submits a report to the judge which includes information about the child’s statements, behavior, and interaction with parents; these reports support judges’ critical decisions about where children should live and what services should be court-ordered.

2025 Results Projected: CASA anticipates serving 425 Johnson County children during 2025. 95% of children will be safe from additional findings of abuse or neglect. 98% of children will have a stable adult presence in their lives through their CASA volunteer, and 80% will graduate from high school.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 488 Johnson County children were served. The presence of a stable adult is a key factor in building resilience from a history of trauma. 98% of children served by CASA had the same CASA volunteer advocate throughout their court involvement. While assigned to a CASA advocate, 100% of children served did not have an additional affirmed or substantiated report of abuse to Kansas Department for Children and Families. Of the CASA-served youth eligible for graduation or working towards obtaining a GED, 100% were successful (graduated or awarded a GED). This percentage for academic milestones far exceeds the state average for children in foster care.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas*

\$67,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for the Emergency Assistance and Supportive Housing program which operates out of two locations in Johnson County. The program provides direct assistance and strengths-based case management, without regard to religious affiliation, to families living at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. Emergency Assistance services include those that meet residents’ basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as financial assistance with prescription medication and medical supplies, utilities, childcare, and transportation. The case management delivery model emphasizes practices to achieve self-sufficiency, including asset development/financial literacy, workforce development and job-seeking assistance, life skills, and referrals to other available community resources.

2025 Results Projected: The agency anticipates serving 17,950 Johnson County residents with assistance that includes food and/or financial support to maintain housing and utilities. Every client who receives financial assistance will maintain stable housing for 30 days. 80% of households receiving direct financial assistance will receive referrals to other services and 40% are assisted in accessing other public benefits like WIC, SNAP, Medicaid and more. 90% of households receiving direct financial services will demonstrate an increase in financial knowledge during case management meetings.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 21,339 Johnson County residents were served through 53,941 service encounters. The program far exceeded the anticipated number of clients served and units of service, increasing by 51% over 2022 levels. Direct financial assistance enabled 658 individuals to maintain safe housing for at least 30 days; and 887 individuals benefited from utility service assistance which enabled them to sustain utility services for 30 days. 98% of households receiving direct financial assistance completed a financial assessment with their case manager, and 76% increased their financial well-being and capability through program activities.

Center of Grace Funding is recommended for Center of Grace’s English Language Learner Preschool, which provides free preschool classes to children while their caregiver(s) are attending Johnson County Community College (JCCC) English and workforce classes at the Center of Grace campus. All participants, caregivers and children, are English language learners. 85% of families are at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level. This is the only JCCC location that offers an English language learner preschool. Center of Grace also serves as a community hub supporting low-income Johnson County families through emergency assistance, food, clothing, hygiene items, dental care, childcare and connection to employment.

\$7,500
Recommendation

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, Center of Grace expects to serve 98 Johnson County residents through this program. Program results include increased parental engagement in their child’s education and development, students will improve notably in their academic performance, and students will make substantial progress in language acquisition.

El Centro, Inc.* Second year funding is recommended for El Centro’s Johnson County Family Services Center located in Olathe where a set of safety-net services are provided to low-income and/or under/uninsured Johnson County individuals and families. Services promote self-sufficiency, well-being, and health. The Family Services Center provides economic empowerment supports through emergency assistance, financial literacy classes, assistance filing taxes; access to healthcare through health navigation and promotion, and support filing for benefits, like Medicaid, and policy education.

\$25,000
Recommendation

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, El Centro expects to serve 2,500 Johnson County residents at the Olathe office. Results include meeting clients’ basic needs (sustain housing and utility services, completion of financial classes), assisting clients with work and income supports (filing taxes, obtaining an Individual Tax Identification Number if needed) and clients leading healthier lives (successful access of community healthcare resources and increased knowledge of chronic disease prevention and healthy consumer behaviors).

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 2,298 unduplicated Johnson County residents were served through 3,357 service encounters. Clients' immediate basic needs were met: 75 households received utility assistance, and 74 households received rent assistance. 200 individuals completed financial coaching to support long-term financial stability. 102 people were assisted with Individual Tax Identification Number requests; 1,214 people were assisted in filing their taxes. 189 individuals were assisted with applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and received benefits; 512 enrolled in KanCare with assistance. 639 individuals were referred to a community healthcare resource. 152 individuals completed a class about eating healthy on a budget.

**FosterAdopt
Connect**

\$9,740
Recommendation

An increase of \$2,240 in funding, for a total of \$9,740, is recommended to support families participating in the Community Connections YouThrive (CCYT) program at FosterAdopt Connect. CCYT is designed to address the challenges faced by youth aging out of foster care. The program assigns specialists to provide guidance and connection to ensure that the individual transitions successfully into adulthood.

2025 Results Projected: In 2025, FosterAdopt anticipates serving 30 Johnson County residents through 859 hours of service. 90% of children during services will maintain placement stability, 90% of families will be offered access to direct services, and 80% of parents who complete initial, and post assessments will show improvement in parenting skills.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: In 2023, HSF funded a different program at FosterAdopt Connect – Fostering Prevention; 100% of Fostering Prevention children living with their parent/caregiver during the service period-maintained placement stability. 80% of parents who completed an initial and post (Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory) Assessment improved their parenting skills in one domain by an increase of at least 1 point.

**Growing Futures
Early Education
Center***

\$20,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for Growing Futures' Scholarship Assistance for the Wrap Around Care (WAC) Program. WAC complements the Head Start program, providing full-day care and education from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Families served by Growing Futures are living at or below federal poverty guidelines. The majority of Growing Futures families speak English as a second language, and half of families are single parent households. Through the HSF grant, childcare scholarships help low-income families experiencing financial hardships who are unable to pay their share of childcare fees and who are working or going to school for at least 30 hours per week. Scholarships allow for continuity of early childhood care and education while parents are working or attending school. Growing Futures also provides resources and support for the family to support self-sufficiency including connection to health, nutrition, social services, mental health services, parental education and parenting events. Affordable, quality childcare is an acute need in Johnson County.

2025 Results Projected: Through the extended WAC program, Growing Futures will provide over 4,700 hours of care for enrolled children, serving an estimated 120 Johnson County residents. Children will maintain daily attendance rates of 85%, supporting

caregivers in maintaining employment and/or education. Families will engage in family counseling and support with Growing Futures, resulting in 80% of families achieving at least one large family goal, based upon family determined strengths and needs. Despite the financial hardship of families, fewer than 10% of children will leave the program due to inability to pay tuition, ensuring that children obtain a high quality HeadStart education.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: A total of 233 residents through 4,530 hours of care. Average 2023 attendance in WAC was 82.3%. Two children left the program because they were unable to pay; one was transferred to another Growing Futures program and only one left completely. 60% of the assisted families achieved steps toward the completion of a large family goal, such as maintaining employment, learning English, purchasing a first home, or working toward a GED.

**Health
Partnership
Clinic (HPC)***

\$49,500
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for primary and preventative medical care, which are provided at Health Partnership Clinic's office in Olathe, a pediatric clinic in Shawnee Mission, and a school-based clinic in Merriam. Funding helps to support a Nurse Practitioner providing care to uninsured patients at the Olathe Clinic. HPC's patients are primarily low-income, and the majority are uninsured or publicly insured. HPC is Johnson County's largest safety-net clinic and only Federally Qualified Health Center; it utilizes a medical home model which emphasizes prevention and health maintenance while providing a broad scope of services including care for patients with chronic diseases. HPC also provides dental and behavioral health services, and works in partnership with homeless shelters, delivering onsite health care services and case management. Specialty care is provided through a network of providers.

2025 Results Projected: Anticipated program results include access to a medical and dental home for low-income and uninsured residents; patients achieve better health outcomes and are satisfied with services they receive; and patients continue to utilize HPC as their health home. During 2025 HPC anticipates serving 9,394 Johnson County residents through 25,251 patient office visits or encounters.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 8,245 Johnson County residents were served through 19,575 patient office visits and/or clinical encounters. HPC quality indicators include 60.3% of diabetic patients have an A1c level of 9.0 or below and 51.3% of patients diagnosed with hypertension have blood pressure readings less than 140/90. HPC participates with the American Heart Association on a National Hypertension Collaborative and is planning to utilize self-monitoring blood pressure devices to assist patients in improving results. HPC's dental outreach program also provides a significant service to the community, providing screening services to 5,321 students during the 2022-2023 school year. Over 93% of patients surveyed indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall care they received as a patient.

Hillcrest Ministries of MidAmerica*
\$ 10,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for Hillcrest’s Transitional Housing – Homeless Youth and Families Program. Transitional housing for homeless youth, up to the age of 24, families with children, and single adults will be provided in seven apartments located in Johnson County. Hillcrest uses either the U.S. Housing and Urban Development or McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and clients are at or below federal poverty guidelines. The program provides housing and food, case management, budget counseling and connection to community services to address immediate and ongoing needs, such as medical, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse treatment, employment training, tutoring, and mentoring.

2025 Results Projected: 26 homeless children, youth, and adults will be provided transitional housing and achieve at least one goal from their assessment plan. Homeless youth will work toward achieving an education goal and adults will maintain or improve employment.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: In 2023, 17 residents of Johnson County were served through 1,213 nights of transitional housing. Five homeless youth and 8 homeless adults have received an individual assessment and have achieved at least one goal from their assessment plan. Three youth applied to and were accepted into college/trade school. Four adult households completed the program and moved on to permanent housing. Four youth have worked toward their educational goals. Over the course of the year, 10 adults have maintained employment, and 5 of 10 improved employment/received better wages. Over 12,000 volunteer hours were recorded, and \$30,000 in-kind donations were received in 2023.

HopeBuilders
\$5,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for HopeBuilders’ home repair/home accessibility program. HopeBuilders provides free home repair, modification, and home accessibility projects for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities. Projects include critical home repairs as well as home modifications that make it possible for individuals to remain in their homes safely. A recommendation of the 2021 Johnson County Community Housing Study, home modification and repair are an important component of maintaining existing housing stock in our region.

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, HopeBuilders expects to serve 30 residents. HopeBuilders will continue to expand its footprint in Johnson County, providing additional home safety, accessibility and mobility repairs and modifications to support low-income, older adults and individuals with disabilities remaining safely in their own homes. Clients will report a 75% reduction in falls and 100% will report feeling safer in their homes.

Inclusion Connections
\$10,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for a returning applicant, Inclusion Connection’s PawsAbilities Employment Program, that supports job coaching services to adults with developmental disabilities to achieve long-lasting paid employment. The program supports individuals in obtaining and maintaining competitive integrated employment through coaching, skill development and transportation.

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, Inclusion Connections expects to serve 220 Johnson County residents through this program. Program results include 85% reported improved quality of life and 90% job retention for jobholders in the program.

**Kansas Children’s
Service League
(KCSL)***

\$ 20,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for Healthy Families Johnson County, a child abuse prevention program which provides intensive home-based education and family support services to parents who are experiencing extreme stress and are “at-risk” for abuse and neglect. Eligibility is based upon risk factors, not income, however, most of the families are low-income. Participants receive routine at-home visits, case management, referrals to community resources and services, child development and parent education, and linkage to health care services. Parent engagement includes Parent Cafés, parent support groups, and a parent advisory group.

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, 250 Johnson County individuals are expected to be served. Anticipated outcomes include: 95% of families will not have any substantiated child abuse or neglect while in the program; 90% of children will be covered by health insurance; and 90% of children will have had a developmental screen in the last six months.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 150 Johnson County residents were served. 95% of families served by the program remained free from substantiated abuse and neglect while in the program. By the end of the year, 97% of children enrolled in the program for at least six months had health insurance and 91% of currently enrolled children had a developmental screening within the past 6 months, supporting immediate and long-term health and educational attainment of the children and families.

**Kansas Parents
as Teachers
Association
(KPATA)**

\$5,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for the Bright Futures program, an intensive in-home program providing developmental, social-emotional, and health screenings for children and supports and connection to resources for at-risk families referred by the Department of Children and Families. Regular home visits provide over 105 hours of in-home support per year per family. This program supports family health, helps alleviate poverty, and reduces child abuse and family displacement, reducing the burden on the foster care system, reducing costs to the legal system of increased Child in Need of Care cases, and resulting in better outcomes for families and children.

2025 Results Projected: During 2025, 28 Johnson County families (estimated 100 individuals) will be served through approximately 780 home visits. As a result of this intensive program, children will be able to maintain housing placement and families will complete home visits and have increased access to needed services. Parents will set and complete a goal within 120 days of enrollment.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 18 residents and 575 client visits. 75% of children enrolled in Bright Futures were screened on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) within 90 days of enrollment. 50% of families connected with one resource given by their Bright Futures parent educator within 60 days of enrollment. 31% of families set and achieved a goal within 120 days of program enrollment.

KidsTLC

\$25,000
Recommendation

A \$7,500 increase in funding, for a total of \$25,000, is recommended for KidsTLC Thriving Communities program which offers resource referral, parent support groups, and health care navigation to families who face behavioral and mental health issues with their children. The program serves families in the community and families who have children in one of KidsTLC’s programs. Eligibility is not based upon income, however, most of the families are low-income (75% of KidsTLC’s clients are on Medicaid). The program serves as the navigation arm for the agency, helping families find mental health/health care, housing, and community resources/support. It also provides education and support to Spanish-speaking families, partly through the Que Onda Familias program. The program receives referrals from the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative, health clinics, mental health centers, school districts and additional programs which serve youth and families who are at-risk for homelessness. The goal of Thriving Communities is to educate families about health issues, trauma, and raising healthy children; and, to provide health navigation resources so parents can raise healthy children.

2025 Results Projected: KidsTLC estimates serving 200 Johnson County residents through this program. Anticipated outcomes include: 90% of families will indicate they feel they have better access to community resources to assist their child and 90% will report satisfaction with services.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 282 residents served with 833 service encounters. 100% of new KidsTLC clients completed an intake/evaluation upon program admission. 84% of clients referred to outpatient medication or behavioral management treatment kept their initial appointment. 70% of clients referred to a health provider remained in services for 30 days. 51% of clients were receiving public assistance benefits by year end.

NCircle

\$30,000
Recommendation

A \$6,210 increase in funding, for a total of \$30,000, is recommended for NCircle’s Reentry Program. The new Reentry Program will require staff 5 days a week, onsite, at the Johnson County Adult Residential Center (ARC). The Reentry program is an intensive 30-day program with clients enrolling at regular intervals. The new program will require additional staff time to support a more intensive program, offered on-site at the ARC. This program is for individuals in custody who are scheduled for release and have been assessed as at high risk of recidivism and unprepared to obtain or maintain employment. The focus of the program is to break the cycle of incarceration and support clients in successful reintegration. Staffed by certified Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS) the program provides critical cognitive and behavioral therapy to support employment readiness as well as career track assessment, Essential Skills for Workplace Advancement (10 hours/week), job coaching (10 hours/week), Lifeskills (3 hours/week). Program participants will demonstrate an increased rate of employment, increased income, and decreased recidivism, as compared to nonparticipants, resulting in costs savings for local government and judicial system.

2025 Results Projected: NCircle plans to serve 50 Johnson County residents through this program. Participants will obtain employment prior to release from program, improve their job stability, exhibit improved career readiness skills, as indicated by the Employment Readiness Assessment (ERS), and reduce recidivism rates (tracked over three years) as compared to nonparticipants.

Outcomes Achieved in 2023: In 2023, HSF funded NCircle’s College of Trades program in which the organization served 90 individuals through 6,027 hours of training and case management. Clients who have participated in the College of Trades show marked improvement in Employment Readiness as indicated by pre/post Employment Readiness Scale assessment. Assessments indicate a 27% client improvement in career decision-making, a 29% increase in their ability to do a job search, and 20% increase in clients’ ability to effectively manage their career even when unexpected changes happen. In 2023, 64 Johnson County clients received a total of 107 trade certificates. 443 Johnson County residents took and passed tests for Northstar. Pre/Post Employment Readiness Scale indicates clients showed a 25% improvement over the pretest in Self Efficacy, a 25% improvement in understanding social networks and supports, and a 19% improvement in understanding what it takes to keep and maintain employment.

Pathway to Hope

\$10,000
Recommendation

A \$5,000 increase in funding, for a total of \$10,000, is recommended to support the Pathway to Hope’s Reclamation Clubhouse, the local chapter of a national program, which provides a day program and free education and employment training as well as work tools, clothing, and transportation for adults with a diagnosis of serious mental illness to support stable employment and self-sufficiency. HSF funding will support club members in addressing specific work and housing-related needs that serve as a barrier to employment and housing stability.

2025 Results Projected: In 2025, 170 Johnson County residents will be served by Pathway to Hope. Clients will report increased confidence in themselves and will show positive steps toward becoming employed, gaining knowledge towards work goals, maintaining employment, maintaining and/or improving housing. 10 members will seek RC help in communicating with their employers through Supported Employment. 20 members will interact with their employers without the need for support in communicating with their supervisor from Reclamation Clubhouse staff. 15 clubhouse members will receive housing support, including resources such as Pathway to Hope House, finding homes or apartments that promote environmental wellness such as that are clean and affordable, paying rent, deposits, utilities or moving expenses in financial hardships.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: In 2023, Pathway to Hope served 166 Johnson County residents through 11,590 hours of support. 15 clients are participating in supported or independent employment. 35 members participated in Reclamation Clubhouse’s work-ordered job simulation.

Safehome*

\$24,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended for Safehome’s shelter. Safehome provides shelter, case management, and other assistance to survivors of domestic violence living in its emergency shelter. Safehome clients are provided case management as well as therapy, legal services, hospital advocacy, and a hotline. Employment assistance and financial literacy will continue to be supported through case management services for shelter clients.

2025 Results Projected: Safehome will provide emergency shelter to 110 Johnson County residents for a total of 6,770 bed nights. 30% of residents will transition from Safehome to permanent housing, 60% for those at the shelter for at least 90 days and 60% will remain

housed 6 months after leaving. 50% of residents will report looking for work, 80% will work on a budget with a case manager, and 65% of those in the shelter for at least 4 weeks will make a plan to pay off past due bills. 85% of clients in the shelter for at least 2 weeks will know more about a plan for safety and domestic violence, and 50% in therapy for 4+ sessions will show an average decrease in symptoms by 5%.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 99 residents with 6,589 nights of shelter and service encounters. In 2023, 73% of Safehome clients reported looking for work while in shelter, 72% of clients in residence for at least four weeks working on a budget and 73% making a plan to pay off past due bills. 92% of clients in shelter reported knowing more ways to plan for their safety and 68% of clients who spent at least four sessions in therapy showed a decrease in symptoms, based on the PHQ-SADS Screener. 79% of clients who resided at Safehome for at least 90 days transitioned from the shelter and into permanent housing, with 33% of those clients reported remaining housed six months later.

**Salvation Army
Family Lodge –
Olathe***

\$25,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended to assist low and very-low-income homeless families in Johnson County with food and shelter at the Salvation Army Family Lodge in Olathe. In most cases, the Lodge provides up to 90 days of shelter (with a maximum stay of 180 days in some circumstances). Residents meet weekly with a case manager who utilizes the strengths-based case management model. Classes and/or skill building opportunities include parenting, financial literacy, maintaining employment, housing searches, daily living/life skills, developing a support system, and navigating mainstream resources.

2025 Results Projected: The Family Lodge anticipates serving 125 Johnson County residents in 2025. 90% of those who exit the program will enter permanent or transitional housing, 80% will increase income or decrease housing barrier debt. 10 children will receive financial assistance for daycare services as a work support for guardians and 5 families will receive financial assistance for past utility or eviction debt, employment barriers, car repairs, required shoes or uniforms and more.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: The Family Lodge provided 20,265 nights of shelter, meals, and hygiene kits to 88 Johnson County residents. 95% of families transitioned from the Family Lodge into permanent housing, and 96% of families increased their income and decreased their housing debt to support living in permanent housing. Ten children were served through childcare tuition supports.

**Sunflower
House***

\$47,000
Recommendation

Second year funding is recommended to support the Personal Safety Education Program, a child abuse prevention education program. Sunflower House provides child-based education and mandated reporter training free of charge; without grant support, these programs are not sustainable. The program includes: 1) *Happy Bear*, an interactive drama in Spanish and English for children ages four to seven enrolled in public and private early childhood centers and elementary schools; 2) *Think First and Stay Safe*, a curriculum for grades PreK-5 that reinforces personal and digital boundaries and emphasizes that bullying and sexual abuse are against the law; 3) *E-Safety*, provides middle school students with information about how to protect themselves from online predators, and includes safety topics such as sexting, bullying, child exploitation, and social networking; 4) *Keeping Kids*

Safe Online, a workshop for parents and caregivers provided in partnership with the FBI Cyber Crimes Unit; 5) *Stewards of Children*, a child sexual abuse prevention and education training for adults; 6) *Mandated Reporter Training* which teaches attendees to recognize signs of sexual abuse, correct procedures/laws for reporting, and how to handle a child's disclosure; and, 7) *Child Protection Project*, a presentation designed to raise the awareness of child sexual abuse among parents and caregivers, and give them tools needed to be proactive in protecting children.

2025 Results Projected: The agency anticipates reaching 29,000 Johnson County residents during 2025. Age-appropriate person safety/abuse education will be provided to at least 30,000 children; 8,000 adults will be educated on child abuse indicators and reporting abuse, 95% will indicate that they gained new information; youth and adults will increase their knowledge of online crimes against children, including online safety steps and proper reporting. 95% of adults indicate they will more closely monitor electronic communications of children in their care. Sunflower House has added Spanish-based mandated reporting and has developed an online training academy to provide mandated reporter training to local school districts and other agencies, such as Girl Scouts.

Outcomes achieved during 2023: 21,853 Johnson County residents were served. In 2023, the Sunflower House Education Team secured MOUs with several school districts for the 2023-24 school year and began a new partnership with the Girls Scouts of NE KS/NW MO. Throughout the year, 33,089 children received personal safety information. A total of 4,224 adults, including 1,174 within the special needs community, received child abuse prevention education, and 98% of participants indicated they gained new information from the training. 95% of adults who attended Keeping Kids Safe Online indicated they will more closely monitor the electronic communications of children in their care.

APPENDIX A: 2025 HSF PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS AND GRANT COMMITTEE

JURISDICTION	CONTRIBUTION
Johnson County	\$162,500
De Soto	\$3,030
Edgerton	\$5,000
Gardner	\$8,000
Leawood	\$19,000
Lenexa	\$23,500
Merriam	\$11,000
Mission	\$10,500
Olathe	\$77,000
Overland Park	\$99,000
Prairie Village	\$10,500
Roeland Park	\$6,360
Shawnee	\$33,000
Spring Hill	\$2,750
Westwood	\$2,000
Total from County Government & Cities	\$473,140
UCS Administration	\$28,500
Total Available to Allocate	\$444,640

2025 HUMAN SERVICE FUND GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

UCS Board Members

- Don Roberts, *Committee Chair*, City of Edgerton
- Rogeana Patterson-King, Kairos Global Legacy LLC
- Dr. Putul Allen, Children’s Mercy
- David Brown, Haystax
- Vicki Webster, GEHA Inc.
- Cheryl Bell, Church of the Resurrection

UCS Council of Advisors

- Pat Colloton

Community Volunteers

- Katie Werner, Black & Veatch
- Jennifer Pozzuolo, Garmin
- Josh Hill, Foulston Siefkin

Staff support: Erika García Reyes, UCS Director of Resource Allocation and Jackie Gildo, Special Projects Intern

APPENDIX B

2025 HUMAN SERVICE FUND GUIDELINES

The Human Service Fund is a competitive process that awards grants to nonprofit organizations for operating health and human service programs that promote self-sufficiency, well-being and/or personal safety of Johnson County residents who live with income at or near the federal poverty level. Funded programs provide pathways and opportunities for building a healthy community where every resident is empowered to reach their full potential. Components of the safety net investment that are supported by the HSF are: 1) basic needs, 2) work and income supports, and 3) health, wellness, and personal safety.

FUNDING PRIORITIES 2025

Health and human service programs funded by the Human Service Fund must:

- promote self-sufficiency, well-being and/or personal safety of Johnson County residents and fit within safety net investment components of basic needs, education/training, work, and income supports, or health.
- offer county-wide services or fill a gap which results in county-wide benefit.
- offer equal access to all clients and prospective clients who could benefit from the program.
- deliver measurable outcomes which benefit county residents and, in the long-term, benefit local governments by avoiding, deferring, or preventing costs that otherwise might be incurred by local government.

Priority is given to programs that:

- address emergency aid and shelter, adequate housing, child/adult abuse, child welfare, health and mental health, work support services such as transportation, childcare and early childhood development, and job training.
- serve individuals and/or families with income below or near the federal poverty level.
- demonstrate innovation and/or collaboration in program delivery.
- are consistent with an evidence-based program, best practices, or promising practices, or replicate a successful model.
- build the capacity of neighborhoods and local jurisdictions to support equity in the social determinants of health.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must deliver direct services to Johnson County residents, be recognized by the IRS under section §501(c)(3), provide health and human services programming as their primary mission, and be in good standing in Kansas or Missouri as a nonprofit corporation, i.e., may not be an entity of city or county government.
- Agency must provide most recent IRS form 990 and, if requesting \$5,000 or greater in HSF funds, an independent certified audit of the previous year's financial records, or, if total agency revenues were less than \$250,000, an independent review of financial statements prepared by a Certified Public Accountant. The audit or review must have been completed within nine (9) months of the close of the fiscal year. Upon request, the agency may need to provide additional financial information.
- The applicant complies with Agency Standards.

- Applicant affirms compliance with any applicable nondiscrimination ordinances and/or policies of the municipalities that provide resources to the Human Service Fund.
- Funded program must:
 - promote self-sufficiency, well-being and/or personal safety of Johnson County residents and fit within safety net investment components of basic needs, work and income supports, or health.
 - primarily serve Johnson County, Kansas residents who live with income at or near federal poverty level. However, programs that do not meet this criterion may still be eligible if the program addresses child/adult abuse, and/or leads to the prevention of poverty, and primarily serves Johnson County residents.
 - clearly define and measure outcomes for participants.
 - benefit local governments by avoiding, deferring, or preventing costs that otherwise might be incurred by local government.
 - offer county-wide services or fill a gap which results in county-wide benefit.
 - offer equal access to all clients and prospective clients who could benefit from the program.
- Only one HSF application may be submitted by an agency. Applications will not be accepted for both the HSF and Substance Use Continuum of Care Fund (SUF, managed by Drug and Alcoholism Council, a program of UCS) for the same program during the same funding cycle. However, applications may be submitted for both funds by the same agency or department for discrete programs during the same funding cycle. Criteria of discrete programs include, but are not limited to, programs for which expenses are recorded separately for purposes of functional accounting, programs that, if serving a population targeted by another program, serve a distinct need of that population, and/or employ distinct strategies and projected outcomes.
- Applications for substance abuse programs are not accepted and should be directed to the SUF.