

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2020**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 6:51 p.m., remotely via Zoom or by phone. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez and Bynum. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Melissa Sieben, Emerick Cross, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; James Bain, Assistant Counsel; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Response Team Leader; Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development; Juliann VanLiew, Director of Health Department; Stephanie Stauffer and Bianca Garcia, Healthy Communities Wyandotte.

Chairman Markley said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff, and the public are attending via Zoom as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, in-person public comment has been suspended unless otherwise required by law. The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments will be included in the record of the meeting.

Chairman Markley called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken, and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Markley said there are no revisions to tonight's agenda.

Approval of standing committee minutes from September 14, 2020. **On motion of Commissioner Bynum, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

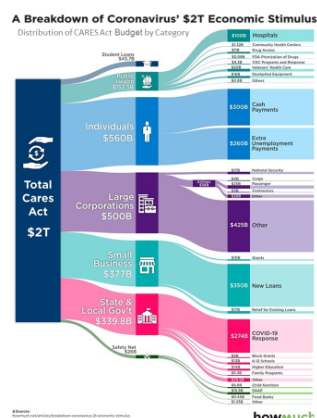
Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 20508...UPDATE: CARES ACT FUNDING

Synopsis: Update on the CARES Act funding, submitted by Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Team Leader.



Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Team Leader, said thank you, Chairman Markley, for having us back today and thank you, Commissioners, for your time. I know that we were just here two weeks ago, but we do have some additional information we'd like to share with you. This is for information only.



Distribution of CARES Act Funding

For the audience that's listening this evening, we are here to update the standing committee regarding the utilization of the CARES Act or coronavirus funding or Corona CARES Act
November 16, 2020

funding that was delivered to Wyandotte County. The CARES Act funding was described as a layered cake to us when we first started this process. It has diversity in its deployment and its disbursement methods. We're going to share this new graphic that we found with you tonight because we believe that this is the best explanation that we have been able to find as to the complexity of those CARES Act dollars.

The assistance we report on monthly to this group falls into the state and local government in the pink down below and this is where the CARES Act Phase I funding from the state of Kansas flowing through the Spark Committee to Wyandotte County is housed and where it comes from in the CARES Act. So, just a little bit of information for the listening audience today.

Planning Committee Funding Priorities Funding

\$37,330,934



Wyandotte County was allocated \$37M to combat and respond to COVID-19. The funding priorities were established by and driven the funding for all CARES Act activities in Wyandotte County. For more information about the allocation process, the funding disbursement or the process we took to get where we are today, anyone can visit the WyCo Covid Page at wyco.org, look for CARES Act updates and you can look for any information on the process and disbursement methodology for CARES Act dollars in Wyandotte County.

For tonight's very short review, we'll give you some examples of jurisdictional responses and provide some information from our community partners.



So, a few examples of jurisdictional responses. We want to highlight four of them for you tonight. The first is increased communication. Funding through the CARES Act has allowed for increased communication to citizens. The Communications Department has used CARES Act funding to amplify the number, frequency, and responsiveness of communications whether it be through commercials, bus wraps, citizen mailers or expanded citizen newsletters or rolling billboards, the money has been invaluable to providing up-to-date health information and available resources.

The second is CARES Act dollars have allowed the Department of Technology to respond to increased external threats to informational securities. A whole lot of technological words there, but what the departments are seeing is an increased threat to information protection as a government entity. So, the CARES Act dollars have allowed the Department of Technology, or the DOTS Department, to shore up some of those protections to protect our citizens information.

Third, funding is allowed for the installation of air purification systems in public buildings and community centers. Part of this group heard Angel from Parks and Rec talk in the previous meeting about the the Trails Project for increased use in the trails, but CARES Act dollars have also been utilized for these air purification systems that will better protect employees and citizens of Wyandotte County as they use our public buildings and our community centers.

The last area we'd like to highlight tonight—many, many improvements have been able to be funded through CARES Act dollars to respond and recover to COVID. The fourth tonight being a preparation for a continuation of citizen services by government agencies as we go into the fall as we have weathered the spring and the summer, but it will allow for continued and improved, including new remote availability for interactions and will allow that seamless

continuation of services for our citizens regardless of what our situation is here with health orders or best practices keeping staff safe and and citizens safe as well.



Small Business Grants
through the Economic Development Department

Grant amounts:
Up to \$10,000 - Businesses with 1-25 employees
Up to \$20,000 - Businesses with 26- 500 employees

- Economic Development has awarded all \$825,000 in grants
- Grants were awarded to reimburse for revenue loss or COVID related expenses.
- Received 133 business applications
- Awarded 85 businesses applications
- Awarded applicants were from 11 different zip codes in Wyandotte County
- 67 awarded applicants have 25 or fewer employees

Included in the county distribution was allocation to the Economic Development Department for direct use in supporting small business grants. Last we were here, the team, the Economic Development team, had just finished the allocation process. Today, I can report that all \$825,000 has been awarded and the majority have been distributed in full to the local small business and medium-sized business.

Economic Development shared a few pieces of information that they would like me to pass on to you tonight. The grants were awarded to reimburse for revenue loss or COVID related expenses. They received 133 business applications and were able to award 85 local businesses a grant of up to \$20,000 for response and recovery from COVID. The awarded applicants were from 11 different zip codes in Wyandotte County, so this program was open to all businesses in Wyandotte County. Sixty-seven awarded participants have 25 or fewer employees, so a large focus on those small businesses. Please expect a deeper report from Economic Development in future meetings.

Public Health Response

- Over \$10 million was allocated to the Public Health Department response
 - Testing
 - Vaccinations
 - Contact Tracing
 - Increase staff or dedicated staff



The Public Health Department continues to utilize CARES Act funding to respond to this complexed and consuming virus. More than we will be able to cover here tonight, but this includes the flexibility to transition to another location to better serve our citizens.

They are also using CARES Act funding to prepare for the much anticipated process of vaccinations whether that be within the coming weeks or in the coming months, the Health Department is issuing CARES Act dollars to prepare for what that vaccination process for 165,000 plus residents would look like.

Community Centered Recovery - Subrecipients

- Over \$9 million was allocated to the community driven response – subrecipients
 - Medical
 - Educational Institutions
 - Human Service Agencies





our community partners are numerous we

721 N. 31ST

Our community partners are numerous. We had 66 subrecipients in the community. Those ranged from local schools, to day cares, small and large 501(c)(3)s, medical services organizations. Numerous amounts of community organizations were afforded up to \$9M that were allocated for this community-driven response. We'd like to highlight every single one of them that we could, but we're going to start picking one or two at a time to be able to highlight how these CARES Act dollars flowing into the community are being successful.

Tonight, we'd like to highlight Mercy & Truth. Mercy & Truth hosted a Halloween event on October 31. The intent was to wrap around services to assist Wyandotte County

November 16, 2020

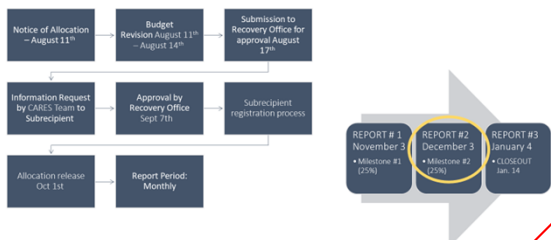
citizens with a variety of assistance. Let me go over a few report outs and collaborations that they have given us for tonight.

They were able to deliver food boxes. This was in collaboration with Liberty Produce, USDA, and the DOTTE Mobile Grocer. They were able to give out turkeys that night purchased with CARES Act funding. They were able to support flu shots through Truth & Mercy, KDHE, and CARES Act funding. They even gave out some hygiene items including laundry detergent from the Overland Park Rotary Club, vitamins and necessities for winter weather. Everything was gone, as reported by Mercy & Truth, by 10:45 a.m. The line started at 9:00. So, in an hour and 45 minutes, they had exhausted all their resources.

They provided us a picture of the cars that were in line. It's at the top part of your screen. The cars were lining up reportedly two hours ahead of time and they even had one person show up the night before and wanted to stay in line so that she could receive assistance.

I think this illustrates two things with our community partners. First, the extent of the need and the thankfulness of the resources that the CARES Act funding has been allowed to be used for in the community, but also the dedication of our community partners to band together to be able to have a bigger impact in our community.

Subrecipient Path



Comment [GC1]:

An update on the subrecipient path. We are at Report #2. We had good response and compliance with Report #1 that was due just after the last time we met with you. So, Report #2 is due from our subrecipients on December 3.

November 16, 2020



Timeline Perspective

44
DAYS

I always try to give you a timeline perspective and that 45 days continues to be in the largest font that we can possibly see, but when we come back to you in December, we're just going to have days left to go in the CARES Act funding.

At the conclusion of the October 31st reporting, we had allocated and been able to utilize 45% of the county's allocation it had been expended, not encumbered at that point, been expended a week, and that was in 6 weeks. If you look, about 7.5% of the total allocation is being expended a week. We are confident that with 9 weeks left between the reconciliation in October and December 30th, our deadline, that we will be able to get these dollars out in the community and utilize them for the goals set out by this committee.

I do want to mention that Senator Moran gave a statement today on the floor at approximately 3:55 Eastern Time, 4:55 our time, regarding the RISER Act. It was a statement. No action was taken. The RISER Act is a bill introduced by Senator Moran that would address the timeline for CARES Act funding. As we hear in the news on a regular basis, lots of jurisdictions are having a difficult time getting the money into the community where it's needed.

That is our brief presentation for tonight. I'm certainly open to any questions or follow up.

CARES TEAM	• Alan Howze, Administrator's Office, Executive Sponsor • Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Planning Team, Manager • Deasiray Bush, CARES Act Planning Team, Finance • Lisa Rangel, CARES Act Planning Team, Administration • James Bain, CARES Act Planning Team, Legal • Robbie Anderson, CARES Act Planning Team, Metrics • Dave Reno, CARES Act Planning Team, Communications • Shaya Lockette, CARES Act Planning Team, Small Business	• Procurement Team • Accounting Team • Budget Team • Building and Logistics Team • Department of Technology (DOTS) Team • Communications
--	---	---

Always, I recognize my team and the other areas within the Unified Government that have made this amazing process happen so quickly and puts us in a good spot compared to other jurisdictions.

Chairman Markley asked, any questions from the committee?

Commissioner Bynum said thank you, Crystal. You're just amazing and everything about what we're doing is phenomenal. Are you hearing from any of our subrecipients as far as having a deep concern, number one, with the reporting and number two, with the spend down that's required? You don't have to name names, but are you having to do any consoling or handholding to help some of these recipients kind of move this ball to the finish line?

Ms. Sprague said, well, I would say, Commissioner, that our subrecipients are so widely disbursed meaning we've got subrecipients that received as little as \$4,000 for a one-time purchase up to recipients that received over \$1M. I will tell you that they each needed their own training or understanding about reporting, for example, or uploading documentation that's so vital to protect the Unified Government moving forward.

What we did is the day after we were here last, which I believe was the end of October, we did four separate training sessions with our subrecipients. They were grouped so that we could be responsive to their specific needs. We felt like those were really successful and they are posted online if anybody needs them.

At this point, we're having to do a little bit of follow-up to make sure that reporting is in and answer any questions. But they're doing a really great job responding to this crazy task. I hope that answers the question about compliance with reporting. We're having really good compliance up to this point, but it's still early in the game and we're trying to do as much availability and customer service as we can.

When it comes to spending the dollars, I would say we have one or two organizations that are concerned about being able to expend their dollars, but the last time we had a conversation, they'd only had those dollars for maybe three or four weeks. As we watch the reports come in, we're seeing a larger percentage of that spend down happening. I think that's alleviating a little bit of the concern. I know that one of our organizations is really hoping that the RISER bill is successful, but we have encouraged them to use that as a gift at the end of the year if it's there,

November 16, 2020

but not to bet on it. I hope that answered your question. **Commissioner Bynum** said it did. Thank you.

Commissioner Philbrook said so, Crystal and team, thanks. I can let you know how much I appreciate all your hard work. It's just amazing. I really don't know how you managed to do it, but good thing I don't because I'd probably be so overwhelmed I wouldn't know where to go with it. Thank you for all your expertise in doing this and in the community partners coming forward to help us with this. Thanks again.

Ms. Sprague said thank you, Commissioner Philbrook. I will tell you the only way that this happens is this list of people that's on your screen and the support of these other agencies, Procurement, Accounting, Budget, Building and Logistics, the Department of Technology, the Communications Divisions. This does not happen in normal circumstances, as everybody knows. The idea that we have been able to get \$9M out in the community in a matter of weeks and start to finish application process to distribution in six or seven weeks, that just doesn't happen. I appreciate that and I will accept your thanks on behalf of this team, but this doesn't happen without these amazing people and these amazing groups of employees here at the Unified Government, and the amazing partners that we have that are willing to take the risk of getting out in the community and partnering with people they've never partnered with before.

You heard that list of groups that band together for one event. These agencies are hosting multiple events. It's pretty amazing to see this get out into the community. I'm particularly pleased when I hear news reports of other jurisdictions struggling to get money out into the community. This group, along with the help of the commissioners, blinked and we got it done.

Commissioner Philbrook said to back you up on that I would just say, I just believe that our community has been poised to work together for a while and this was the perfect storm and your team allowed it to happen for these folks to come together. I truly do, it just takes my breath away when I think about this and I get choked up, so thank you and God bless.

Chairman Markley asked, any other comments from this committee? Madam Clerk, did we receive any comments from the public on this item? **Ms. Lott** said, Madam Chair, we did not receive any. **Chairman Markley** said if there are no other committee comments, this was for information only and is our only item on the agenda tonight. We thank Crystal for her

presentation and her dedicated service to this CARES Act situation. We are adjourned for the evening. Thanks so much, everyone.

Adjourn

Chairman Markley adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

tk