



United Community Services of Johnson County

2026 HUMAN SERVICE FUND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Board Members

Erik Erazo, President
Dr. Putul Allen, MD
Hon. Jenifer J. Ashford
Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell
Molly Haase
Robin Rollins Harrold
Patty Markley
Dr. L. Michael McCloud, PhD
Rogeana Patterson-King
Nolan Sunderman
David E. Waters
Vicki Webster
Vanessa Vaughn West
Dave White
Michael Wilson
Non-voting:
Jeff Short
Julie Karins

Council of Advisors

Mary Birch
Pat Colloton
Dr. Stuart Day
Hon. Peggy Dunn
Jeff Ellis
Rev. Adam Hamilton
Ellen Hanson
Terrie Huntington
Audrey Langworthy
Hon. Mike Kelly
Penny Postoak Ferguson
Jill Quigley
Tom Robinett
Clint Robinson
Carol Sader
Brad Stratton
Charlie Sunderland
Hon. Stephen Tatum
David Warm

Executive Director

Kristy Baughman

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 \$501,398 for the **Human Service Fund (HSF)** in 2026.

HSF received twenty applications requesting a total of \$614,672 in funding. For 2026, nineteen applicants are recommended for funding. Two applicants are awarded 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 whose income is 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 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 2024, programs receiving HSF grants provided over 200,000 units of service to more than 65,000 Johnson County residents. These “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.

By investing in strong human service supports—such as childcare, transportation, housing, healthcare, and family services—our community can foster safer neighborhoods, healthier families, and greater economic stability. A well-supported infrastructure not only strengthens quality of life for all residents but also fuels long-term growth by reducing costs, increasing tax revenue, and creating the foundation for a thriving, connected community.

Jurisdictions are asked to accept the funding recommendations by December 31, 2025.

2026 Human Service Fund Applicant History and Recommendations

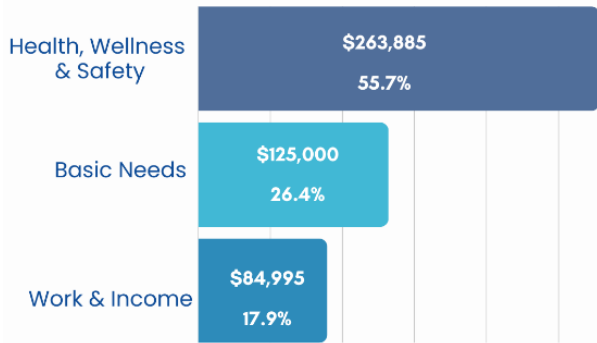
<i>Small</i> HSF Grant Applicant	2024 Grant	2025 Grant	2026 Recommended	HSF Small Grant Program Description
Community Center of Shawnee	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,995	Small grants launched in 2022, grants in amounts <\$5,000 Fuel Cards/Transportation: Provides transportation assistance, including fuel cards, flat-tire repair, bicycle purchases or parts, and ride-share programs to help residents increase self-sufficiency.
Fountain of Life	No Request	\$4,950	\$4,999	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	\$4,950	No Request	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	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.

<i>Regular</i> HSF Grant Applicant	2024 Grant	2025 Grant	2026 Recommended	HSF Regular Grant Program Description
CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte*	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	Child Advocacy Services: 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 high concern for safety and placement.
Catholic Charities of NE Kansas (CCNEK)*	\$67,000	\$67,000	\$60,000	CCNEK Stabilization: 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	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,000	English Language Learner Preschool: free preschool for English language learner children, supporting caregivers as they attend JCCC classes at Center of Grace.
El Centro, Inc.*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	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	\$7,500	\$9,740	\$16,193	Community Connections YouThrive (CCYT): supports youth aging out of foster care by assigning specialists who offer guidance and connecting them to necessary resources for a smoother transition into adulthood.
Growing Futures EEC*	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	Wrap-Around Care: provides scholarships for pre-kindergarten childcare costs for low-income families, supports full-time education/employment of caregivers and provides family support that results in strong kindergarten preparedness.
Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000	No Request	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	\$57,500	Medical Home for Low-income Uninsured of Johnson County: 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 of MidAmerica*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Transitional Housing for Youth and Families: offers transitional housing and supportive services, including case management, budget counseling, and life skills development for youth, single adults, and families experiencing homelessness.
HopeBUILDERS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	Accessibility and Home Repair: provides accessibility modifications and home repairs for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Johnson

				County to support safe, adequate housing and retention of affordable housing.
JoCo IHN	\$8,000	No Request	No Request	Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network: Provides case management, including shelter for single women and families with children experiencing homelessness.
Inclusion Connection	No Request	\$10,000	\$10,000	Connections: Helps adults with developmental disabilities secure and maintain competitive employment through individualized coaching and transportation support.
Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Healthy Families Kansas City: Offers home-based education and family support for new parents whose children are at risk of abuse or neglect, promoting positive parenting and child safety.
Kansas Parents as Teachers	\$5,000	\$5,000	No Request	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	\$25,000	\$29,193	Thriving Communities: Crisis counseling, parent education, and assistance navigating health and mental healthcare, housing, and resources to support positive family outcomes.
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)	No Request	No Request	\$15,000	Preventing Sexual Violence in Johnson County Schools: Implements age-appropriate prevention programs in schools to educate students, staff, and caregivers on recognizing, preventing, and responding to sexual violence. The program promotes healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent, while equipping trusted adults with the tools to support youth and create safer school environments.
NCircle*	\$32,325	\$30,000	\$35,000	Reentry Program: 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	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$0	Reclaim Living: Through the Reclamation Clubhouse, empowers adults with serious mental illness to maintain stable housing and employment by providing job training, transportation, work tools, attire, and ongoing support.
Safehome	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	Safehome's Shelter: Case management services for clients of the domestic violence shelter, including emergency shelter, housing assistance, therapy, legal services, and advocacy.
Salvation Army	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	The Johnson County Family Lodge and Transitional Housing: Offers transitional housing for families in Johnson County experiencing homelessness, including related services and comprehensive case management utilizing strengths-based case management.
Sunflower House*	\$47,000	\$47,000	\$47,000	Personal Safety Education Program: 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	\$421,790	\$434,740	\$463,886	
Subtotal Small HSF	\$12,900	\$9,900	\$9,994	
Administration	\$28,500	\$28,500	\$31,000	Fee for administration of HSF.
Total	\$463,190	\$473,140	\$504,880	The 2025 federal poverty level for a family of three is \$26,650. For more information <i>see Appendix C</i> .

*Applicants are returning grantees with established programs for which jurisdictions approved a two-year funding recommendation for 2026 and 2027 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 2027.

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 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 chart on the left provides a visual illustration of how the funding was distributed in this cycle.

2026 HSF *Small Grants* Recommendations

HSF Small Grants were developed and launched in 2022, after consultation with contributing jurisdictions. HSF Small Grants are in amounts of 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. As with 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 \$9,994 is recommended for these applicants in 2026.

Community Center of Shawnee

\$4,995
Recommendation

An increase of \$45 in funding, for a total of \$4,995, is recommended to support the Community Center of Shawnee's enhanced focus on transportation assistance, as part of its emergency assistance program. This program aims to promote the self-sufficiency of Johnson County's low-income residents by addressing transportation as a critical barrier to employment, healthcare, and essential services. Support may include fuel cards, flat tire repair, ride-share services, and limited assistance with bicycle parts or purchases, allowing residents to maintain reliable access to jobs, medical appointments, and daily necessities.

2026 Results Projected: The Community Center of Shawnee expects to provide 540 individuals with 540 units of service for transportation support to obtain and maintain employment and attend medical visits.

Outcomes Achieved 2024: Community Center of Shawnee served a total of 3,617 individuals, including 1,312 Johnson County residents. To address transportation needs, the Center provided 459 QuikTrip fuel cards. Other transportation services provided included: 1 car battery, 4 flat tire repairs, and 1 driver's license fee. Transportation assistance supported households in maintaining employment and accessing healthcare. Pantry services maintained 70 households weekly with 20-pound weight of non-perishable food, respectively, through Thanksgiving and Christmas box distributions.

Fountain of Life Inc.

\$4,999
Recommendation

An increase of \$49 in funding, for a total of \$4,999, is recommended to support 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 Islander seniors (60+ years); serving a gap of affordable mental health care in a linguistic and culturally relevant manner.

2026 Results Projected: Fountain of Life expects to serve 75 Johnson County residents through 218 encounters throughout this program. Program results include increased mental health and wellness in Asian American and Pacific Islander families.

2026 HSF Regular Grants Recommendations

As a response to the growing need and limited funding available, the grant review committee established a maximum grant award of \$60,000 in 2026.

Note: Applicants designated with an asterisk (*) are returning grantees with established programs for which jurisdictions approved a two-year funding recommendation for 2026 and 2027. The two-year funding recommendation is contingent on: 1) continued agency performance and timely semi-annual reporting; 2) jurisdiction funding commitment and review; and 3) agency affirmation that it wishes to continue substantially the same program at the same level of funding from HSF in 2027.

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties*

\$50,000
Recommendation

An increase of \$5,000 in funding, for a total of \$50,000, 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. The volunteer also gathers information from the parents, foster parents, social workers, attorneys, and teachers, along with the CASA supervisor, to identify service needs. CASA submits a report to the judge that includes information about the child's statements, behavior, and interaction with parents. These reports inform judges' critical decisions about where children should live and what services should be court-ordered.

2026 Results Projected: CASA expects to serve 460 Johnson County children. Anticipated outcomes are: 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 85% of youth eligible for graduation will graduate from high school or obtain a GED.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 316 Johnson County children were served through 14,606 hours of support and advocacy. The presence of a stable adult is a key factor in building resilience from a history of trauma. 99% of children served by CASA had the same volunteer advocate throughout their court involvement. While assigned to a CASA advocate, 100% of children were safe from additional victimization as defined by a subsequent affirmed/substantiated report of additional abuse or neglect. Of the CASA youth served who were eligible for graduation or working towards obtaining a GED, 100% were successful (graduated or earned a GED). This percentage for academic milestones far exceeds the state average for children in foster care.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (CCNEK)*

\$60,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended at the maximum HSF grant amount of \$60,000 for the CCNEK Stabilization program that 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 for prescription medication, medical supplies, utilities, childcare, and transportation. CCNEK's 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.

2026 Results Projected: CCNEK expects to serve 20,022 Johnson County residents with assistance that includes food and/or financial support to maintain housing and utilities. Anticipated outcomes are: 95% of households receiving direct financial assistance will maintain stable housing or utility connections for at least 30 days; 85% of participants will demonstrate increased financial knowledge during case management meetings; and 50% of participants will receive at least one referral to additional services, either within CCNEK or through external partner agencies.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 16,308 Johnson County residents were served through 61,820 service encounters. CCNEK’s programs far exceeded the anticipated number of clients served and units of service, with a 41% increase over their projected outcomes. Direct financial assistance enabled 517 individuals to maintain safe housing for at least 30 days. 68% of households received direct financial assistance and receive referrals to other services, internal or external, through the case management process. 58% of households that received direct financial assistance were also helped with access to other public benefits.

Center of Grace	An increase of \$2,500 in funding, for a total of \$10,000, 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)
\$10,000	
Recommendation	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.

2026 Results Projected: Center of Grace expects to serve 92 Johnson County residents through this program. Anticipated outcomes are: increased parental engagement in their child’s education and development; student improvement, notably in their academic performance; and substantial student progress in language acquisition.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: Center of Grace served 68 Johnson County residents through its educational program. Program results included increased parental engagement in children’s education and development, notable improvements in students’ academic performance, and significant progress in language acquisition. In 2024, 90% of parents demonstrated enhanced engagement with their children's academic performance and language development. Additionally, adult learners participating in the English language program through Johnson County Community College achieved educational gains of 61% in reading, writing, and math skills. All 37 children enrolled in the English Language Learner preschool showed measurable improvement in English language acquisition and development.

El Centro, Inc.*
\$35,000
Recommendation

An increase of \$10,000 in funding, for a total of \$35,000, 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 support through emergency assistance, financial literacy classes, assistance filing taxes, access to healthcare through health navigation, and filing support for benefits such as Medicaid, and policy education.

2026 Results Projected: El Centro expects to serve 2,500 Johnson County residents at the Olathe office. Anticipated outcomes are: support to 40 households in maintaining utility services and 30 households in sustaining rental housing, while at least 70 individuals are expected to complete financial empowerment classes. To improve economic stability, El Centro will assist with 1,200 tax filings, 100 SNAP enrollments, 20 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) enrollments, and 250 Medicaid sign-ups. In the area of health and wellness, 400 clients are projected to access health resources, and 200 participants will engage in healthy eating classes.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 2,734 Johnson County residents were served through 4,240 service encounters. El Centro's program experienced substantial growth in both the number of clients and the scope of services delivered across Johnson County. Clients' immediate basic needs were met: 53 households received utility assistance, and 51 households received rent assistance. 537 individuals completed financial coaching to support long-term financial stability. 11 individuals were assisted with Individual Tax Identification Number requests; 1,517 people were assisted in filing their taxes; 368 individuals were assisted with applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and received benefits; 750 enrolled in KanCare with assistance; 760 individuals were referred to a community healthcare resource; and 469 individuals completed a class about eating healthily on a budget.

FosterAdopt Connect
\$16,193
Recommendation

An increase of \$6,543 in funding, for a total of \$16,193, is recommended to support individuals 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 individuals transition successfully into adulthood.

2026 Results Projected: FosterAdopt Connect will serve 30 Johnson County residents through 150 hours of service. Anticipated outcomes are: 75% or more of youth who identify a need for financial education will complete all 8 financial classes prior to graduation from the program; 80% or more of youth in CCYT will complete their high school diploma or obtain a GED; and 40% of participating youth will be enrolled in college, a trade program, or employed upon program completion.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: FosterAdopt Connect received funding for their Foster Prevention program which served 80 Johnson County residents through 176 service hours. As a result of participating in the Fostering Prevention program, 91% of children living with their parent or caregiver maintained placement stability. 100% 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. 89% of families served who

had a monthly action plan achieved at least one accomplishment per month.

**Growing Futures
Early Education
Center***

\$25,000
Recommendation

An increase of \$5,000 in funding, for a total of \$25,000, 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 achieve 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.

2026 Results Projected: Through the WAC program, Growing Futures will provide over 4,172 hours of care for enrolled children, serving an estimated 176 Johnson County residents. Anticipated outcomes are: children will maintain daily attendance rates of 85%, supporting caregivers in maintaining employment and/or education; 85% of families will achieve at least one large family goal, based upon family-determined strengths and needs; and fewer than 5% of children will leave the program due to inability to pay tuition, ensuring that children obtain a high-quality Head Start education.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: A total of 80 Johnson County residents were served through 176 hours of care. Average 2024 attendance in Wrap Around Care was 86.5%. 45% 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. Some goals set by families take longer to accomplish or family situations change, and goals are reestablished.

**Health
Partnership
Clinic (HPC)***

\$57,500
Recommendation

An increase of \$8,000 in funding, for a total of \$57,500, is recommended for the Medical Home for Low-income Uninsured of Johnson County. Healthcare is provided at Health Partnership Clinic's office in Olathe, a pediatric clinic located in Shawnee Mission, and a school-based clinic at Shawnee Mission West High School. Funding helps to support a nurse practitioner who provides 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 that 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.

2026 Results Projected: HPC will serve 9,394 Johnson County residents through 25,251 patient office visits or encounters. Anticipated outcomes are: 90% of patients surveyed will indicate satisfaction with their overall care; 66% of diabetic patients achieve HgA1c levels of 9.0 or below; and 60% of hypertensive patients achieve blood pressure readings below

140/90. 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. 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.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: A total of 9,669 Johnson County residents were served through 26,110 service encounters. HPC quality indicators include 61.5% of diabetic patients have an HgA1c level of 9.0 or below and 53.3% of patients diagnosed with hypertension have blood pressure readings less than 140/90. HPC's dental outreach program also provided screening services to 5,225 students during the 2024 school year. Over 94.6% of patients surveyed indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall care they received as a patient.

Hillcrest Ministries of MidAmerica*	Funding is recommended for Hillcrest’s Transitional Housing for Homeless Youth and Families Program. Transitional housing for homeless youth, up to age 24, families with children, and single adults will be provided in seven apartments located in Johnson County. The program provides housing, 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.
\$10,000 Recommendation	

2026 Results Projected: Hillcrest expects to serve 12 homeless children, youth, and adults in Johnson County by providing safe, stable transitional housing, inclusive of shelter and utilities, at no cost. Anticipated outcomes are: each participant will receive an individual service assessment and achieve at least one goal from their plan; and youth will work toward achieving an education goal, while adults will focus on employment. The program anticipates contributions of over 1,000 volunteer hours and \$25,000 in in-kind donations to support program success.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 24 Johnson County residents were served through 1,678 nights of transitional housing. Four youth and seven adults received an individual assessment and achieved at least one goal from their assessment plan. Five adult households completed the program and moved on to permanent housing. Four youth worked toward their educational goals. Over the course of the year, seven adults maintained employment. Over 1,000 volunteer hours were recorded, and \$2,500 in-kind donations were received in 2024.

HopeBUILDERS	An increase of \$5,000 in funding, for a total of \$10,000, is recommended for HopeBUILDERS’ home repair/home accessibility program. HopeBUILDERS provides free home repair, modification, and accessibility projects for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities. Projects include critical home repairs as well as modifications that allow individuals to remain in their homes safely. Referrals to the program are provided by various agencies throughout the area, ensuring support reaches those in need.
\$10,000 Recommendation	

2026 Results Projected: HopeBUILDERS expects to serve 10 Johnson County 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, so they can remain safely in their own homes. Anticipated outcomes are: low-income homeowners will have access to needed home accessibility modifications or repairs without financial burden; clients served will experience increased mobility in and around their residences; and clients and their families will gain greater ability to effectively care for themselves or their family members.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 6 Johnson County residents were served through 18 service encounters. The program focused on enhancing safety and accessibility within the home, and allowed homeowners to live more independently. All clients were older adults and/or families living with disabilities, whose household income under 80% of the area median income (AMI). The projects included wheelchair ramp installation and repairs, and step repairs. These modifications provided increased mobility and easier access to and from the home, benefiting both the residents and their caregivers.

**Inclusion
Connections**

\$10,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for Inclusion Connections’ PawsAbilities Workforce Development Program which serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The program provides year-round services with a focus on education, employment, and independent living. Through job coaching, skill development, and transportation support, the program helps participants obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment, fostering long-term independence and stability.

2026 Results Projected: Inclusion Connections expects to serve 230 Johnson County residents through its year-round education, employment, and independent living programs. Anticipated outcomes are: at least 85% of students reporting improved quality of life and greater well-being; students will also gain work experience and strengthen employment skills through PawsAbilities; and jobholders in the program are expected to achieve a 90% job retention rate.

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

\$20,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for Healthy Families Kansas City, a child abuse prevention program accredited through Healthy Families America (HFA). The program was formed by combining and expanding the service areas of the Healthy Families Johnson and Healthy Families Wyandotte programs under one name. Healthy Families Kansas City provides intensive home-based education and family support services to parents who are experiencing extreme stress and are considered at risk for abuse and neglect. Eligibility is based on risk factors rather than income. However, most participating families are low-income (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level). Families receive routine at-home visits, case management, referrals to community resources and services, child development and parent education, and links to health care services.

2026 Results Projected: KCSL expects to serve 125 Johnson County individuals. 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 2024: 131 Johnson County residents were served through 883 client visits. 100% 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. 78% of enrolled children had a developmental screening within the past six months, supporting immediate and long-term health and educational attainment of the children and families.

KidsTLC*

\$29,193
Recommendation

A \$4,193 increase in funding, for a total of \$29,193, is recommended for KidsTLC's Thriving Communities program, which provides parents and caregivers of youth struggling with mental health challenges access to respite services, family support specialists, peer support, and education classes. Youth are primarily referred from local community mental health centers (CMHC), with Johnson County Mental Health Center being the largest partner. The program serves many families who are Medicaid-eligible or living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Thriving Communities serves as the family support arm of KidsTLC, helping families navigate resources and build networks of support to address mental health and related challenges.

2026 Results Projected: KidsTLC estimates serving 25 Johnson County residents through this program. Anticipated outcomes include: youth will experience a reduction in need for crisis law enforcement officer response or acute hospitalization while in transition between services; 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 2024: 284 Johnson County residents were served with 1,257 service encounters. KidsTLC served a total of 361 individuals with 1,481 service encounters in and outside of Johnson County in 2024. 100% of new KidsTLC clients completed an intake/evaluation upon program admission. 93% of clients referred to outpatient medication or behavioral management treatment kept their initial appointment. 83% of clients referred to a health provider remained in services for 30 days. 48% of clients were receiving public assistance benefits by year end.

**Metropolitan
Organization to
Counter Sexual
Assault (MOCSA)**

\$15,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended for a new applicant, Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) for its program, Preventing Sexual Violence in Johnson County Schools, including Project Aware and Youth Education. Project Aware educates students pre-K through 5th grade about body safety in an age-appropriate manner and teaches adults about their role in preventing child sexual abuse. Youth Education provides information on topics including sexual assault, healthy relationships, consent, and sexual harassment. These education programs, offered in schools at no cost, reduce the likelihood that children and youth will perpetrate sexual violence or become victims of sexual assault and abuse.

2026 Results Projected: MOCSA estimates serving 10,690 Johnson County residents through this program. Anticipated outcomes include: 95% of youth participating in Project Aware will know the three safety rules: Say No, Get Away, and Tell Someone; 90% of youth surveyed through youth education and outreach will know at least one thing they can do to prevent or reduce the risk of sexual violence; and 80% of adults participating in SAFE training will demonstrate increased knowledge as a result of the education they received.

NCircle*

\$35,000
Recommendation

A \$5,000 increase in funding, for a total of \$35,000, is recommended for NCircle's Reentry Program. The Reentry Program requires onsite staff five days a week at the Johnson County Adult Residential Center (ARC). The Reentry program is an intensive 30-day program with clients enrolling at regular intervals. The program requires 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), and life skills (3 hours/week). Program participants will demonstrate an increased rate of employment, increased income, and decreased recidivism, as compared to nonparticipants, resulting in cost savings for local government and the judicial system.

2026 Results Projected: NCircle expects to serve 50 Johnson County residents through this program. Anticipated outcomes include: participants obtaining employment prior to release from the reentry program; improved job stability as measured by pre/post Employment Readiness Scale (ERS) assessment results; enhanced career readiness skills, including job search, self-efficacy, community support, and career decision-making; and improved community stability, with recidivism rates below 12% after three years.

Outcomes Achieved in 2024: NCircle served 27 individuals through 526 hours of training and case management. College of Trades participants demonstrated improvement in employment readiness as indicated by the pre/post Employment Readiness Scale assessment. 69% of the clients eligible for employment were employed upon release from Reentry or remained at the residential center and were employed. Assessments indicated a 40% improvement in client career decision-making, and a 51% increase in their ability to do a job search. The Pre/Post Employment Readiness Scale indicated a 35% improvement over the clients’ pretest in self-efficacy, 54% improvement in understanding social networks and supports, and 26% improvement in understanding what it takes to keep and maintain employment.

Safehome	Funding is recommended for Safehome’s shelter. Safehome provides shelter, therapy, legal services, hospital advocacy, hotline support, and case management that includes employment assistance and financial literacy. As the only domestic violence shelter in Johnson County, Safehome has expanded programs, increased client assistance, and grown overall capacity to support survivors.
\$24,000	
Recommendation	

2026 Results Projected: Safehome will provide emergency shelter to 150 Johnson County residents for a total of 7,900 bed nights. Anticipated outcomes are: 30% of residents in shelter for any number of days will obtain permanent housing; 60% of residents in shelter for at least 90 days will obtain permanent housing; 60% of residents leaving for permanent housing will remain housed after 6 months; 65% of clients will report looking for work while a resident; 80% of residents in shelter for at least 4 weeks will work on a budget with their case manager; 65% of residents in shelter for at least 4 weeks will make a plan to pay off past due bills; 85% of clients in shelter for 2 weeks will agree or strongly agree they know more ways to plan for their safety; 85% of clients in shelter for 2 weeks will agree or strongly agree they know more about domestic violence; 50% of adult clients in therapy for 4 or more sessions will show an average decrease in mental health symptoms by 5%.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 154 Johnson County residents with 7,940 nights of shelter and service encounters. During 2024, 99 households who were in Safehome’s emergency shelter for at least four weeks, and of those 63.6% made a plan to pay off past due bills. 67

adults had a 4th therapy visit and 73% had a change of at least 5% on the Patient Health Questionnaire screener (PHQ SADS). 100% of clients who resided at Safehome for at least 90 days transitioned from the shelter and into permanent housing, with 70% of those clients remaining housed three to six months later.

Salvation Army
\$10,000
Recommendation

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. The Lodge is the only free-standing shelter in Johnson County. It provides food, transportation, and case management, in addition to referrals to other resources. Case managers work closely with local schools to ensure all children residing in the program have met their educational needs. Staff utilize a strengths-based approach to assist clients with goal setting, overcoming barriers to housing, and achieving long-term success. Classes and skill-building opportunities include parenting, financial literacy, maintaining employment, housing searches, daily living/life skills, developing a support system, and navigating mainstream resources.

2026 Results Projected: The Family Lodge anticipates serving 125 Johnson County residents in 2026. Anticipated outcomes are: 90% of households who exit the program will enter permanent housing; 80% of households will increase income or decrease housing barrier debt; at least five children will receive financial assistance to begin or continue daycare services.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: The Family Lodge provided 17,904 nights of shelter, meals, and hygiene kits to 96 Johnson County residents. In 2024, 25 families who exited the program moved into permanent housing. 96% of families increased their income and decreased their housing debt to support living in permanent housing. Nine children were served through childcare tuition supports. Eleven families received financial assistance towards housing debts that allowed them to move into permanent housing.

Sunflower House*
\$47,000
Recommendation

Funding is recommended to support the Personal Safety Education Program, a child abuse prevention program. Sunflower House provides child-based education and mandated reporter training free of charge. Without grant support, these programs are not sustainable. Child education is available in English and Spanish including: 1) *Happy Bear*, an interactive drama 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 to 5th 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) *Child Abuse & Neglect - Mandated Reporter Training*, teaches attendees to recognize signs of sexual abuse, the correct procedures/laws for reporting, and how to handle a child's disclosure; 6) *Trauma Awareness* educates adults on the effects and impact of trauma and promotes understanding and awareness of trauma effects in the community; and 7) *Como Reconocer y Reportar el Abuso de Menores*, provides culturally relevant content for Spanish-speaking communities about recognizing and reporting child abuse, including special circumstances unique to these populations.

2026 Results Projected: Sunflower House anticipates reaching 33,000 Johnson County residents. Anticipated outcomes are: provide age-appropriate person safety/abuse education to at least 44,000 children; educate 8,000 adults on child abuse indicators and reporting abuse; 95% of participants will indicate that they gained new information; and 95% of adults will indicate that they will more closely monitor electronic communications of children in their care.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 32,002 Johnson County residents were served through 32,002 service encounters. MOUs with several school districts and a new partnership with the Girls Scouts of Northeast Kansas/Northwest Missouri helped Sunflower expand its reach in 2024. Prevention education reached 26,017 Johnson County children, who received vital personal safety information. A total of 5,888 Johnson County adults received child abuse prevention education. 100% of adults who attended Keeping Kids Safe Online indicated they will more closely monitor the electronic communications of children in their care.

APPENDIX A: 2026 HSF PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS AND GRANT COMMITTEE

JURISDICTION	CONTRIBUTION
Johnson County	\$170,600
De Soto	\$3,200
Edgerton	\$5,000
Gardner	\$8,480
Leawood	\$20,000
Lenexa	\$25,000
Merriam	\$11,400
Mission	\$11,000
Olathe	\$77,000
Overland Park	\$105,000
Prairie Village	\$11,500
Roeland Park	\$13,218
Shawnee	\$35,000
Spring Hill	\$2,900
Westwood	\$2,100
Total from County Government & Cities	\$501,398
Interest	\$3,482
UCS Administration	\$31,000
Total Available to Allocate	\$473,880

2026 HUMAN SERVICE FUND GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

UCS Board Members

- Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, *Committee Chair*, Resurrection, A United Methodist Church
- Rogeana Patterson-King, Kairos Enterprises LLC
- Dr. Putul Allen, Children's Mercy
- David Waters, Spencer Fane LLP
- Michael Wilson, Community LINC
- Molly Haase, AdventHealth

UCS Council of Advisors

- Terrie Huntington

Community Volunteers

- Katie Werner, Black & Veatch
- Jennifer Pozzuolo, Garmin
- Josh Hill, Foulston Siefkin
- Dr. Graciela Couchonnal
- Lori Eby, DPT

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

APPENDIX B: 2026 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 2026

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 might otherwise 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 or promising practices, or are replicating 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 be requested 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, a UCS program managed by the Drug and Alcoholism Council) or 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.
- HSF applications for substance abuse programs are not accepted and should be directed to the SUF.

APPENDIX C: The Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is updated annually and measures poverty based on size of family and income. It is used by local, state and federal programs to determine need and eligibility. The Area Median Income (AMI) provided is a more specific measurement based on the income of a specific geographic area, in this case Johnson County, Kansas.

2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines				Johnson County 2025 Area Median Income (AMI)	
Family Size	100% FPL	150% FPL	200% FPL		
1	\$15,650	\$23,475	\$31,300	100%	\$111,400
2	\$21,150	\$31,725	\$42,300	80%	\$89,100
3	\$26,650	\$39,975	\$53,300	60%	\$66,840
4	\$32,150	\$48,225	\$64,300	50%	\$55,700
5	\$37,650	\$56,475	\$75,300		

For 2025, the FPL for a three-person household is \$26,650 per year.

According to U.S. Census American Community Survey 2023 1-Year Estimates, the total number of people living in “low-income” households in Johnson County (those at or below 200% FPL) was 84,638, or approximately 14% of the Johnson County population.

The Human Service Fund (HSF) prioritizes programs that serve Johnson County residents living with income at or near the federal poverty level. This alignment recognizes that residents facing economic hardship often struggle to meet their basic needs and are at greater risk of housing instability and adverse health outcomes. By using the FPL as one of the priorities, funding support is directed toward households with the greatest need.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.