



## Kansas Legislative Research Department

*Providing nonpartisan, objective research and fiscal analysis for the Kansas Legislature since 1934*

68-West-Statehouse | 300 SW 10th Ave. | Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504  
(785) 296-3181

kslegres@klrd.ks.gov

kslegislature.org/klrd

September 6, 2023

**To:** Special Committee on Homelessness

**From:** Iraida Orr, Principal Research Analyst; Natalie Nelson, Principal Research Analyst

**Re:** Homeless Programs in Kansas

This memorandum provides an overview of the homeless programs in Kansas, including the population served, program locations, and funding sources. The memorandum will focus on programs providing services to homeless individuals and families that are administered by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and those that are awarded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Also included are a few homeless programs in Kansas City and Topeka.

### **Kansas Housing Resources Council**

The Kansas Legislature created the Kansas Development Finance Authority (K DFA) in 1987 ([KSA 74-8903](#)) as “a public body politic and corporate, with corporated succession, to be an independent instrumentality of this state exercising essential public functions” with general powers as set out in [KSA 74-8904](#). To fulfill its mission of economic growth and prosperity for Kansas, the K DFA “works with qualifying public and private entities to identify financial resources and appropriate financial structures.”

The Division of Housing within the Kansas Department of Commerce was transferred to the K DFA through Executive Reorganization Order No. 30 to be organized according to the K DFA Act. Effective July 1, 2003, the KHRC became a nonprofit, public corporate entity and a subsidiary corporation of the K DFA. The KHRC does not receive revenue from the State for its operation but is instead self-supporting through fees for services and cost reimbursement for grant administration. The KHRC is the State’s housing finance agency responsible for administering housing and community programs to assist Kansans in accessing safe, affordable housing. Three programs administered by the KHRC serve unhoused individuals: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), the Continuum of Care (CoC) program, and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). The Kansas annual application for federal funding ([Consolidated Plan](#)) serves as the policy guide for various programs, including ESG.

### ***Emergency Solutions Grant***

The ESG program is authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 USC 11371-11378), Subtitle B of Title IV. [Note: The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento

Homeless Assistance Act to revise the Emergency Shelter Grants Program and rename it the Emergency Solutions Grant program.] Through the ESG Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is authorized to make grants to states, units of general-purpose local government, and territories to rehabilitate or convert buildings to homeless emergency shelters; pay certain expenses for emergency shelter operations; and provide essential services related to emergency shelters, street outreach for the homeless population, and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance. The homeless individuals and families served through the ESG Program include individuals who will lose their primary residence within 14 days; who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence; who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; and who are unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children and youth without permanent housing in the past 60 days.

According to the KHRC [website](#), in addition to federal funding from HUD, the KHRC receives local matching funds from cities, counties, and nonprofit agencies. As the state recipient of the Kansas non-entitlement ESG funds, the KHRC subgrants ESG funds to subrecipients (units of general-purpose local government or private nonprofit organizations), with the exception of ESG funds used for administrative costs and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs. ESG funds are awarded annually to subrecipient organizations through a competitive grant process, with awards made for 12 months (July 1 - June 30) and extensions granted upon request. The subrecipients use the funds directly or subaward the funds to private nonprofit organizations for use for ESG-eligible activities. The ESG program assists individuals and families experiencing homelessness through a network of service providers that apply for the grant through either a sponsoring unit of general-purpose local government or a private nonprofit organization, or both.

The [ESG Handbook](#) further describes program requirements and allowable services. A [FY 2022 Audited Financial Report](#) is available on the KHRC website.

The KHRC website contains a list of the ESG [service providers](#) of homeless shelters and homeless services that were subrecipients of KHRC ESG grants.

In Kansas, ESG [awards](#) were made in 2022 through the KHRC. The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City (Unified Government), Topeka, and Wichita submitted funding requests to the KHRC for their respective areas.

#### *Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City*

The ESG is one of the Homeless Services Assistance programs within the Unified Government Community Development Department. The Unified Government is the recipient of [ESG funding](#) and allocates such funds to nonprofit subrecipients within the Kansas City area. The Unified Government website does not provide an itemized list of 2022 ESG awards.

#### *Topeka*

According to the 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation [Report](#), ESG funds are provided by the City of Topeka to help operate the Center for Safety and Empowerment's shelter for families experiencing domestic violence.

ESG and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are used to help individuals move from emergency shelters or transitional housing into permanent housing by assisting with rapid re-housing, deposits, and the first month's rent. ESG and CDBG funds are

also used to assist individuals at risk of becoming homeless, including seniors, youth, people experiencing domestic violence, people with disabilities, and veterans. Services provided include emergency aid, education services, and employment readiness.

In 2022, the City of Topeka provided subrecipient grants to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Community Action, Doorstep, Let's Help, and YWCA to provide these services. In addition, ESG funds were also provided to Catholic Charities, Community Action, Doorstep, Topeka Rescue Mission, and YWCA for COVID-19 related expenses.

### *Wichita*

The City of Wichita has been designated by HUD as an Entitlement City, which means it receives funding directly from HUD based on a formula and in amounts determined by Congressional appropriations. CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and ESG are the fund categories that are part of the City of Wichita's entitlement allocations. The City of Wichita's Division of Community Investments within Housing and Community Services oversees the activities funded through HUD. The [ESG program](#) provides assistance to homeless persons and persons who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless through funding for emergency shelter operations, homeless prevention, and the Rapid Re-Housing program.

ESG [funding](#) allocations for homeless assistance (emergency shelter operations) for Program Year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024) were provided to the following agencies: Catholic Charities' Harbor House (\$14,000); Catholic Charities' St. Anthony Family Shelter (\$20,000); HumanKind Inn, formerly Inter-Faith Inn (\$18,000); The Salvation Army Homeless Services (\$8,000); United Methodist Open Door Homeless Resource Center (\$29,967); Wichita Family Crisis Center, formerly YWCA (\$15,661); and Wichita Children's Home (\$30,000).

ESG funding for homeless prevention is administered on behalf of the City of Wichita by the Center of Hope and The Salvation Army Emergency Social Services. The program assists individuals who are in rental situations and facing eviction, but it does not provide assistance to persons who are delinquent on their mortgage and facing foreclosure. Program Year 2023-2024 ESG [funding](#) is \$25,000 for the Center of Hope for rent assistance and \$13,146 for The Salvation Army for emergency social services.

The ESG Rapid Re-Housing program assists homeless individuals who are ready to move into stable housing. Assistance is available through referrals from one of the City of Wichita's partner agencies: Catholic Charities, Inter-Faith Ministries, Sedgwick County Human Services, The Salvation Army, United Methodist Open Door, Veterans Administration, Wichita Children's Home, Wichita Independent School District 259, and YWCA of Wichita. ESG [funding](#) for the Rapid Re-Housing program for Program Year 2023-2024 is \$62,138.

In Program Year 2023-2024, \$19,128 is allocated to ESG program administration. The total ESG annual award for Program Year 2023-2024 is \$255,040.

### *Johnson County*

Johnson County Community Development has been the entity applying for and administering the [ESG grants](#) for Johnson County since 1996. Upon KHRC's publication of the notice of funding availability, Johnson County Community Development sends local CoC members a request for letters of intent by a stated deadline. After the deadline, a meeting is

held between CoC on Homelessness stakeholders, eligible applicants, and Johnson County staff to discuss current unmet community needs. The needs are prioritized, and Johnson County determines the funding amounts based on those needs and notifies all applicants of the determination. Johnson County compiles the collected application materials from the interested applicants and all required documents to submit to KHRC by the ESG grant application deadline.

The [subrecipients](#) of Johnson County ESG grants funded by KHRC in 2022 were Johnson County Mental Health (\$31,000 for street outreach), Kansas City Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries (\$20,596.03 for emergency shelter and \$1,403.97 for HMIS), reStart, Inc. (\$24,794 for street outreach), Safehome (\$13,340.00 for emergency shelter), and Johnson County Community Development (\$2,464.00 for administration costs), for a 2022 ESG award total of \$93,598.00.

### ***Continuum of Care Program***

In 2009, the HEARTH Act consolidated three separate homeless assistance programs (Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation SRO) into a single grant program known as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. The CoC Program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness, improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness, improve data collection and performance measurement, and allow each community to tailor its program to the particular strengths and challenges within that community.

Each year, HUD awards CoC Program funding competitively to nonprofit organizations, states, and local units of government, who may contract or subgrant with other organizations or governmental entities to carry out the grant's day-to-day program operations.

HUD categorizes the State's CoC Program funding geographically as follows: Kansas City/Wyandotte County; Wichita/Sedgwick County; Topeka/Shawnee County; Overland Park, Shawnee/Johnson County; and Kansas Balance of State. In FY 2022, HUD awarded a total of \$8,699,549 CoC grants in Kansas. A description of grants awarded to various recipients and subrecipients in 2022 by jurisdiction as shown on the [Grant Inventory Worksheet](#) follows. [Note: No funding was awarded to Kansas City/Wyandotte County CoC in 2022, according to the HUD Exchange.]

#### ***Wichita/Sedgwick County***

- Three grants totaling \$233,275 were awarded to HumanKind Ministries for permanent housing projects;
- One grant of \$155,363 was awarded to United Methodist Open Door, Inc. for a rapid rehousing project;
- Two grants totaling \$444,437 were awarded to Mental Health Association Residential Care, Inc. for a mental health permanent supportive housing project;
- One grant of \$130,089 was awarded to Catholic Charities, Inc. for a rapid rehousing project;

- One grant of \$158,872 was awarded to The Salvation Army for a joint transitional housing and permanent rapid rehousing project;
- One grant of \$176,957 was awarded to United Way of the Plains for supportive services;
- Two grants totaling \$356,323 were awarded to United Way of the Plains for HMIS;
- One grant of \$928,423 was awarded to Sedgwick County for Shelter Plus Care (rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities); and
- One grant of \$136,103 was awarded to Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services for a rapid rehousing project.

*Topeka/Shawnee County*

- The City of Topeka was awarded a grant of \$1,725,339 for Shelter Plus Care; and
- Community Action, Inc. was awarded a grant of \$82,103 for a supportive housing project.

*Overland Park, Shawnee/Johnson County*

- Two grants totaling \$207,139 were awarded to Johnson County Mental Health Center for supportive housing projects;
- One grant of \$300,752 was awarded to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc. for a permanent housing project;
- Two grants totaling \$257,147 were awarded to Safehome, Inc. for domestic violence rapid rehousing projects;
- One grant of \$62,632 was awarded to the Mid-America Regional Council for HMIS; and
- One grant of \$38,101 was awarded to the Kansas City Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry for a rapid rehousing project.

*Kansas Balance of State CoC*

- One grant of \$219,778 was awarded to My Father's House Community Services, Inc. for supportive services;
- One grant of \$135,533 was awarded to the KHRC for HMIS;

- Two grants totaling \$258,891 were awarded to the Mental Health America of the Heartland for permanent housing projects and supportive services;
- One grant of \$107,920 was awarded to Prairie View, Inc. for supportive services;
- One grant of \$204,192 was awarded to NEK-CAP, Inc. for rental assistance and supportive services;
- One grant of \$311,538 was awarded to Mid-Kansas CAP, Inc. for rental assistance and supportive services;
- One grant of \$419,569 was awarded to Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas for rental assistance and supportive services;
- One grant of \$168,734 was awarded to the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition, Inc. for supportive services;
- One grant of \$68,028 was awarded to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc. for rental assistance and supportive services;
- One grant of \$164,729 was awarded to the Salina Housing Authority for Shelter Plus Care;
- One grant of \$206,300 was awarded to Catholic Charities, Inc. for a rapid rehousing project; and
- One grant of \$284,130 was awarded to the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence for a domestic violence and sexual assault rapid rehousing project.

### ***Housing Trust Fund***

The [Housing Trust Fund](#) (HTF) was established under Title I of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992. The HUD HTF awards grants to states for the rehabilitation, preservation, and construction of rental homes and for home ownership for low-income families to very-low-income families, including homeless families. States may administer the HTF program or designate an entity to administer the funds on its behalf. In Kansas, the State has designated KHRC to administer the HTF.

Grantees are required to use at least 80 percent of each annual grant for rental housing, up to 10 percent for homeownership housing, and up to 10 percent for the grantee's reasonable administrative and planning costs. Eligible activities and expenses funded by HTF grants include real property acquisition, site improvements and development costs, demolition, financing costs, relocation assistance, and operating cost assistance for rental housing.

According to the [HTF Grant Specific Commitment and Disbursement Summary Report](#) for grant years 2016 through 2021, as of July 31, 2023, a total of \$19,204,374.00 in HTF grants

have been awarded to Kansas. As of the date of the report, approximately 83 percent of the funds have been disbursed, with \$3,360,317.40 still available to be disbursed. Those funds that have not been disbursed have expenditure deadlines ranging from July 2023 to September 2026. The [HTF Open Activities Report](#) for July 21, 2023, shows that 17 projects have been committed in Kansas since 2019. They are broken down by activity type as follows:

- Four acquisition and rehabilitation projects in Kansas City, Salina, Wichita, and Winfield;
- Three rehabilitation projects in Clay Center, Great Bend, and Ottawa;
- Six acquisition and new construction projects in Bel Aire, Kansas City, Newton, Parsons, Shawnee, and Wichita; and
- Four new construction projects in Gardner, Kansas City, and Wichita.

### **Programs Administered by KDADS**

KDADS administers three programs that serve the unhoused population: Projects Assisting in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Interim Housing (IH) Projects, and the Supported Housing Fund (HSF) program.

#### ***PATH***

The [PATH](#) program is a federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) program that provides federal funds to each state to support services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and who also have serious mental illness (SMI) or co-occurring SMI and substance use disorders (SUD).

The Kansas PATH program supports the delivery of services to persons who are homeless or in precarious housing situations and have SMI and co-occurring SUD, with an emphasis on homeless adults. Kansas awards PATH grants only for services not supported by mainstream mental health systems. A list of allowable uses of PATH funds is available at the link provided.

#### ***IH Projects***

The [IH Grant Projects](#) aid homeless persons with SMI who may also have co-occurring SUD and youth 18-21 years of age with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). The IH projects provide short-term (up to nine months), immediate community-based housing for individuals who are homeless, with a focus on those who are homeless and being discharged from an inpatient or residential mental health or substance use treatment facility (e.g., state psychiatric hospital, nursing facility for mental health, SUD facility, or community hospital inpatient psychiatric program). The IH projects must demonstrate a plan to assist participants with rapidly obtaining permanent housing and resources to maintain such housing (SOAR or employment services, or both).



FY 2022 IH providers were Four County Mental Health Center, Horizons, Johnson County Mental Health Center, Valeo Behavioral Health Care, and Wyandot Center for Behavioral HealthCare, Inc.

### ***SHF Program***

The [SHF](#) program provides temporary funds to meet the service and housing cost needs of individuals who are low-income, homeless, or at risk of homelessness and who are also experiencing SMI, including youth aged 18-21 who have a SED and others with a non-serious mental illness who meet other eligibility criteria. A list of allowable and non-allowable SHF expenditures is available on the SHF webpage. Kansas Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) may access SHF to help their customers find housing. The Kansas 2022 SHF Guidelines linked on the SHF program webpage outline additional program details and requirements.

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Programs to Address Homelessness**

Below is a summary of [HHS](#) programs that directly address homelessness, as well as services for individuals and families facing homelessness, administered under the Administration for Children and Families, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

#### ***Administration for Children and Families***

##### ***Family and Youth Services Bureau—Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Programs***

As of FY 2023, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) provides the following nationwide funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth grant programs:

- Basic Center Program (BCP): 223 programs totaling more than \$56 million;
- Transitional Living Program (TLP): 239 programs totaling more than \$44 million;
- Maternity Group Home (MGH) Program: 18 programs up to a total of \$4 million;  
and
- Street Outreach Program (SOP): 118 programs totaling more than \$16 million.

**BCP.** The [BCP](#) provides grants to community-based private and public agencies for outreach, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, family reunification, and aftercare services to runaway and homeless youth who are not already receiving services from the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. The following services are provided: shelter for up to 21 days; food, clothing, and medical care; mental and physical health services; education and employment assistance; and individual, group, and family counseling.



BCP grant funds are awarded annually in three-year cycles. [Bloom House Youth Services, Inc.](#) in Emporia is the Kansas BCP grantee (Grant Period 2021–2024).

**TLP and MGH Programs.** Both programs provide grants to public and private organizations for community-based, adult-supervised group homes for youth between the ages 16 and 22 who are unable to safely live with their families. The services provided are intended to assist youth who are homeless develop the necessary skills to successfully transition to self-sufficiency. Additionally, the [TLP](#) also funds maternity group homes designed to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting youth.

In addition to parenting support, the TLP and [MGH](#) homes provide or refer to the following services: a safe, long-term, stable shelter for homeless youth; life skills training; individual and group counseling; interpersonal skill building; job attainment skills; educational advancement; and physical and behavioral health care.

The TLP and MGH Program funds are awarded every three to five years in five-year cycles. The [Wichita Children’s Home](#) is the Kansas grantee for the MGH Program (Grant Period 2021–2024) and the TLP (Grant Period 2022–2025).

**SOP.** The [SOP](#) provides grants to public and private organizations for street-based services to homeless, runaway, and street youth who are victims or at risk of being victims of sexual abuse, human trafficking, or sexual exploitation. The SOP provides access to emergency shelter, basic survival needs (e.g. food, clothing, and hygiene and first aid packages), street-based education and outreach, treatment and counseling, crisis intervention, and follow-up support. The SOP also helps locate stable housing.

SOP grants are awarded annually in three-year cycles. The Wichita Children’s Home is the Kansas grantee for this program (Grant Period 2022–2025).

### ***Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)***

#### *Health Care for the Homeless Program*

The Health Care for the Homeless program provides comprehensive primary health care, substance abuse treatment, emergency care with referrals to hospitals for in-patient care services, and outreach services to assist homeless persons establish eligibility for entitlement programs and housing.

### ***Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)***

#### *PATH*

As described in the section on KDADS-administered grants, [PATH](#) is a formula grant program that provides funding to states to support services to individuals who are at imminent risk of or experiencing homelessness who also have a SMI or co-occurring SMI and SUD. PATH grants are distributed annually to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For additional details, see the section on KDADS-administered grants.

### *Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)*

GBHI is a competitively awarded grant program administered by the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment that allows communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for persons experiencing homelessness who have SUDs or co-occurring mental disorders and SUDs. [GBHI](#) grants are awarded to community-based public or nonprofit entities for a maximum of five years. Funded services under the grant include screening and diagnostic services; outreach; treatment; enrollment in benefit programs; recovery support services; case management; staff training; job training; educational services; and assistance in identifying, locating, and achieving stable housing placement.

### *Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)*

TIEH is a competitively awarded grant program administered by the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services that allows communities to expand access to treatment for persons experiencing homelessness who have a SMI, SED, or co-occurring disorder (SME and SUD or SED and SUD). [TIEH](#) grants are awarded to community-based public or nonprofit entities for a maximum of five years. Services provided under the grant include outreach and management for the covered population; screening and assessment for mental disorders and SUDs; direct treatment for SMI, SED, and co-occurring disorders; assistance in locating sustainable permanent housing; case management services; recovery support services; and enrollment in health insurance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), and other mainstream benefits.

### *SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Program*

SAMHSA's [SOAR](#) Technical Assistance Center helps states and communities end homelessness and assists eligible children and adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have an SMI, a medical impairment, or a co-occurring SUD, or some combination, gain access to SSI or SSDI benefits. The 50 states and the District of Columbia participate in the SOAR program.

### *Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI)*

The [CABHI](#) competitive grant program supports state and local community efforts to provide behavioral health and recovery-oriented services with a permanent supportive housing approach for persons with SMI, SED, SUD, and co-occurring mental disorders and SUD. The CABHI program is jointly funded by the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. The primary goal of the program is to ensure the most vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness and chronic homelessness obtain access to housing, treatment, and recovery support services. Services provided include outreach and engagement; screening and assessment for mental disorders and SUD; direct treatment for SUD, SMI, SED, and co-occurring disorders; peer support services and specialists; case management and recovery support; enrollment in health insurance, Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, and other mainstream benefits; and identification of sustainable permanent housing.

## **Local Homelessness Programs**

### ***Kansas City***

[Impact KCK](#), founded in 2015, was designed by the Kansas Community Leadership Enterprise group convened by the Kansas Department for Children and Families in 2014. It is a collaborative program designed to serve Kansas City, Kansas (KCK) school district students experiencing homelessness. The program is based on the Collective Impact Model for Community Change, which was introduced in 2011, and several key social service innovations facilitated by Collective Impact. The model has been used to create collaborative solutions for communities worldwide. The Wyandotte County public schools refer homeless students and families to Avenue of Life, which is the backbone organization for Impact KCK. Avenue of Life coordinates the actions of 90 partner organizations and employs staff dedicated to the Impact KCK program.

According to the Impact KCK Assessment for 2019-2020, the program has a 95 percent rate of housing stability among families who receive permanent housing, and it reduced student homelessness in KCK public schools by more than 50 percent from August 2015 to January 2018.

### ***Topeka***

According to the 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation [Report](#), the City works with the Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force to determine housing and support service needs. The Task Force is composed of approximately 40 public and private agencies and organizations. A consultant was approved to begin in 2023 to further evaluate the homeless population and determine the initiatives that could be built upon to help meet their needs. The consultant services are funded through the City's general fund.

The City of Topeka does not operate an emergency or transitional shelter for individuals who are homeless, but the Topeka Rescue Mission serves as the main shelter. Transitional housing for homeless individuals is available through Valeo Behavioral Health Care, the Veteran's Administration, and Cornerstone of Topeka.

### ***Equity Access Shelter Program***

The City implemented the Equity Access Shelter (EAS) program in 2022 and funded two FTE positions through the general fund to work with the HMIS and the homeless, providing a single point of access for the homeless population to better serve their needs.

### ***Emergency Housing Voucher Program***

In partnership with the Topeka Housing Authority (THA), the City has started an Emergency Housing Voucher (EVH) program to provide emergency housing assistance to persons experiencing homelessness. The program is funded through the THA.

### *Impact Avenues Program*

The City's [Impact Avenues](#) program was launched in October 2019 based on a program in Wyandotte County (Impact KCK) to help students lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (including living in emergency shelters). Referrals are made through a USD 501 liaison. Upon approval, children and their families receive support to obtain stable housing and assistance with barriers to success, such as transportation, employment, financial literacy, healthcare, and other needs. The program is funded and supported by numerous [community partners](#).

### *Shelter Plus Care*

In March 2022, HUD announced the City would receive \$1.7 million to fund its housing and services program, [Shelter Plus Care](#). An additional \$51,737 in planning funds was awarded to the City to help the homeless population. The Shelter Plus Care program provides rental assistance to homeless persons with disabilities, primarily those with severe and persistent mental illness; chronic problems with alcohol, drugs, or both; or diagnosed with AIDS or a related disease.

Participants choose their residence from units in which the landlord has agreed to the housing subsidy and to abide by the Shelter Plus Care program guidelines. While the participant works toward establishing greater financial stability and self-sufficiency, the program provides the ongoing financial support needed to maintain the chosen residence. Individuals and families pay approximately 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income toward the rent. To remain in the program, a participant must agree to participate in supportive case management services. A participant may be terminated from the program for failure to participate in supportive services and a lack of progress toward self-sufficiency. Referrals to the program are made through the agencies providing case management, including Positive Connections, Valeo Recovery Center, Valeo Behavioral Health Care, Veterans Administration, and New Dawn Wellness and Recovery Center.

### *Boundary Spanner Program*

Additionally, KDADS provided funding through a state grant for one FTE position to help with the homeless population through their Boundary Spanner program, which is to assist in coordinating housing access, improve collaboration between HUD CoC regions, and speed consumer access to specialized and mainstream housing.