

## ***County Coronavirus Relief Fund FAQ***

*July 8, 2020*

### **County Information and Resources:**

*Q:* Who should be the designated contact for my county to communicate with The Office of Recovery?

*A:* Counties may name whomever they see most fit. The Primary and Secondary Contact will be the designated points of contact for all official notices and communications from the Office of Recovery. Counties are encouraged to centralize communications with the Office— including general inquiries and formal Requests for Guidance Interpretation — with the designated points of contact.

Authorized Signers should be an official who is authorized to certify that reporting data is true, accurate, complete, and compliant with relevant state and federal guidance. If a county has not done so yet, please contact the Office of the Recovery to complete the necessary form.

*Q:* Where can I find recorded webinar presentations?

*A:* Recorded webinar presentations will be posted on Kansas Association of Counties website also linked [here](#).

*Q:* Where are county resources such as the submission portal, county tool kit and guidance?

*A:* County resources such as the submission portal, county tool kit, county resolution, and guidance can be found [here](#).

*Q:* What is the purpose of the submission portal?

*A:* The portal is designed to centralize all submissions – such as the County Resolutions, County Reimbursement Reports and Guidance Interpretation Requests – made by a county’s designees responsible for administering and reporting COVID Relief Funds. All submissions are directed and received by the Governor’s Office of Recovery. Please note: this form is not for questions or inquiries. Portal is linked [here](#).

*Q:* What days and times will the county webinars be?

*A:* Currently Office of Recovery is partnering with the Kansas Association of Counties to develop and provide informational webinars for counties. Below is the schedule of webinars. The online access information for the webinars will be sent by the Kansas Association of Counties:

- July 9<sup>th</sup>: 3PM - 4:00PM – Finance Webinar
- July 10<sup>th</sup>: 10AM – 11:30AM
- July 15<sup>th</sup> 2PM – 3:30PM
- July 17: 2PM – 3:30PM
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2PM – 3:30PM
- July 24<sup>th</sup>: 10AM– 11:30AM
- July 31<sup>st</sup>: 10AM -11:30AM
- August 7<sup>th</sup>: 10AM – 11:30AM
- August 14<sup>th</sup>: 10AM – 11:30AM
- August 21<sup>st</sup>: 2PM – 3:30PM
- August 28<sup>th</sup>: 10AM – 11:30AM

### **County Resolutions:**

*Q:* When are resolutions due?

*A:* County resolutions must be submitted, via the online submission portal, no later than July 13<sup>th</sup> for the county to receive funding.

*Q:* When referencing “required closures”, what does closed mean? Does this mean it must be a required closure by the Governor? Or is closure by the Board of County Commissioners also acceptable?

*A:* These can be closures at the local or state level.

*Q:* Are the eligible expenditures provided in Sections 2 and 3 required or just examples?

*A:* Sections 2 and 3 are simply examples of eligible expenditures from federal guidance, they are not an exhaustive list of allowed spending.

*Q:* Section 8 says that counties are required to consider and incorporate efforts to address disproportionate impacts (long standing health disparities) on racial minorities in the direct aid plan. How should counties demonstrate an effort to address long standing health disparities among racial minority groups?

*A:* This is at the discretion of the county. The goal of this section is to encourage counties to consider programs, planning, and outreach specifically designed to support racial minority groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (grants for minority-owned small businesses, specific outreach strategies/partnerships etc). There will be a portion of the direct aid application that allows counties to explain how they considered this in their planning. These issues impact individual counties differently, so it is at the discretion of the county how their planning operationalizes.

*Q:* Where does a county get the amount required in the resolution?

*A:* The funding allocation for each county was provided on June 18<sup>th</sup> via email and can be found in the Appendix of the Municipal Toolkit, which can be accessed [here](#).

*Q:* In the resolution, what is the date the State Finance Council approved the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce's proposal?

*A:* The State Finance Council approved the Round 1 proposal on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*Q:* At the top of the second page, there is a block to insert the Granting Local Ordinance. Is this the local disaster declaration, the section in the local county code (if applicable) or some other item?

*A:* The Granting Local Ordinance refers to the specific county level code that grants the authority signing the document with the power to make that decision on behalf of the county. Similar to how the Governor can cite specific state statute to illustrate where she is granted the power to make certain decisions, this section makes it clear that the body approving this resolution has the legal authority to make such a decision. If a county does not have such an ordinance, they may delete this blank in the resolution.

### **Reimbursements:**

*Q:* Who would be responsible for repayment of denied expenses/ineligible expenses?

*A:* Counties are responsible for all funds provided to them under Round 1 allocations, including repayment of ineligible expenditures. If a county then provides funds from its Round 1 allocation to cities, schools, businesses, or other entities within their county, the county is responsible for the eligible spending of those funds. Counties may choose to enter into memorandums of understanding, resolutions, or other legal agreements with entities they provide funding to in order to share accounting responsibilities.

*Q:* Will the distribution to counties be for the 100% of their allocation, or a lesser percentage?

*A:* The distribution on July 15th will be 100% of a county's allocation. Counties will need to account for all spending by submitting the reimbursement form and the direct aid spending plan for all funds not designated for reimbursement.

*Q:* What percentage of the money received must be reimbursed and what percentage can be used for direct aid?

*A:* There are no limitations on what percentage of funds must be used for reimbursement versus direct aid. All funds not used for reimbursement can be used for direct aid as long as those funds are accounted for in the county's direct aid spending plan.

*Q:* Is a county required to exhaust all reimbursable costs before utilizing funds for direct aid?

*A:* No, a county may choose what portion of eligible expenses to reimburse. For example: a county with \$100,000 in reimbursement eligible expenses may choose to only reimburse \$50,000 of those expenses.

### **Eligibility:**

*Q:* Can funds be used for administrative costs and additionally to hire an independent firm to administer this grant?

*A:* Yes, funds can be used for administrative costs. For example, the expense of hiring accounting services would be an eligible expense.

*Q:* Are legal fees reimbursable to ensure compliance?

*A:* Yes, legal fees for compliance are an eligible expense. However, no funds can be spent on any costs for legal settlements due to COVID-19 or related spending.

*Q:* Is there a limit on contact tracers and can they be funded throughout the remainder of the pandemic?

*A:* There is no specific limit on the number of contact tracers allowed.

*Q:* Are private colleges eligible for funds allocated to counties?

*A:* There is no specific limitation on what entities a county can fund, so long as all expenditures are permissible within the federal guidance issued by the United States Department of Treasury. However, the state does encourage counties to prioritize public institutions with Round 1 funding.

### **Direct Aid Spending Plans:**

*Q:* When will Direct Aid Spending plans be available? What is the purpose of these?

*A:* The Office of Recovery will provide the direct aid spending plan template during the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>. The direct aid spending plan has two purposes – providing the SPARK Committee a snapshot of county spending to allow the state to fill in gaps and to ensure that all planned expenditures as eligible spending under the CARES Act.

*Q:* Will there be an opportunity to amend the spending plan if some parts are deemed ineligible, prior to reaching that date where the state starts to recoup unspent funds?

*A:* Yes, there will be an opportunity to amend spending plans.