



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
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MHDC PARTNERS WITH KANSAS CITY, JACKSON COUNTY TO CONTINUE HELPING RESIDENTS IN NEED OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Jefferson City, Mo.—The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) recently approved a partnership with the City of Kansas City and Jackson County to help sustain their Emergency Rental Assistance programs whereby MHDC will provide up to \$50 million in additional Emergency Rental Assistance funding—up to \$25 million each—for residents in need of rental or utility assistance.

“The distribution formula used by the U.S. Treasury resulted in allocations to qualifying local governments in an amount equal to forty-five percent of a distribution based on an equal per capita formula. When the City of Kansas City contacted us about the possibility of a partnership to help sustain their ERA Program by providing additional funds, it was an opportunity to continue our coordinated and cooperative effort with local governments to deliver assistance funds to those in need,” said Kip Stetzler, Executive Director of MHDC.

Stetzler noted that the funding provided for local programs does not replace assistance available through the state’s State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) program, which continues to help Missouri families who need either rental or utility assistance at its online application portal mohousingresources.com/safhr. Kansas City and Jackson County will each use this additional funding with their existing rental assistance programs. Jackson County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program can be accessed online in English and Spanish at www.jacksoncountyerap.org. Kansas City’s program can be reached at <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/housing>.

“Jackson County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program has demonstrated our capability and compassion as we have effectively and efficiently kept thousands of at-risk residents in their homes and off the street in the past eight months,” said Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. “Jackson County is extremely grateful for MHDC’s support as we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure people remain housed, healthy and safe as we continue to combat this deadly pandemic. We look forward to working with Community Services League, United Way of Greater Kansas City, and all of our amazing partners to distribute these life-saving funds as quickly as possible.”

“This is great news,” said Jennifer Tidwell, interim director of the Kansas City’s Housing and Community Development Department. “This additional funding provides help to families who need additional resources to pay rent and utilities, especially during this time of the year.”

Nearly 20,000 Missouri families have avoided eviction through more than \$125 million in MHDC’s SAFHR assistance, while Kansas City has served more than 3,500 households through \$15.8 million in assistance, and Jackson County has assisted more than 2,500 households through more than \$11.5 million in federal funds. Leaders of all three partners noted that this state and local partnership will help to build on this success.

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“As Chair of the Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, keeping people in their homes has always been one of my top priorities, but this effort becomes increasingly important as winter weather fast approaches,” U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II said. “I’m thrilled with the announcement that up to \$50 million in additional federal funding will be distributed between Kansas City and Jackson County to help local tenants can get rental assistance that will prevent unnecessary evictions. I want to express my appreciation to the people at the MHDC for their willingness to form partnerships that will help communities in need of assistance.”

About SAFHR

The MHDC State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) for Renters program provides rent and utility assistance for eligible Missouri residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible tenants can apply for financial assistance to be paid directly to their landlord or utility provider. Financial assistance includes rent and utility arrears for the period beginning April 2020 and up to 3 months of forward rent and prepaid fuel utility assistance. Utilities include gas, electric, water, sewage/wastewater, fuel (propane, wood, etc.) and trash. Missourians may apply for utility assistance even if they are not applying for rental help. Landlords looking for assistance for tenants can visit [the SAFHR for Landlords portal](#).

More on the program and its results are available at the [SAFHR Dashboard](#) website.

About Jackson County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Jackson County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program began accepting applications on April 5, 2021 after receiving \$11,550,205 in grant monies from the federal government to assist eligible households in Jackson County that are unable to pay current and past due rent and utility bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Services League and United Way of Greater Kansas City are administering the County’s program, which successfully prevented more than 1,000 evictions in its first 100 days. Any renter household in Jackson County that is behind on rent or utility payments is encouraged submit an application for assistance though program’s portal at www.jacksoncountyerap.org. Detailed program information is also readily available for Spanish-speaking families at www.jacksoncountyerap.org/espanol.

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