AUGUST
2022

**KANSAS CITY
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KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A FOUNDATION FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Kansas City Housing and Community Development Department

Under the Leadership of the Houseless Task Force

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Executive Summary

Kansas City Community Needs Assessment: A Foundation For Ending Homelessness was prepared by Community Analytics, LLC, a Kansas City-based consulting firm. The work took place under the leadership of the City's Houseless Task Force and the City of Kansas City's Housing and Community Development Department.

The author gratefully acknowledges guidance provided by Tamara Wright and Dr. Joseph Savage, Senior Regional Advisors with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) during the needs assessment process.

The Assessment was prepared based on multiple research methods, including analysis of quantitative homeless and housing data, community asset mapping and community-based research. Community-based research was conducted through focus groups, interviews and an anonymous survey. The Assessment is intended to support effective action in addressing homelessness in Kansas City.

UNSHELTERED HOMELESS

Homeless data collected in January 2022 as part of the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) indicated 711 unsheltered homeless persons. The actual figure is likely higher, because it is very difficult to get an accurate count of those who are unsheltered. This figure alone points to the need for additional shelter space. However, other evidence obtained through community-based research also indicates a need for additional shelter space, possibly with some space in suburban areas of Kansas City such as the Northland and South Kansas City.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Community asset mapping is a technique for identifying existing resources relevant to a particular policy issue, including community organizations. Asset mapping conducted during the preparation of the Assessment indicates that Kansas City has a wide array of organizations providing services for the homeless population. Asset mapping indicated that the City has particular strengths in the realm of employment, health care and related services and housing. Further, no gaps were found in the types of services offered in Kansas City relevant to serving homeless persons. This does not mean that there is no room for growth or innovation in service provision, but it does highlight the need for increased effectiveness in the coordination of homeless services.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

While Kansas City may have relative strength in the number of community organizations available to help homeless individuals connect with housing, the lack of available, affordable units is a primary factor in homelessness. Moreover, units are needed that are affordable to households with incomes at or below 30% of the HUD-adjusted Area Median Income (AMI). As an example, 30% AMI translates to an annual income of $29,050 for a four-person household (2022). An affordable unit for this household would be $726 per month, including utilities.[1] Many working households have incomes at or below this level. Targeted subsidies are needed to expand rental housing production that includes units affordable to households at this income level.

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[1]Based on federal affordability guidelines indicating a household should pay no more than 30% of its gross monthly income on housing, including utilities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (CONT.D)

Subsidies must also be layered and leveraged with other tools to support mixed-income housing opportunities in all areas of the city, since decades of experience with older federal housing programs demonstrate that concentrated poverty produces negative outcomes. For instance, residents in areas of concentrated poverty "have limited access to jobs and high-quality health care, and they are exposed to a poor quality of education and higher crime rates.[2] This underscores the importance of supporting neighborhoods with mixed-income housing opportunities, including housing affordable to households at or below 30% AMI alongside those with higher incomes.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Members of Kansas City's homeless population have indicated a need for improved communication about available services. Further, improved communication throughout the homeless services network will help the system work more effectively.

IMPROVED COLLABORATION

There is room to improve the effectiveness of collaboration across the homeless service provider network in Kansas City. Our community has a strong cadre of committed service provider organizations and professionals. We will make the most of this strength by taking steps to improve collaboration through training and other intentional activities.

SERVING THE HOMELESS POPULATION

Community-based research revealed many ways for improving service to the homeless population. Highlights of the suggestions made by those experiencing homelessness include:
- Adding shelter space
- Reducing barriers to shelter and housing
- Making hygiene facilities available with bathrooms, showers and laundries
- Increasing the number of affordable housing units
- Increasing the availability of mental health services
- Increasing the availability of medical, dental and vision services
- Making services available in suburban locations such as the Northland and South Kansas City
- Making mail services available
- Making help available for obtaining official documents such as state IDs and birth certificates
- Increasing the availability of help with employment, including coaching and help with applications

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This Assessment provides a wealth of information that may be used to set strategic priorities and plan for an end to homelessness in Kansas City. The information presented here is intended to be used by public officials, community professionals, neighborhood leaders, advocates and members of the public in coming together to meet the goal of ending homelessness.

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[2]McClure, Kirk. Williamson, Anne R., Han, Hye-Sung and Weiss, Brandon M. 2020. "The LIHTC Program, Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty, and High-Opportunity Neighborhoods." *Texas A&M Property Law Journal 6 (2):89-111.*

Introduction

Kansas City Community Needs Assessment: A Foundation for Ending Homelessness (Assessment) was prepared by *Community Analytics, LLC*, a Kansas City, Missouri-based consulting firm, under the leadership of the City's Houseless Task Force and the City of Kansas City's Housing and Community Development Department. The author gratefully acknowledges guidance provided by Tamara Wright and Dr. Joseph Savage, Senior Regional Advisors with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) during the needs assessment process. The purpose of the Assessment is to provide information critical to preventing and ending homelessness in our City.

ANALYTICAL APPROACH

The Assessment was prepared based on homeless data made available by the two Continua of Care (CoCs)[3] serving the City and data collected through the community asset mapping approach to community development. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) was also used to analyze housing need. Further, the Assessment includes the results of extensive community-based participatory research gathered through stakeholder organization meetings, focus groups and street outreach interviews. The use of participatory research to supplement quantitative data facilitated a deeper and more inclusive research process involving those most affected by homelessness and the professionals who serve them.

USING THIS ASSESSMENT

This Assessment may be used to better understand homelessness in Kansas City. It may also be used to develop new solutions to this critical policy issue and to improve the effectiveness of existing interventions.

The Assessment is organized as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Homeless Data
- Housing Data
- Community Asset Mapping
- Community-Based Participatory Research
- Conclusion
- Appendix: Community Asset Organizations

[3]CoCs are local entities responsible for administering the majority of federal homeless funds throughout the US. Most of Kansas City is served by the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, although a portion of the City is served by the Missouri Balance of State CoC.

Homeless Data

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT DATA

Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data are collected by the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) and the Missouri Balance of State (BoS) CoCs each year. The PIT and HIC counts are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the agency responsible for the administration of most federal homeless program funds. HUD defines homelessness as:

An individual who belongs to one of the following categories:
1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
   a. An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
   b. An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements;
   c. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
   d. An individual who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
      a. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
      b. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
      c. The individual lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
   e. Any individual who:
      a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual that has either taken place within the individual's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
      b. Has no other residence; and
      c. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

The PIT is a count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. CoCs must count persons experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens each year.[4] HUD also requires a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (in odd-numbered years).[5] However, GKCCEH and BoS CoCs make this count annually.[6]

The Housing Inventory Count is a point-in-time count of beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness. Permanent housing projects are also included in this count if the service provider serves people who are defined as homeless at entry.

GKCCEH serves Jackson County, Missouri and Wyandotte County, Kansas. GKCCEH PIT data are presented below for Jackson County only. Jackson County data include Kansas City, Grandview, Independence and Lee's Summit.

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[4]HUD defines Safe Havens as "refuge for people who are homeless and have a serious mental illness." https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/SafeHavens.pdf.
Accessed August 13, 2022.
[5]HUD Exchange Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/. Accessed 08. 13, 2022. [6]HUD Exchange Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory County, ibid.

Table 1: PIT Count Total Households and Persons, Jackson County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Households	269	343	16	681	1,309
Total Persons	386	469	16	711	1,582
Number of Children (under 18)	114	123	0	3	240
Number of Persons (18-24)	21	56	0	25	102
Number of Persons (over 24)	251	290	16	683	1,240

Source: Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Table 2: PIT Count By Gender, Jackson County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	209	175	0	194	578
Male	177	285	16	499	977
Questioning	0	1	0	3	4
Transgender	0	3	0	6	11
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e., not exclusively male or female)	0	5	0	9	12

Source: Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Table 3: PIT Count by Ethnicity, Jackson County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
TNon-Hispanic/Non-Latino	319	419	16	649	1,403
Hispanic/Latino	67	50	0	62	179

Source: Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Table 4: PIT Count BY Race, Jackson County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	177	260	9	412	858
Black or African-American	169	169	6	232	576
Asian	3	3	0	5	11
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	8	0	15	31
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	1	4	6
Multiple Races	28	29	0	43	100

Source: Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Table 5: Pit Count Chronically Homeless, Jackson County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Persons	39	0	1	265	305

Source: Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data collected by GKCCEH includes both Jackson and Wyandotte Counties.

Table 6: HIC Beds And Units, GKCCEH, 2021

	Family Units	Family Beds	Adult-Only Beds	Child-Only Beds	Total Year-Round Beds	Seasonal	Overflow/ Voucher
Emergency, Safe Haven & Transitional Housing	195	984	846	10	1,840	0	52
Emergency Shelter	70	599	534	0	1,133	0	52
Safe Haven	0	0	25	0	25	n/a	n/a
Transitional Housing	125	385	287	10	682	n/a	n/a
Permanent Housing	905	1,320	988	22	2,330	n/a	n/a
Permanent Supportive Housing	561	703	853	22	1,578	n/a	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	344	617	135	0	752	n/a	n/a
Grand Total	**1,100**	**2,304**	**1,834**	**32**	**4,170**	**0**	**52**

Source: HUD EXCHANGE HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT REPORTS, 2021

Table 7: Total Bed Inventory Subsets, GKCCEH, 2021

	Chronic Beds	Veteran Beds	Youth Beds
Emergency, Safe Haven & Transitional Housing	n/a	161	161
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0
Safe Haven	n/a	25	0
Transitional Housing	n/a	136	161
Permanent Housing	1,424	279	22
Permanent Supportive Housing	1,424	25	22
Rapid Re-Housing	n/a	254	0
Grand Total	**1,424**	**440**	**183**

Source: HUD EXCHANGE HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT REPORTS, 2021

Missouri Balance of State PIT and data for 2022 are provided below for Clay and Platte Counties. A portion of these counties are within the limits of Kansas City. Tables for Clay and Platte Counties begin on the following page.

TABLE 8: PIT Count Total Households and Persons, Clay County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Households	5	8	0	0	13
Total Persons	23	18	0	0	41
Number of Children (under 18)	15	9	0	0	24
Number of Persons (18-24)	0	5	0	0	5
Number of Persons (over 24)	8	4	0	0	12

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 9: PIT Count Total Households and Persons, Platte County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Households	5	5	0	0	10
Total Persons	11	15	0	0	26
Number of Children (under 18)	6	10	0	0	16
Number of Persons (18-24)	0	1	0	0	1
Number of Persons (over 24)	5	4	0	0	9

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 10: PIT Count by Gender, Clay County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	15	10	0	0	25
Male	8	8	0	0	16
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e., not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 11: PIT Count by Gender, Platte County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	8	8	0	0	16
Male	3	7	0	0	10
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e., not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 12: PIT Count by Ethnicity, Clay County, 2022

Population	Sheltered				
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Unsheltered	Total
Non–Hispanic/Non-Latino	23	14	0	0	37
Hispanic/Latino	0	4	0	0	4

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 13: PIT Count by Ethnicity, Platte County, 2022

Population	Sheltered				
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Unsheltered	Total
Non–Hispanic/Non-Latino	9	15	0	0	24
Hispanic/Latino	2	0	0	0	2

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 14: PIT Count by Race, Clay County, 2022

Population	Sheltered				
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Unsheltered	Total
White	13	9	0	0	22
Black or African-American	10	9	0	0	19
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0

Source:Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 15: PIT Count by Race, Platte County, 2022

Population	Sheltered				
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Unsheltered	Total
White	4	9	0	0	13
Black or African-American	7	6	0	0	13
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0

Source:Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 16: PIT Count Chronically Homeless, Clay County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Persons	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Table 17: PIT Count Chronically Homeless, Platte County, 2022

Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Persons	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Clay and Platte County Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data were not available for 2022 at the time of publication.

PIT data reveal that the most critical need is among the 711 individuals identified as unsheltered in January 2022. Further, the actual number was likely higher due to the challenges of identifying unsheltered homeless persons. There are many reasons why those experiencing homelessness may be unsheltered. First, there may be a lack of available shelter space, or the shelter space is not available in a geographic area accessible to some homeless people. Second, some shelter may have barriers that exclude some people. Other reasons may include individuals' reluctance to make use of shelter space, lack of availability of shelter space where a pet may be taken, and other personal considerations.

These results indicate that careful consideration must be given to the need to expand shelter space in Kansas City. Additional information about this need was gathered through community-based participatory research and appears in that portion of this Assessment.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS DATA

While the most commonly used definition for homelessness is the one used by HUD, the McKinney-Vento Act provides for a somewhat broader definition of homelessness. The McKinney-Vento definition applies specifically to homelessness among public school students. Public school student homelessness in grades K-12 is a hidden form of homelessness; most people are unaware that more than 1.3 million students were identified as homeless in the U.S. by 2013.[7] Although this figure declined slightly in the 2019-2020 school year,[8] the figures for that year were likely affected by school district's challenges in identifying homeless students due to the COVID-19 pandemic and remote schooling.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1))" and who meet the following guidelines:

(i)   children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;

(ii)   children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings [within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C)];

(iii)   children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv)   migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purpose of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii) (Public Law No. 107-110).[9]

The McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness expands on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness by including children and youth who are sharing housing with others ("doubled up" or "couch surfing"). Thus, the McKinney-Vento homeless definition includes students who are experiencing housing instability as well as those who are literally without housing.

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[7]Ingram, Erin S., John M. Bridgeland, Bruce Reed, and Matthew Atwell. 2016. Hidden in Plain Sight: Students in America's Public Schools. Washington, DC.
[8]National Council for Homeless Education (NCHE) data indicate 1,277,772 students were identified as homeless in the 2019-2020 school year. https://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/ConsolidatedStateProfile.aspx; Accessed August 22, 2022.
[9]McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act, Section 725, as reauthorized under Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act (H.R. 1), 2001.
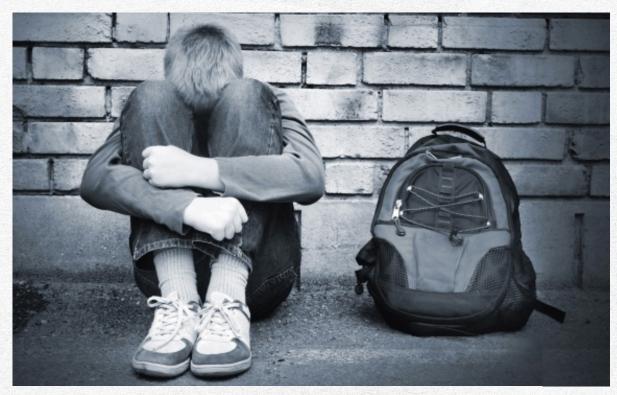
Table 19: displays homeless student data for Missouri school districts in the Kansas City region as of the 2019-2020 school year, the most recent year for which data are available.

Homeless Students in Missouri School Districts in Kansas City Region, 2019-2020[10]

School District	Number of Homeless Students
Center School District	75
Grandview School District	69
Independence School District	755
Hickman Mills School District	210
Kansas City Public Schools	1,241
Lee's Summit School District	187
Liberty Public Schools (Clay County)	115
North Kansas City Schools (Clay County)	523
Total Homeless Students	**3,175**

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

One of the challenges of addressing homelessness among public school students and their families is that most of them do not qualify for assistance from federal homeless programs, since they do not meet the HUD homeless definition. While some funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education under the McKinney-Vento Act to serve these students, funding is limited and is not provided to every school district with homeless students.

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[10]Charter schools are not included in this table.

Housing Data

This section presents data related to housing and extremely low income renter households. These households are more likely to be at risk of homelessness than households with higher incomes. Extremely low income (ELI) households are defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as households with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI). HUD produces AMI estimates based on household size each year. Table 20 presents 30% AMI incomes by household size for 2022. The table also provides the housing cost affordable for each ELI households based on spending no more than 30% of gross monthly income for housing.[11]

Table 20: Kansas City 30% AMI and Affordable Housing Costs by Household Size, 2022

Number of Persons in Household	30% AMI	Affordable Housing Cost
1	$20,350	$509
2	$23,250	$581
3	$26,150	$654
4	$29,050	$726
5	$31,400	$785

Source: HUD Exchange

Households paying more than 30% of their gross monthly income for housing are unlikely to have sufficient resources left to pay for necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, health care, education and other needs. Further, the resources of ELI households are so constrained that they are at risk of homelessness from something as simple as a car repair or a loss of working hours due to illness or employer schedule adjustments. Households paying more than 50% of gross monthly income for housing are severely cost burdened and face an even greater risk of homelessness than those experiencing simple cost burden.

Table 21 displays the number of affordable and available rental units for ELI households in the Kansas City metropolitan region. There is a deficit of 27,563 rental units affordable and available to households with incomes at or below 30% AMI.

Table 22 shows information about ELI renters with severe cost burden in the Kansas City metropolitan region. Nearly 63% of ELI renters are severely cost burdened.

[11]Federal guidelines indicate a household may afford to spend no more than 30% of gross monthly income on housing costs. For renters, these costs are rent plus utilities. For homeowners, these costs are the mortgage payment (including principal, interest, property taxes and homeowners insurance), homeowners association fees (if any) and utilities.

Table 21: ELI Affordable and Available Rental Units, 2016-2020 Estimate

Area	Rental Households With 30% AMI or Less	Total Units Affordable at 30% AMI or Less	Surplus (Deficit) of Affordable Units at 30% AMI or Less	Units Affordable & Available at 30% AMI or Less	Surplus (Deficit) of Affordable & Available Unit% at 30AMI or Less
Kansas City, MO-KS (MSA) plus Johnson (Warrensburg, Micro)	41,698	24,395	(17,303)	14,135	(27,563)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survery 2016-2020

Table 22: ELI Renters With Severe Housing Cost Burden

Area	ELI Renters Severe CB	All Renters Severe CB	% All Renters Severe CB	All ELI Renters	% ELI Renters With Severe CB	All Renters	ELI with Severe CB as % of All Renters
Kansas City, MO-KS (MSA) (Warrensburg, Micro)	21,110	35,998	18.88%	41,698	62.62%	191,600	13.63%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survery 2016-2020

The lack of affordable and available units for ELI households results in the majority of these households experiencing severe cost burden.

Community Asset Mapping

Community asset mapping provides a strengths-based approach to community development. It focuses on identifying the assets that already exist within a community that can be used to achieve desired community change[12] Introduced by John Kretzmann and John McKnight in 1993, asset-based community development has been used as a foundation for transformation by thousands of communities.

Community asset research identified more than 200 organizations providing services for unhoused persons. Two methods were used to identify community asset organizations, a survey and internet-based research. Community Analytics designed the community asset survey; the City emailed a link to this survey to its list of housing and community development contacts and a list of organization contacts provided by GKCCEH. This yielded information for 58 unique organizations. Internet-based research was conducted by the Community Analytics team to expand the pool of information available about community asset organizations. Information gathered through internet research was supplemented where necessary by telephone and email communications.

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[12]Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight, *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets.* Chicago, IL: ACTA Publications, 1993.

Community Asset Mapping (Cont.d)

Once community asset organizations were identified, the services provided by each organization were placed in six categories to facilitate analysis of strengths and potential gaps in services. Many organizations provide services in more than one category. The categories are presented alphabetically below:

- Employment
- Food
- Health and Related
- Housing
- Self-Sufficiency
- Social Capital

A complete list of community asset organizations identified during the preparation of this Assessment is provided in the Appendix. Council district information is provided for each organization, where available. Additional tables list organizations by the category or categories in which they provide services.

ASSET STRENGTHS

Community assets were analyzed based on the number of organizations providing services relevant to addressing the needs of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness. It is important to note that this analysis does not include the analysis of infrastructure such as housing units or shelter space. Instead, the analysis focuses on the number of service providers in each of six categories described above.

Findings indicate that Kansas City has relative strengths in several categories:
- Employment
- Health and Related
- Housing

However, findings of relative strength in these service categories do not mean that there is no room for growth or innovation in those realms. For instance, while the community has a relative strength in the number of service providers reporting that they connect people with housing, this does not mean that there are enough housing units available at rental rates all unhoused persons can afford. Further, there may be barriers to housing imposed by certain service providers such as sobriety and/or employment. Thus, having a relative strength in the housing category does not mean that there is not substantial work to be done.

ASSET GAPS

While Kansas City has a wide array of community asset organizations providing services essential to addressing the needs of homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless, this should not be interpreted to mean that all services are available to all people in need and in geographic areas where they are needed.

Services may be unavailable to all in need due to limitations imposed by lack of adequate funding, including funding for community asset organization staff. Thus, capacity is an issue that must be explored in more depth in order to reach the goal of ending homelessness in Kansas City.

Further, community asset organizations tend to be located in the urban core. This means that people experiencing homelessness in suburban areas such as the Northland and South Kansas City may have challenges in accessing services.

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[13]This refers to the number of service providers, not the number of housing units.

IMPLICATIONS

Community asset mapping revealed that Kansas City has a number of strengths represented by the number of organizations providing services relevant to ending homelessness. However, reviewing community asset findings in light of the number of unsheltered homeless persons identified in January 2022 (711) and the number of homeless public school students within the Kansas City region in Missouri (3,175) indicates at least three areas that require attention in order to meet the goal of ending homelessness.

First, although many organizations work together to do their best to coordinate services, there is a need to increase the effectiveness with which social service collaboration occurs. Second, there is a need to ensure that services are available outside the urban core; community assets must be deployed in the Northland and South Kansas City, as well. Third, community asset mapping did not take into account the number of service providers who have higher barriers for service and/or have certain populations they will not serve. Finally, each organization has its own capacity constraints, and this translates into constraints for the entire service network. The information presented in the Community-Based Research section of this Assessment adds context to the community asset mapping findings.

Community-Based Research

Community-based research is a collaborative approach to the co-creation of knowledge that involves community members, organizations' representatives and researchers.[14] Community-based research was used during the preparation of this Assessment to gather important information about community need related to homelessness in Kansas City.

Multiple methods were used to gather this information in an effort to be as inclusive as possible in identifying need and gaining community perspectives about solutions. These methods included:

STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION MEETINGS
➡ Homelessness in Kansas City (general issues)
➡ Downtown Kansas City and homelessness
➡ Homeless prevention
➡ Domestic violence and homelessness
➡ LGBTQ+ and homelessness
➡ Unaccompanied youth and homelessness

FOCUS GROUPS
➡ Urban core (adults)
➡ Unaccompanied youth/LGBTQ+
➡ McKinney-Vento families

STREET OUTREACH INTERVIEWS
➡ Urban core
➡ Northland
➡ South Kansas City

ANONYMOUS SURVEY

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[14]Israel, Barbara A., Amy J. Schulz, Edith A. Parker, and Adam Becker, "Review of Community-Based Research: Assessing Partnership Approaches to Improving Public Health," Annual Review of Public Health, Vol. 19: 173-202. https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.19.1.173?url_ver=Z39.88-20.   Accessed August 14, 2022

STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION MEETING RESULTS

A series of six stakeholder organization meetings were held to gain perspectives from professionals who serve the homeless population. These meetings were structured as listening sessions; participants identified five priority areas of need described below.

1. **Wraparound Services** | Participants expressed that shelter or housing alone will not end homelessness. They indicated that a full array of wraparound services customized to individual needs is required for most who experience homelessness to reach and maintain housing stability.

2. **Staff Funding** | Participants indicated a need for funding for additional staff. They also reported that funding sources typically prefer to fund hard program costs rather than staff. This makes for challenges in providing needed services.

3. **Low-barrier shelter and housing options** | Participants expressed the need for low-barrier shelter and housing options, including options that do not require sobriety.

4. **Additional housing units** | Participants also reported the need for additional housing units. Moreover, they indicated a need for housing units affordable to those who are experiencing homelessness.

5. **LGBTQ+ inclusivity** | Participants whose organizations primarily serve members of the LGBTQ+ community reported a need for greater inclusivity in how LGBTQ+ individuals are served. They expressed concerns about insensitivity in the language used during intake and case management sessions with LGBTQ+ individuals when they are served by organizations that do not primarily serve the LGBTQ+ community. Further, they also indicated a concern with lack of sensitivity to the issues facing LGBTQ+ persons experiencing homelessness among organizations that do not primarily serve LGBTQ+.

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Focus groups were conducted with several different populations in an effort to gather diverse perspectives from people who are experiencing (or have experienced) homelessness. Although multiple facilitators led focus groups, questions were designed by Community Analytics, LLC for uniformity and relevance to the Assessment process. Focus group participants were provided a $25 gift card in recognition of the value of their time. Participant identities have been kept confidential.

Each focus group was asked about (1) their experiences accessing help with housing and social services; and (2) their suggestions for improving housing and social service assistance. Results from each focus group are reported below.

URBAN CORE

The urban core focus group was held at the Central Library in downtown Kansas City. The group included 12 men who regularly patronize the Central Library; they were recruited by the facilitators, Kelly Berry and Beth Hill. Ms. Berry and Ms. Hill are librarians who specialize in community engagement and work regularly with patrons experiencing homelessness.

Experiences Getting Help

The urban core focus group identified a number of issues associated with getting help with housing and social services.

1. **Other groups prioritized before males.** The men who made up this group reported that housing and assistance is provided to women, children, seniors and persons with disabilities first. They expressed frustration about the lack of help for males and reported that there are few, if any, housing resources for men.

2. **Lack of follow up by service providers.** Focus group participants also reported a lack of follow up by service providers. This is another source of frustration.

3. **Long waiting lists for housing assistance.** Participants also reported that there are long waiting lists for any type of housing assistance.

4. **Lack of mailing address is a barrier.** There was a consensus that a lack of a mailing address is a difficult barrier to overcome. Many forms of assistance require a mailing address, leaving those without one no means to access the assistance.

5. **Lack of hygiene facilities.** Participants reported a lack of hygiene facilities such as bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities. One participant described the problem associated with the lack of hygiene by stating, "You can't go to work dirty."

6. **Lack of help with IDs and other official documents.** Participants indicated that there is insufficient help available to obtain identification documents, including state IDs and birth certificates.

Experiences Getting Help (Cont.d)

7. **Lack of safe storage for personal belongings.** Participants reported there is not sufficient access to safe storage for personal belongings.

8. **Insufficient access to medical and dental care.** Although many organizations provide access to medical and dental care in Kansas City, members of this focus group reported they were unable to access medical and/or dental care.

9. **Theft.** One focus group participant reported that he could not sleep due to concerns with protecting his belongings from theft. He reported that he had experienced theft three times in the past.

Suggestions

The urban core focus group made six suggestions for improving access to housing and social service help for homeless persons.

1. Provide more case workers.
2. Make more help available for getting jobs.
3. Provide more shelter space.
4. Improve communication with members of the homeless community. One participant suggested creation of a homeless newsletter.
5. Provide better access to housing help.
6. Recognize that homelessness does not always mean mental illness. One participant expressed frustration that homelessness is "lumped together" with mental illness in the public perception.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH/LGBTQ+[15]

The Unaccompanied Youth/LGBTQ+ focus group was facilitated by Nyla Foster, a member of the LGBTQ+ community who experienced homelessness as an unaccompanied youth. Our Spot KC recruited participants and hosted the session.

Experiences Getting Help

Focus group members reported a number of issues in response to the facilitator's question about experiences in getting help. These included:

1. **Services unavailable at age 18.** Youth reported that it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to get help once they reach age 18. Some reported that the difficulty begins at age 17. The group indicated that if a 17-year-old does not get transitional help, "there's nowhere to go."

2. **Lack of clarity about services.** Youth indicated that even when they are able to access services, there is a lack of clarity about what is available. They stated that when asked about their needs, they may not understand what is available or know how to ask for what they need. Some participants also indicated they feel anxiety about getting services. Youth also reported that service providers do not explain the available options.

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[15]COVID-19 infections among some potential focus group participants resulted in the unaccompanied youth and LGBTQ+ focus groups being combined.

3. **Youth shelter timeline.** Participants indicated that it is difficult to deal with the requirement to leave youth shelters after 30 days.

4. **Lack of shelter transportation.** Participants indicated that the "Safe Place" transportation they could access before age 18 is no longer available once they reach that age. They report they have no transportation to shelter space once they reach 18.

5. **Lack of transportation to jobs.** Youth reported that it can be much easier to get a job than it is to get transportation to get to work. They expressed a need for transportation to jobs.

6. **Challenges for youth with a disability.** Focus group participants indicated that there are special challenges for youth with a disability in accessing housing and social service help.

7. **Neurotypical approach.** One participant indicated that service providers adopt a "one size fits all" approach that does not work for people who are neurodiverse.

8. **Lack of LGBTQ+ safety.** The focus group also indicated that a feeling of a lack of safety in neighborhoods where housing and social services may be offered is a challenge. One participant indicated that if a service provider is located in a neighborhood that feels unsafe for LGBTQ+ people, they will not seek help from that provider. This applies even if the provider is fully inclusive in its services for LGBTQ+.

Suggestions

1. Better marketing and communication about help for youth experiencing homelessness, including:
   a. Posters in schools (similar to college posters in hallways)
   b. School assemblies where everyone hears about the issue and where liaisons are available to help youth get access to services
   c. Make radio and TV announcements about services for homeless youth at times when they are most likely to be heard (not 6:00 am, as observed by one participant).
2. Provide guidance on how youth can explain what services are needed (e.g., help with self-advocacy skills).
3. Make services available based on where youth is located not where their parents live.
4. Provide ways to get services without informing the parent, especially when the parent is the reason why the youth needs services.
5. Provide liaisons who connect youth with more than school, such as community organizations, churches, and other connections.
6. Provide services to help youth remain housed once they attain housing.
7. Provide transportation for youth to get to work.
8. Place housing and services for LGBTQ+ in neighborhoods that feel safe to members of that community.

MCKINNEY-VENTO FAMILIES

Focus group participants represented heads of household for students in the Kansas City Public Schools, the North Kansas City Public Schools and the Hickman Mills School District. Three of the four participants were mothers, while one participant was a great-grandmother. The number of children in each family ranged from two to four. One mother with four children was living in the City Union Mission, a shelter in Kansas City, Missouri.

Experiences Getting Help

Focus group participants reported a number of challenges in getting help with housing and social services.

1. **Lack of available housing units.** Focus group participants reported that even with a housing voucher, it was very difficult to find a housing unit. One participant indicated that the vouchers issued as part of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic "flooded the market" and reduced the number of available units.

2. **Lack of housing options for larger families.** Families with more children face an even tougher housing market, since units with a sufficient number of bedrooms are even more difficult to find. This is especially true of finding a unit that is large enough and is both affordable and available.

3. **Organizations that consider families living in cars as having a "roof."** Multiple focus group participants reported that service providers consider a family living in a car as "having a roof over their head." This means they are not eligible for help from organizations using the "roof over the head" criterion to determine eligibility.

4. **Income limitations for SNAP and other assistance.** Multiple focus group participants indicated that the income limits for SNAP and other assistance in Missouri make it impossible to get nutrition assistance when working. They also reported that this applies to other forms of public assistance.

5. **Two-parent family issue.** One participant reported that it is not possible to get assistance while in a two-parent family. She stated that she only received help once she separated from her children's father.

6. **Lack of case management and follow up.** Multiple focus group participants (including the mother living with her children in an emergency shelter) reported that they were "just handed a packet of information" when seeking housing and social service assistance. Further, they reported that this material is often out of date. The participant whose children attend schools in Hickman Mills was an exception. Hickman Mills replicated the successful Impact KCK program established in Wyandotte County, Kansas, and this provides for intensive case management and a full array of wraparound services, as well as help in reaching a permanent housing solution.

7. **Rigid service provider schedules.** Focus group participants reported that many service providers have a very narrow period of time each week when help may be requested. For instance, one mother indicated that a major service provider only accepts calls for assistance during a period of a few hours each Monday morning. Given that all of the mothers in the group work, the lack of flexibility in the times when assistance may be sought is a major barrier to receiving help.

8. **Addressing children's health needs.** Multiple focus group participants have children with ADHD and other health needs. They expressed the difficulty of doing all that is necessary to cope with their children's ADHD and other health needs while also working to overcome a lack of housing and other basic needs.

9. **Reduction in TANF eligibility time.** While the federal government allows families up to 60 months (5 years) of TANF eligibility, states have the authority to reduce this time. Missouri currently allows up to 45 months (3 years and 9 months) for TANF eligibility. Participants indicated that this reduction from the federal maximum has created challenges for them.

Suggestions

1. Provide better-informed case workers.
2. Eliminate the requirement that a family live in a certain zip code to receive assistance.
3. Provide more clarity on how to get housing assistance.
4. Eliminate the requirement that families be literally without a roof over their head to receive help, especially when some organizations consider living in a car as having a roof.
5. Train shelter workers to be sensitive to the needs of children, including those with ADHD and other health issues that may cause them to be noisy.
6. Service providers should allow contact for help during times that accommodate the schedules of working mothers.

STREET OUTREACH INTERVIEWS

Street outreach interviews were conducted to (1) include the voices of those who may be uncomfortable in a focus group session; and (2) include the voices of those who experience homelessness in the Northland and South Kansas City. The interviews were conducted by professionals experienced in street outreach work and included interviews conducted in the urban core, as well as the Northland and South Kansas City.

Street outreach interviews were conducted by Kora Wilkes, MSW, Coordinated Entry Intake Specialist, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH), Amber Holmes, Outreach Coordinator, Care Beyond the Boulevard and Abby Hatch, Supportive Services Coordinator, Lotus Care House. A total of 22 interviews were conducted as follows: (1) 8 urban core; (2) 6 Northland; and (3) 6 South Kansas City.

The questions used in street outreach interviews were similar to those used in focus groups, since the intent of both methods was to gather information from those who are experiencing homelessness about access to help with housing and social services and suggestions about how this help might be improved. Each person interviewed was provided a $25 gift card in recognition of the value of their time.

The one-on-one nature of the street outreach interviews made it possible to capture some direct quotes that express the realities of the lives of those who are homeless. **For instance, one individual shared:**

Another individual shared:

I find it hard. Very, very hard. Especially not having a vehicle. I've asked for help and was just shown the door, or they just shoved a piece of paper with numbers on it at me. But things aren't even kept updated. When you don't have a phone, it's hard to do anything. *(Native American male, age 60)*

My experience has been horrible. Everywhere I go, people just say they'll come back next week. Kansas City will feed you and give you clothing, but there's no housing. *(White male, age 44)*

A third individual shared:

I was able to get housing, but only after someone beat me. You have to have a debilitating condition to get chosen for housing. *(African-American female, age 50)*

Those interviewed reported a number of common issues regardless of experiencing homelessness in the urban core, the Northland or South Kansas City. Interview results are reported as follows:

- Common themes (urban core, Northland and South Kansas City)
- Northland (findings from the Northland that are not part of the common themes)
- South Kansas City (findings from South Kansas City that are not part of the common themes)

EXPERIENCES GETTING HELP: COMMON THEMES

1. **Lack of hygiene facilities.** Lack of access to bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities was a common theme among those interviewed, regardless of geographic location.

2. **Lack of mail access.** Homeless individuals throughout Kansas City indicated they suffer from a lack of access to mail and a mailing address.

3. **Lack of help getting IDs and other official documents.** Homeless individuals often reported they have not been able to access help in getting a state ID and/or a birth certificate.

4. **Slow process.** If help is available, the process for getting it is slow.

5. **Need for more case workers.** Individuals experiencing homelessness often indicated a need for more case workers.

6. **Lack of resources to quickly move people into housing.** Some of those interviewed indicated there is a lack of resources available to quickly move people into housing.

7. **Lack of transportation.** Lack of transportation was cited by individuals throughout Kansas City as a primary challenge. Although this is a common concern, those in the Northland and South Kansas City reported the most trouble with lack of transportation.

8. **Need for certain types of clothing.** While most agreed that clothing is available for homeless individuals, some noted that it is not available in enough sizes. Some also noted the lack of available underwear.

9. **Lack of knowledge about prevention.** Some indicated that they experience homelessness because they did not have knowledge about prevention services before becoming homeless.

10. **Need for medical care at encampments.** Interviews indicated that some feel the need for medical care at encampments is not being met.

11. **Lack of housing for women who are not parents.** One interviewee indicated that there are no housing resources for women who are not parents.

12. **Fear of homelessness being made a crime.** Some expressed a fear of homelessness "being made a crime" by recent Missouri law (HB 1606).

13. **Lack of storage.** Homeless individuals throughout Kansas City reported a lack of storage for clothing and other personal belongings.

14. **Lack of information about services.** Some homeless individuals reported that there is little, if any, information available about services.

Suggestions: Common Themes

1. Increase communication about resources.
2. Offer hygiene facilities with bathrooms, showers and laundry.
3. Provide mail services.
4. Increase the amount of mobile services available.
5. Offer services at more locations.
6. Expand the times when services are available.
7. Make medical services available in encampments once per week.
8. Improve transportation.
9. Make more clothing sizes available.

Experiences Getting Help: Urban Core

1. **Criminal history and housing.** An urban core interviewee indicated that having a criminal history makes it impossible to get housing.

2. **Lack of car repair assistance.** One urban core interviewee indicated that there is no help when his car breaks down. In his words, his "car continues to break down, but no one helps."

3. **Need for places for people living in cars.** Some of those interviewed in the urban core indicated a need for places to park cars for those who are living in them.

Suggestions: Urban Core

1. Provide mental health case managers.
2. Provide more help in applying for benefits.
3. Provide employment help/coaching/help with job applications.
4. Provide faith-based support groups.
5. Provider anger management help.
6. Provide more resources for direct cash payments.
7. Provide more places where people can be 24 hours a day

Experiences Getting Help: Northland

1. **High barriers for assistance.** One of the Northland interviewees reported experiencing high barriers for assistance by social service providers.

2. **Need for education.** A Northland interviewee indicated that there is a need to provide homeless persons with access to education.

3. **Waiting lists.** One interviewee expressed that long waiting lists make it difficult to receive help.

4. **Lack of nighttime security.** A Northland interviewee reported a feeling of a lack of security at night.

5. **"Bad landlords and background checks."** Another interviewee stated that "bad landlords and background checks" make it difficult to exit homelessness.

6. **Focus on survival.** One Northland interviewee indicated that the focus on survival means that there is no time to seek assistance.

Suggestions: Northland

1. Make portable showers and portable toilets available.
2. Provide more housing assistance.

Experiences Getting Help: South Kansas City

1. **No services in South Kansas City.** One interviewee stated, "There are no services in South Kansas City."

2. **Distance to services and jobs.** South Kansas City interviewees indicated that the distance to services and jobs is a challenge.

3. **Lack of access to housing and medical services.** One South Kansas City interviewee stated, "getting housing or medical services is nearly impossible."

4. **Lack of long-term help.** One interviewee reported that the lack of long-term help with housing and services was a particular challenge.

5. **Difficulty getting food and medical services.** Another South Kansas City interviewee reported, "It is not easy getting food or medical services."

6. **Long waiting lists for recovery services.** One interviewee reported that the waiting lists for recovery services are long.

Suggestions: South Kansas City

1. Bring services to South Kansas City.
2. Provide access to dental and vision care.
3. Provide access to mental health services.
4. Provide help with the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Provide haircuts.
6. Provide "shower houses."
7. Provide more outreach with food and drinks.
8. Provide more help with getting SSI, SSDI and housing.

ANONYMOUS SURVEY RESULTS

The final step in the community-based research process used to prepare this Assessment was the administration of an anonymous survey. The survey link was distributed to the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) email contact list. This distribution was done directly by GKCCEH; the Community Analytics project team did not have access to the names or contact information on the list.

The purpose of the survey was to provide a forum where both professionals with service provider organizations and other individuals could provide feedback about homelessness and homeless services in Kansas City on an anonymous basis. The anonymous nature of the survey facilitated frank and open feedback not constrained by professional affiliation with an organization or other issues.

There were 34 responses to the survey. Of these responses, 30 indicated they work with homelessness as part of their job. Eight (8) indicated that they currently volunteer related to homelessness.[16] Four (4) responded that they were experiencing homelessness at the time of the survey. Nine (9) indicated they had experienced homelessness in the past. Two (2) indicated they were at risk of homelessness at the time of the survey, while 11 reported they have been at risk of homelessness in the past.

FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We asked survey respondents who were homeless or at risk of homelessness about how easy or difficult it is to find housing in their income range. Responses were recorded using a sliding scale ranging from 0 (very easy) to 10 (extremely difficult). Responses ranged from 4.6 to 10; the median response was 9.8. In other words, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness find it very difficult to find housing that is affordable given their income range.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

We asked survey respondents who feel they would benefit from permanent supportive housing how easy or difficult it is to find it. Responses were recorded using a sliding scale ranging from 0 (very easy) to 10 (extremely difficult). Responses ranged from 5 to 10; the median response was 10. This result indicates that those who feel they would benefit from permanent supportive housing find it extremely difficult to get it.

WORKING WELL

We used an open-ended question to ask survey respondents what they feel is working well in Kansas City's system to serve homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness. Responses are summarized below.

- Emergency/immediate need services/short-term solutions
- Free City buses
- Availability of food and clothing
- The Street Sheet (information sheet produced by the library)
- "A lot of people trying to help"
- Communication between service provider organizations and the City
- Collaboration between GKCCEH and service provider organizations
- Eviction representation
- Programs that keep people housed, such as the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
- Homeless diversion and Coordinated Entry
- Some indicated nothing is working well

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[16]Given that there are 34 responses with 30 responses from those who work with homelessness as part of their job, the report of 8 who volunteer related to homelessness means that some who work with homelessness as part of their job also volunteer.

MISSING OR IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

We used an open-ended question to ask survey respondents what they feel is missing or needs improvement in Kansas City's system for serving homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless. Responses are summarized below.

- "There are systems in place but just not enough."

- Concern about what will happen when currently funded programs (e.g., federal pandemic response) are no longer available

- There is a need for greater responsiveness by service providers.

- "Domestic violence survivors are considered part of the coordinated entry prioritization process when they are attempting to flee a dangerous situation."

- A plan to help those with fewer needs before those needs grow due to homelessness

- Landlord database for those helping voucher holders and others seeking housing

- "Coordinated system for support (currently have to deal with each agency separately)"

- Shelter space in the Northland

- "Stop the criminalization of homelessness"

- "Need more shelters—single mom with 3 kids"

- Faster emergency response in heat and cold

- Add the meal schedule and bus route information to the Street Sheet

- More showers (one respondent indicated they go to Lawrence, Kansas to shower)

- Address the underlying causes of homelessness for each individual

- "Places to do laundry"

- Rent caps

- "Need for people to come to give me services like housing so I don't have to go across town to get services to a place I'm not even comfortable"

- Need for more shelters, more showers, more laundry facilities

- "A focused goal to end homelessness between agencies and city"

- "The City needs to work as one team and collaborate with all the agencies that serve the homeless population and become one big team that can provide services because many of us are serving the same client at different locations."

- "Safe spots" for camping that "will not be upended by the City"

- More shelters in suburban areas

- "Better Coordinated Entry System and MOUs"

- More mental health supports

- Improved coordination of efforts to address homelessness

CONCLUSION

Kansas City Community Needs Assessment: A Foundation for Ending Homelessness was prepared to support efforts to end homelessness in our community. Extensive research involved analysis of quantitative homeless data, community asset mapping and community-based research.

Overall, the results indicate that Kansas City has a wide array of resources available to address the needs of the homeless population and those at risk of homelessness. However, there is a need for improved coordination of the service provider network. Results also indicate a need for more shelter space, possibly with some space located in suburban areas such as the Northland and South Kansas City.

Service providers have indicated a need for wraparound services and funding for the staff to provide it. Among the suggestions made by those experiencing homelessness are the need for hygiene facilities (bathrooms, showers and laundry), mailing addresses and help with obtaining official documents such as state IDs and birth certificates. Greater access to mental health, medical, dental and vision care services was also suggested by those experiencing homelessness.

The lack of available and affordable housing units contributes to the increasing number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Kansas City. As plans are made to address this challenge, additional subsidies are needed to increase housing affordability and availability for households at or below 30% of the HUD-adjusted Area Median Income (AMI). That translates into an annual income of $29,050 per year for a household with four persons (2022). Many working people fall into this income category. Based on federal affordability guidelines, a household with four people earning $29,050 per year would be able to afford no more than $726 per month for rent and utilities.[17]

Homelessness is a complex social problem,
and ending it requires a well-coordinated,
multifaceted approach to housing and social services.
The information contained in this Assessment will support this work.

[17]Federal housing affordability guidelines indicate a household can afford to spend no more than 30% of its gross monthly income on housing. For renters, the housing expense is calculated as rent plus utilities. For homeowners, the housing expense is calculated as the mortgage payment (principal, interest, taxes), homeowner association fees (if any) and utilities.

APPENDIX COMMUNITY ASSETS ORGANIZATIONS

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)
If no council district listed, it does not have a Kansas City business address.

Organization	Council District
Ability KC	4
Academy of Addiction Services	5
All Team Staffing	4
Amethyst Place	3
Artists Helping the Homeless	4
ArtsTech 816-461-020	4
Assistance League of Kansas City	
Avenue of Life, Inc.	
Bare Essential Home Care	3
Benilde Hall Program	3
BFMA	
BigShifts Foundation	
Bishop Sullivan Center	3
Bishop Sullivan Center/One City Café	3
Black Economic Union of Greater KC	3
Blessings Abound Thrift Store	
Blue Cross Blue Shield KC	4
Blue Hills Church of Nazarene Food Pantry	5
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater KC	3
Bridging the Gap	4
Brothers in Blue Reentry	
Care Beyond the Boulevard	
CARE Workshops for Parents - Children's Mercy	
Caring for Kids Kansas City	6
Catholic Charities of Kansas City - St. Joseph	3
Catholic Charities of Northeast KS	
CHES, Inc	4
Chief of Staff KC	6
Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)	
Children International	6
Children's Mercy	4
Church of the Resurrection-Recovery Ministry	4
City Union Mission	4
City Union Mission - Family Shelter	4

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
City Union Mission (Community Assistance)	4
Colonial Presbyterian	6
CommCARE	4
Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City	5
Community Assistance Council	5
Community Builders of KC	3
Community Linc	3
Community Network for Behavioral Healthcare	4
Community Resources	4
Community Services League	
Comprehensive Mental Health Services	
Consolidated Social Work Service (Chestnut Ave. Resource Center)	
Cornerstones of Care	4
Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse (C.O.P.S.A.)	3
Covenant Presbyterian Church Food Pantry	5
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs	4
Credit and Homeownership Empowerment Services (CHES), Inc.	4
Cross-Lines Community Outreach	
Dismas House KC	4
Due West Therapeutic Riding Center	
Economic Opportunity Foundation	
El Centro Inc	
Ellis Care	5
Empowerment Organization for Change	5
Empowerment Organization for Change	5
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.	3
Express Employment Professionals	
Fellowship Right Baptist Church	3
Fertile Ground Foundation	
First Call Alcohol/Drug Prevention & Recovery	6
Footprints, Inc.	3
FosterAdopt Connect	
Friends of Yates, Inc	
Friendship Baptist Church	3

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
Full Employment Council	3
Gateway Foundation	4
Gateway To Hope	
Good Samaritan Communities of Olathe	
Greater Kansas City Housing Information Center	3
Guadalupe Centers	4
Habitat for Humanity of KC	4
Harvesters	3
Healing House, Inc.	3
Health Partnership Clinic	
Heart of God Development Corporation	5
Heartland 180	
Heartland Center For Behavioral Change 816-421-6670	3
Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom	4
Hillcrest Hope	
Hillcrest Platte County	
Hope Dental	
Hope Faith	4
Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus	4
Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO	4
In the Name of Grace (Oxford Houses)	
Indebus	3
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council	3
Journey to New Life	3
Kansas City Community Gardens	5
Kansas City Free Eye Clinic	4
Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care	6
Kansas City Indian Center	4
Kansas City Mass Services	6
Kansas City Public School District	3
Kansas City Young Matrons	6
KC Care Health Center	4
KC COAD	
KCVA	4

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
KCVAMC	3
Kim Wilson Housing	
KVC Health Systems	
Lazarus Ministries KC	3
Legal Aid of Western Missouri Central Office	3
Legal Aid of Western Missouri Western Office	4
Level Up Kids	4
Liberty Hospital Foundation	
Local Investment Commission	4
Lorraine's House	
LSI Staffing	
Mattie Rhodes Center	3
Memorial Church International Food Pantry	5
Metro Lutheran Ministry	4
Metro Lutheran Ministry Food Pantry	4
Mid America Assistance Coalition (MAAC)	4
Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF)	
Missouri Department of Mental Health	
Missouri Department of Social Services	
Missouri Housing Development Commission	4
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation	4
MO House District 19	3
MO Rides	
Modest Needs Foundation	
Morgan Counseling Services	
Morgan Hunter	
Mother's Refuge	
Nativity of Mary Catholic Church	
NBC Community Development Corp	
Neighbor2Neighbor Program	3
Neighborhood Legal Support of KC	3
New Beginning Sanctuary	
Newhouse	
Northland Assistance Center	

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
Northland Health Care Access	2
Northland Neighborhoods Inc (NNI)	4
Northland Therapeutic Riding Center	
NourishKC/Kansas City Community Kitchen	4
OATS	
Oikos Development Corp	4
On Demand Employment Services	
One by One Ministries	3
Operation Breakthrough	3
Operation Homefront	
Our Spot KC	
Ozark Housing	
Palestine Senior Citizens Activity Center	3
Parade Park Homes Inc	3
Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation	
Pieces Pieces	3
Planned Parenthood Great Plains	3
Poetry for Personal Power	
Project Based Section 8 Housing	
Prosperity Center KC	3
QPS Employment Group	
Rachel's Tea House	4
Reconciliation Services	3
ReDiscover	
Resident Relief Foundation	
reStart	4
RideKC	3
Rise and Shine Foundation	
Robert Half	
Rose Brooks Center	
Saint Luke's Health Systems	
Samuel U Rodgers Health Center	3
Sana Lake Recovery	
Sarita Lynne Ministries	3

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
SAVE, Inc.	3
Seton Center	3
Sheffield Place	3
Sisters in Christ	
Spectrum Healthcare	
St Mary's Episcopal Church	4
St. James United Methodist Church	5
Staffing KC	
Steppingstone	5
Stivers Staffing Services	6
Swope Health Services	3
Synergy Services Inc	
The Family Conservancy	
The Salvation Army	4
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter	
The Salvation Army/Harbor Light Village	
The Whole Person	4
Total Man CDC	3
Tri-County Mental Health Services	
True Light Family Resource Center	4
Truman Medical Centers (University Health)	
Two Rules Ministries	
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	3
UHBH - PATH	4
UMKC Child and Family Services Clinic	6
UMKC Tenant Assistance Initiative	6
United Way of Greater Kansas City, Inc.	6
Unity Temple on the Plaza - Helping Hand Program	6
University Behavioral Health	4
University Health	4
University of KS Health System	
Uplift Organization Inc	3
Upper Room	4
Urban Rangers Corps	5

APPENDIX COMMUNITY ASSETS ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.D)

Table 23: Community Asset Organizations (Alphabetical with Council District)

Organization	Council District
Valley Hope	
Veronica's Voice	
Veterans Health Administration	3
W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center	3
Warehouse Man Training	4
Welcome House	4
Westside Housing Organization	4
Women's Employment Network	4
Workforce Partnership	
Working Families Friend	4
Working Men of Christ	
World Outreach Foundation	
Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare	

Table 24: Employment Services

Organization
Ability KC
Amethyst Place
All Team Staffing
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life, Inc.
Black Economic Union of Greater KC
BFMA
Catholic Charities of Northeast KS*
CHES, Inc
Chief of Staff KC
Community Services League
City of Kansas City, MO Health Department- HIV Services
City Union Mission- Family Shelter
Community Assistance Council
Community LINC
Community Resources
Comprehensive Mental Health Services
Consolidated Social Work
Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Economic Opportunity Foundation
Express Employment Professionals
First Call Alcohol/ Drug Prevention & Recovery
Footprints, Inc.
FosterAdopt Connect
Full Employment Council
Guadalupe Centers
Healing House, Inc.
Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom
Hillcrest Hope
Hope Faith
Indebus
Kansas City Public School District
KCVA

Table 24: Employment Services

Organization
Kansas City VA Medical Center
Kim Wilson Housing
Lazarus Ministries KC
LSI Staffing*
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Mother's Refuge
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
MO Rides
Morgan Hunter
MO House District 19
Missouri Department of Mental Health
Neighbor2Neighbor Program
Newhouse
OATS
One By One Ministries
On Demand Employment Services
Our Spot KC
Prosperity Center KC
QPS Employment Group
reStart
Reconciliation Services
ReDiscover
RideKC
Robert Half
Rose Brooks Center
SAVE, Inc.
Staffing KC
Steppingstone
Stivers Staffing Services
Swope Health Services
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter
The Salvation Army/Harbor Light Village
The Whole Person

Table 24: Employment Services

Organization
TMC- Truman Employment Services
Total Man CDC
True Light Family Resource Center
UHBH-PATH
University of Kansas Health System
University Health
University Health Behavioral Health
Veronica's Voice
Women's Employment Network
Workforce Partnership
Valley Hope
Veronica's Voice
Veterans Health Administration
W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center
Warehouse Man Training
Welcome House
Westside Housing Organization
Women's Employment Network
Workforce Partnership
Working Families Friend
Working Men of Christ
World Outreach Foundation
Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 25: Food

Organization
Amethyst Place
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life, Inc.
Blue Hills Church of Nazarene Food Pantry
Care Beyond the Boulevard
City Union Mission (Community Assistance)
City Union Mission (Family Shelter)
City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Department - HIV Services
Community Assistance Council
Community LINC
Community Resources
Comprehensive Mental Health Services
Consolidate Social Work Service (Chestnut Ave Resource Center)
Covenant Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Cross-Lines Community Outreach
Fellowship Right Baptist Church
Footprints, Inc.
FosterAdopt Connect
Harvesters
Healing Housing, Inc.
Heart of God Development Corporation
Hillcrest Hope
Hope Faith
Kansas City Community Gardens
Kansas City Public School District
KCVA
Kim Wilson Housing
Lazarus Ministries KC
Memorial Church International Food Pantry
Metro Lutheran Ministry Food Pantry
Missouri Department of Mental Health
MO House District 19
Mother's Refuge

APPENDIX COMMUNITY ASSETS ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.D)

Organization
Nativity of Mary Catholic Church
Neighbor2Neighbor Program
Newhouse
Northland Assistance Center
NourishKC/Kansas City Community Kitchen
One by One Ministries
Our Spot KC
Reconciliation Services
ReDiscover
reStart
Rose Brooks Center
Salvation Army
Seton Center
St Mary's Episcopal Church
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter
The Salvation Army/Harbor Light Village
Total Man CDC
True Light Family Resource Center
Unity Temple on the Plaza - Helping Hand Program
Uplift Organization Inc
UHBH - PATH
University Health
University Health Behavioral Health
University of KS Health System
Veronica's Voice

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

APPENDIX COMMUNITY ASSETS ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.D)

Table 25: Food

Organization
Workforce Partnership
Valley Hope
Veronica's Voice
Veterans Health Administration
W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center
Warehouse Man Training
Welcome House
Westside Housing Organization
Women's Employment Network
Workforce Partnership
Working Families Friend
Working Men of Christ
World Outreach Foundation
Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 26: Health and Health Related

Organization
Ability KC
Academy of Addiction Services
Amethyst Place Inc.*
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life, Inc.
Bare Essential Home Care
Be Free
Benilde Hall Program
BigShifts Foundation*
Black Economic Union of Greater KC
Blue Cross Blue Shield KC
Care Beyond the Boulevard
Children's Mercy
Church of the Resurrection - Recovery Ministry
Community Assistance Council
CommCare
Community Network for Behavioral Healthcare
Community LINC
Community Resources
Comprehensive Mental Health Services*
Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse
C.O.P.S.
City of Kansas City, MO Health Department HIV Services
City Union Mission- Family Shelter
Cornerstone of Care
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Cross-Lines Community Outreach
Dismas House
Due West Therapeutic Riding Center
Empowerment Organization for Change
First Call KC
Footprints KC
FosterAdopt Connect
Gateway Foundation

Table 26: Health and Health Related

Organization
Good Samaritan Communities of Olathe*
Healing House
Health Partnership Clinic*
Heartland Center for Behavioral Change
Hillcrest Hope
Hillcrest Platte County
Hope Dental*
Hope Faith
In the Name of Grace (Oxford Houses)
Journey to New Life
Kansas City Free Eye Clinic
Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care
Kansas City Public School District
Kansas City VA
Kansas City VA Medical Center
Kim Wilson Housing
KC Care Health Center
KVC Health Systems*
Lazarus Ministries KC
Level Up Kids
Liberty Hospital Foundation*
Lorraine's House*
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Missouri Department of Mental Health
MO House District 19
Morgan Counseling Services
Mother's Refuge
Nativity of Mary Catholic Church
Neighbor2Neighbor Program
New Beginning Sanctuary
Newhouse
Northland Health Care Access*
Northland Therapeutic Riding Center*
Our Spot KC

Table 26: Health and Health Related

Organization
Palestine Senior Citizens Activity Center
Planned Parenthood Great Plains*
Poetry for Personal Power
Reconciliation Services
ReDiscover*
reStart
Rise and Shine Foundation
Rose Brooks Center
Saint Luke's Health Systems
Samuel U Rodgers Health Center
Sana Lake Recovery
Sarita Lynne Ministries
SAVE, Inc.
Sisters in Christ
Steppingstone
Swope Health Services
Swope Health- Imani Health
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter
The Salvation Army/Harbor Light Village
Tri-County Mental Health Services*
True Light Family Resource Center
Truman Medical Centers (University Health)
Total Man CDC
University of Kansas Health System*
UHBH - PATH
University Health
University Health Behavioral Health
Valley Hope
Veronica's Voice
Welcome House
World Outreach Foundation*
Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare*
Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 26: Health and Health Related

Organization
Workforce Partnership
Valley Hope
Veronica's Voice
Veterans Health Administration
W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center
Warehouse Man Training
Welcome House
Westside Housing Organization
Women's Employment Network
Workforce Partnership
Working Families Friend
Working Men of Christ
World Outreach Foundation
Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 27: Housing

Organization
Amethyst Place
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life
Bishop Sullivan Center
Care Beyond the Boulevard
Catholic Charities of Kansas City - St. Joseph
City Union Mission
Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City
Community Assistance Council
Community LINC
Community Resources
Consolidated Social Work
Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Credit and Homeownership Empowerment Services (CHES) Inc
Cross Lines
Ellis Care
Empowerment Organization for Change
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
Friendship Baptist Church
Footprints, Inc.
Foster/Adopt Connect
Gateway To Hope
Greater Kansas City Housing Information Center
Guadalupe Centers
Habitat for Humanity of KC
Healing House, Inc.
Hillcrest Hope
Hillcrest Platte County
Hope Faith
Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri
Journey to a New Life
Kansas City Indian Center
Kansas City Mass Services

Table 27: Housing

Organization
Kansas City VA
KC VA Medical Center
Kim Wilson Housing
Local Investment Commission
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Mid America Assistance Coalition (MAAC)
Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF)
Missouri Department of Social Services
Missouri Housing Development Commission
Modest Needs Foundation
MO Department of Mental Health
Mother's Refuge
Neighbor2Neighbor
Newhouse Inc
New Beginning Sanctuary
New House
One by One Ministries
Our Spot KC
Operation Homefront
Ozark Housing
Parade Park Homes
Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation
Redemptorist Social Services Center
Resident Relief Foundation
reStart, Inc.
Rose Brooks Center
Save Inc
Sheffield Place
Spectrum Healthcare
Steppingstone
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army/Harbor Light Village
The Salvation Army Crossroads Center
Total Man CDC

Table 27: Housing

Organization
True Light Family Resource Center
Two Rules Ministries
UHBH-PATH
University of Kansas Health System
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veronica's Voice
Veterans' Health Administration
Westside Housing Organization

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 28: Self-Sufficiency

Organization
Amethyst Place
ArtsTech
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life, Inc.
Black Economic Union of Greater KC
CARE Workshops for Parents (Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement)- Children's Mercy
Catholic Charities of KC - St. Joseph
Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)
City Union Mission- Family Shelter
Cornerstones of Care
Community Assistance Council
Community Linc
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Cross-Lines Community Outreach
First Call Alcohol/Drug Prevention & Recovery
Foster/Adopt Connect
Footprints, Inc.
Healing House, Inc.
Hillcrest Hope
Hope Faith
Kansas City VA
Kansas City Public School District
Kim Wilson Housing
Lazarus Ministries KC
Legal Aid of Western Missouri Central Office
Legal Aid of Western Missouri Western Office
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Mother's Refuge
Neighborhood Legal Support of KC
Neighbor2Neighbor Program
New Beginning Sanctuary
Newhouse
Operation Breakthrough

Table 28: Self-Sufficiency

Organization
Our Spot KC
Pieces Peaces
Reconciliation Services
ReDiscover
reStart, Inc.
Rose Brooks Center
SAVE, Inc.
Steppingstone
The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater KC
The Family Conservancy
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army/Harbor Lights Village
The Salvation Crossroads Shelter
Total Man CDC
True Light Family Resource Center
UHBH- PATH
UMKC Child and Family Services Clinic
UMKC Tenant Assistance Initiative
University of Kansas Health System
University Health
Upper Room
Urban Rangers Corps
Veronica's Voice
Warehouseman Training Inc
WEB DuBois Center for Learning
Working Men of Christ

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

Table 29: Social Capital

Organization
Amethyst Place
Assistance League of Kansas City
Artists Helping the Homeless
Avenue of Life, Inc.
Black Economic Union of Greater KC
Blessings Abound Thrift Store
Bridging the Gap
Brothers in Blue Reentry
Care Beyond the Boulevard
Caring for Kids Kansas City
Children International
Colonial Presbyterian
Community Assistance Council
Community Builders of KC
Community Resources
Consolidated Social Work Services
Creative Innovative Entrepreneurs
Cross-Lines Community Outreach
El Centro Inc
Fertile Ground Foundation
First Call Alcohol/Drug Prevention & Recovery
Friends of Yates, Inc
Foster Adopt Connect
Guadalupe Centers
Heartland 180
Healing House, Inc.
Hillcrest Hope
Hope Faith
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
Kansas City Public School District
Kansas City Young Matrons
Kansas City VA
Kim Wilson Housing
Lazarus Ministries KC

Table 29: Social Capital

Organization
Mattie Rhodes Center
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Mother's Refuge
NBC Community Development Corp
Neighbor2Neighbor Program
New Beginning Sanctuary
Newhouse
Northland Neighborhoods Inc (NNI)
Oikos Development Corp
Our Spot KC
Rachel's Tea House
Reconciliation Services
ReDiscover
reStart
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter
Salvation Army Pathway of Hope
SAVE, Inc.
Stepping Stone
St. James United Methodist Church
Swope Health Services
Synergy Services Inc
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter
Total Man CDC
University Health
University Health Behavioral Health
University of KS Health System
Veronica's Voice
Working Families Friend

Source: Community Analytics, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri

KANSAS CITY