

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph receives \$250,000 CARES Act grant**

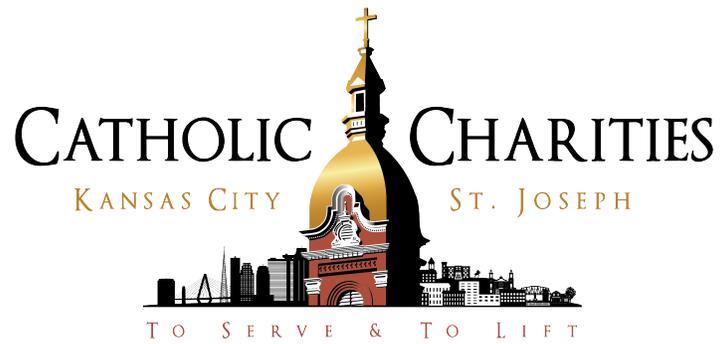
*Kansas City, MO — October 6, 2020* — Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph was awarded \$250,000 from the State of Missouri to aid community members facing housing crises. The awarded amount is part of a larger \$22 million available through the state’s Nonprofit Relief & Recovery program.

The grant will provide relief in the form of housing and utility assistance throughout the agency’s 27-county service area. Catholic Charities aims to help 276+ families, targeting the highest-need counties first.

Generally, poverty rates in these 27 counties exceed the Missouri average, (Nodaway County at 19.8%; St. Clair County at 18.2%; Vernon County at 17.2% - based on 2020 Missouri Poverty Report) with 75% of Catholic Charities’ clientele living at or below federal poverty level. Between March and July, 46% of those requesting rent or utility from the Kansas City office self-identified their need was directly related to the COVID containment measures.

Recently appointed CEO Karen Noel made it her first priority to identify the region’s greatest needs through a series of meetings with front-line partners, leaders, and pastors. Throughout the summer-long listening sessions, housing insecurity was consistently identified, with the ability to make rent and mortgage payments as the greatest concern.

“The CARES funding allows us to expand our support to more counties across Missouri as COVID-19 has significantly increased the number of people in hardship, who are not able to meet life’s basic needs,” Noel said.



“We foresee this will have a great impact on housing insecurity by reducing the threat of evictions and homelessness for families most at-risk through the winter months of 2020.

**About Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph**

Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph’s focus is *To Serve & To Lift*: to address clients’ crisis situations and then work to lift them to the dignity of self-reliance.