

July 8, 2013

Casey Toomay
Budget Manager
City Manager's Office
City of Lawrence

RE: 2012 Annual Report

Dear Ms. Toomay,

Per the Agreement for the use of City General Funds, I am submitting this annual report of the Emergency Service Council (ESC) rent and utility assistance program.

Funding to support ESC was included in the 2012 City of Lawrence Social Service Agency funding allocation in the amount of \$7,500. ESC provides rent and utility assistance for Lawrence residents who are in imminent danger of being evicted or having essential utility services disconnected. ESC focuses on cases where short term help can continue an overall pattern of self sufficiency for the individual or family. These cases include families trying to maintain long-term housing and elderly on fixed incomes facing a one-time utility assistance need. Intake workers at ESC agencies work directly with clients to complete applications and obtain the required documentation. Required documentation includes a disconnection notice or eviction notice, photo ID, social security or tax identification number for household members and proof of income level. ESC is a collaborative effort between Ballard Community Services (BCS) and partner agencies, including the Salvation Army, ECKAN, Willow Domestic Violence Center, and Douglas County Senior Services.

During 2012, ESC served 152 households totaling 409 individuals, of which about 64% were women. Of those households, 68% of those received utility assistance and 32% received rent assistance.

In all of 2012, over 80% reported they were able to maintain their residency, over 65% reported they were able to keep their utilities on and over 50% of program participants reported their housing situation as stable.

Sincerely,
Kyle Roggenkamp
Director of Human Services



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Ballard Community Services is a non-profit organization that provides a high quality early education program and essential basic life assistance to families and individuals in need.



ballardcenter.org

serving the community through the following:

ballard community center emergency service council • p.o. box 7, 708 elm street • lawrence, kansas 66044 • p 785.842.0729 • f 785.331.3714
brookcreek learning center 200 mount hope court • 785.865.0022 **penn house** 1035 pennsylvania • st. lawrence, kansas 66044 • 785.842.0440

City of Lawrence
Social Service Agency
Bi-annual Report
2013

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Casey Toomay, Budget Manger at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January to June are due on July 15th. Cumulative reports on activities from January through December are due on February 15th.

Agency Name:

Reporting period:

January - June
(deadline July 15)

January - December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

Funding to support ESC was included in the 2013 City of Lawrence Social Service Agency funding allocation on the line "Ballard Community Center". ESC provides rent and utility assistance for Lawrence residents who are in imminent danger of being evicted or having essential utility services disconnected. ESC focuses on cases where short term help can continue an overall pattern of self sufficiency for the individual or family. These cases include families trying to maintain long-term housing and elderly on fixed incomes facing a one-time utility assistance need. Intake workers at ESC agencies work directly with clients to complete applications and obtain the required documentation. Required documentation includes a disconnection notice or eviction notice, photo ID, social security or tax identification number for household members and proof of income level. ESC is a collaborative effort between Ballard Community Services (BCS) and partner agencies, including the Salvation Army, ECKAN, Willow Domestic Violence Center, and Douglas County Senior Services.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

In the first six months of 2013, ESC has served 162 households totaling 462 individuals with an average household size of about 3.10. The average household ESC investment in the first six months of 2013 was \$159.20 signifying ESC investment as being made towards past-due balances that are not extreme. Investments are made into situations where self-sufficiency of utility/rent payments is deemed probable for the future of each household.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

If not funded, many of the ESC clients will face homelessness and/or other hardships caused from the loss of utilities. In the 30-day follow up survey, 96% of respondents reported they were able to maintain their residency, 100% reported they were able to keep their utilities on and 84% of program participants reported their housing situation as stable since receiving the assistance. In the 60-day follow up survey, 89% reported they were able to maintain their residency, 80% reported they were able to keep their utilities on and 69% of program participants reported their housing situation as stable. In the 180-day follow up survey response, 86% reported they were able to maintain their residency, 77% reported they were able to keep their utilities on and 64% of program participants reported their housing situation as stable.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

The largest barrier facing the Emergency Services Council rent/utility assistance program is the inability to serve all eligible clients. So far in 2013, only 12% of eligible clients have received ESC investments. There is currently not enough funding to provide these investments. Given the savings to the city, county and state by providing such small investments that stabilize housing situations, we hope to attain more attention and ultimately more funding for such a needed program within our community.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

2013 Social Service Agency Allocation: ESC - Rent and Utility Assistance: \$8,500

2013 Social Service Agency Expenditures as of June 30: ESC - Rent and Utility Assistance \$4,250

Total 2013 ESC Expenditures as of June 30, all sources: ESC – Rent and Utility Assistance \$ 25,791.99