



Fort Smith Community Needs Assessment- COVID-19

The City of Fort Smith will receive \$530,840 dollars in stimulus funds for distribution within the city limits from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). A Community Needs Assessment is a required part of the planning process.

These funds are restricted to income qualified individuals and families. Even if you do not qualify, you may know someone through church and/ or other social activities about needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

**CDBG Income Limits
Household Size***

1 Person	\$29,650	5 Persons	\$45,700
2 Persons	\$33,850	6 Persons	\$49,100
3 Persons	\$38,100	7 Persons	\$52,500
4 Persons	\$42,300	8 Persons	\$55,850

* at or below the income level

We appreciate you taking the time to help us evaluate where these funds will be most effective in our community.

1. What category best describes you? Please choose one.

- Homeless provider/food pantry
- Healthcare/Mental Health Provider/Police/Fire/EMS
- Chamber of Commerce
- Banking institution
- Business
- Landlord/Housing Manager

Other (please specify)

2. Does your organization have access to any of the following resources as a result of COVID-19? (check all that apply)

- HUD CDBG Entitlement
- CSBG- Community Services Block Grant
- Other HUD
- FEMA- Public Assistance
- FEMA- National Flood Insurance
- FEMA- Hazard Mitigation Grant
- CoC- Continuum of Care
- EF&S- Emergency Food & Shelter
- ESG- Emergency Shelter Grant
- Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency - EPA
- Economic Development Administration
- Small Business Administration
- U. S. Department of Agriculture
- Department of Transportation
- Other Federal
- Local Government
- State Government
- Foundation
- Other Non-profit
- Private (Lenders, Corporate)
- N/A

Other (please specify)

3. Do you feel there is an adequate structure in place to rehabilitate patients recovering from COVID-19? If not, what is needed?

4. Has your organization been able to implement social distancing requirements as laid out by the CDC? If not, what resources do you lack that for the implementation process?

5. Has your organization been able to adequately rehabilitate, or construct a facility for testing, diagnosis, and treatment?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If No, what barriers have prevented this from happening? Please list the barriers you have experienced:

6. Has your organization been made aware of fraudulent activities (fraudulent grant funds, frauds to try and scam people out of their personal stimulus funds etc.)?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

7. Since the increased shift to virtual activities such as school and virtual doctor's visits and streaming video services which started March 17, 2020, do you feel Fort Smith has adequate internet connectivity?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

8. Since March 17, 2020, has your organization received an increased amount of inquiries for any of the following services (check all that apply)?

- Child Care
- Living Wage Employment
- Mental Health Services
- Job Services
- Family / Child Abuse
- Health Care Access
- Housing
- Substance Abuse
- Language Barriers
- Dental Care Access
- Budgeting
- Transportation
- Healthy Food Selection
- Health Care Costs
- Parenting
- Special Needs
- Credit Card Debt
- Legal Issues / Services
- Chronic Illness
- Energy / Utility Costs
- Financial Literacy / Planning
- Child Support
- N/A

Other (please specify)

9. Which of the following areas do you believe will be most needed in the recovery from COVID-19? (check all that apply)

- Employment
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Medical Care
- Job Training
- Financial Literacy / Planning
- Family / Child Abuse
- Housing
- Transportation
- Energy / Utility Costs
- Language Barriers
- Access to Nutritious Food
- Food Delivery (Meals on Wheels)
- Food Delivery (via grocery store)
- Child Care
- Legal Issues / Services
- Budget Counseling
- Education
- Rental Assistance
- Mortgage Assistance
- Financial Assistance to Small Businesses
- N/A

Other (please specify)

10. Of the following, which of these do you believe low-income families and individuals need information, education, guidance, and/or assistance in response to the COVID-19 crisis response? (check all that apply)

- Budgeting or Money Management Issues
- Checking and Savings Accounts
- Obtaining Personal Loans
- Obtaining Information Regarding Student Loan Repayment
- Credit Card Debt
- Credit Repair
- Payday Loans
- Home Energy / Utility Cost Issues
- Filing Tax Returns (Earned Income Credit)
- Landlord Tenant Issues
- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Access to Nutritious Food
- N/A

Other (please specify)

11. Have you encountered small businesses seeking assistance because they were denied an SBA loan? Or has your small business been denied an SBA Loan?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

12. Have you encountered small businesses seeking assistance because they were denied an SBA loan? Or has your small business been denied an SBA Loan?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If Yes, how:

13. Have you or your local businesses accessed the new SBA products or Main St. Lending Product?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

14. Has your business expanded to create jobs and manufacture medical supplies necessary to respond to infectious disease?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If Yes, what specifically are you manufacturing?

15. Did you establish, stabilize, and expand micro-enterprises that provide medical, food delivery, cleaning, and other services to support home health and quarantine?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

16. Did you suffer job loss or did you have to furlough employees due to COVID-19?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

17. What resources are needed in Fort Smith to start recovery from the effects of COVID-19?

18. What is the number of permanent business closures in Fort Smith as a result of COVID-19?

19. What is the number of temporary business closures in Fort Smith as a result of COVID-19?

20. Is there a need for services to businesses owners & employees (counseling, job training, business planning etc.) in Fort Smith as a result of COVID-19?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

What specifically is needed?

21. If you would like to receive information about the needs, priorities and application phase, please provide an email address and you will be added to our Citizen Participation List