



## History

Recovery Connect was created in 2022 to connect individuals, nonprofits, and small businesses with resources to address negative economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has been coordinated by the Public Policy and Management Center at Wichita State University with support from 15 organizations selected to extend the reach and impact of the program.

## Services

A primary tool of the program was creation and curation of a website to help residents find resources to fulfill their needs. Each listing included contacts for more information and, when applicable, direct links to application forms. Small business owners and nonprofit staff members with limited schedule availability were able to benefit from on-demand training materials linked on the website and still available on YouTube.

Program partners added scope and depth to online resources with activities such as childcare licensing training in Spanish (AB&C Bilingual Services), food licensing workshops (Empower), hands-on business training (Create Campaign), and educational outreach into community centers in the Evergreen and Oaklawn neighborhoods (WSU Tech).

## Program Reach



Through October 31, 2023, Recovery Connect had the following outputs:

Activity	Total	Daily Impact <sup>1</sup>
Individuals Served	4,972	7.44
Small Businesses Served	2,063	3.09
Nonprofits Served	1,098	1.64
Meetings & Presentations	929	1.39
Meeting & Presentation Attendees	8,570	12.83

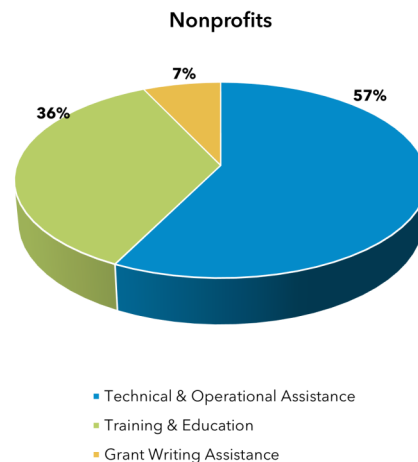
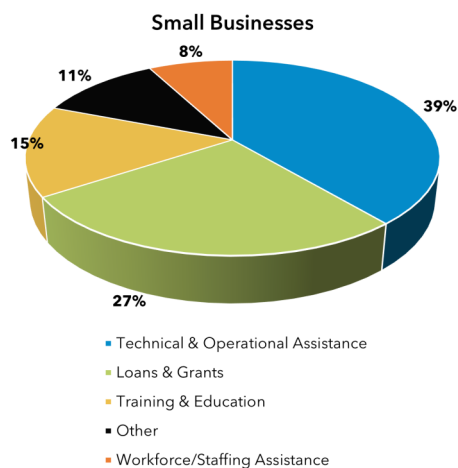
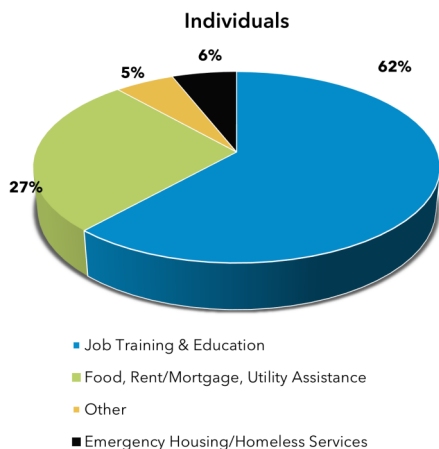
<sup>1</sup>Calculated for 22 months of the program (January 1, 2022–October 31, 2023)

During 2023, service was provided to residents from 20 unique Sedgwick County zip codes. People from the 67204, 67203, 67214, 67213, and 67217 areas were the most frequent program users.

## Most Common Types of Inquiries for Assistance Received

- ◆ Basic needs and financial support services
- ◆ Job training
- ◆ Technical or operational assistance

## Inquiries by User and Type



## Impact Testimonials

### A resident from Clearwater shared:

*“When my husband passed away in December 2020, we were behind on our property taxes. I heard about the program through my Clearwater library. Recovery Connect connected me to a program that helped me by paying all of my back taxes. That has helped me immensely.”*

### The director of a small Wichita nonprofit told us:

*“We were allowed to speak with grant writers, grant reviewers, we were allowed to go to classes, the webinars. We were allowed to find the necessary tools to get our nonprofit back to where we need to.”*

### A local entrepreneur offered this perspective:

*“As small businesses are developing in different ways now after the pandemic, we need different resources. A lot of our businesses need to serve in a different way than we were serving before the pandemic and Recovery Connect is bringing all of those resources—new training and new ways for us to do business with people.”*

