



**Christian County Commission**

100 West Church St, Room 100  
Ozark, MO 65721

**SCHEDULED**

**MEETING ATTACHMENTS (ID # 5260)**

Meeting: 04/19/21 08:55 AM

Department: County Clerk

Category: Meeting Items

Prepared By: Paula Brumfield

Initiator: Paula Brumfield

Sponsors:

DOC ID: 5260

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## Meeting Attachments

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 041921 CARES COMMITTEE UPDATE (PDF)

# Christian County CARES Committee Status Report

April 19, 2021

As part of the CARES Act which was signed into law in 2020 a Coronavirus Relief Fund was established which, after passing through the State's hands, delivered \$10.93 million to the Christian County Commission to be utilized as it saw fit to assist our community while working within the parameters and guidance provided by the US Treasury and maintaining compliance with reporting requirements. In order to facilitate this task, the County Commission established a committee of elected officials and department heads to create a process to identify and evaluate potential uses for these funds.

- To date, roughly \$ 8.7 million of the amount allocated to Christian County has been utilized or obligated.
- CRF funds have been provided to 45 different offices or entities within Christian County as well as 35 small businesses.
- Funding provided to local food pantries has allowed those entities to distribute more than double the amount of food to families in need than in the previous year.
- Christian County EMA was able to establish a free testing site
- We were able to provide financial support for contact tracing efforts

Prior to the original expiration date of 12/30/2020 associated with CARES Act funds the Committee discontinued the funding application process to allow the Auditor's office time to maintain compliance with the evolving reporting requirements. Following the approval of a six-month extension, the Committee determined it would be best to focus on the unknown expenses and tasks associated with supporting and implementing vaccinations in our community.

The County has been able to partner and coordinate with a diverse group of health care professionals to provide vaccination opportunities at events organized by EMA and providing supplies and equipment for events put on by partner entities.

As of 4/16/2021, the State's website [showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/vaccine/](http://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/vaccine/), which provides statewide COVID-19 vaccination data tells us that 33.3% of Missouri's population has initiated vaccination and 22.4% have fully completed vaccination.

By comparison, an estimated 26.9% of Christian County's 88,595 persons have initiated vaccination. This means that 23,835 first doses have been administered. In total, 40,285 doses have been administered.

An estimated 19.6% or 17,343 of Christian County's 88,595 persons have completed vaccination.

While these numbers suggest Christian County is behind, it should be noted that we rank 35<sup>th</sup> out of Missouri's 114 counties in terms of percentage vaccinated.

As a side note – At least one of the vaccine manufacturers has developed a booster shot which could potentially extend the need for our vaccination team to organize and conduct immunization events into the fall.

With the June 30<sup>th</sup> end date established by the State of Missouri in mind our Auditor has stated that her wrap up needs to begin on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Christian County CARES Committee has agreed that the following recommendations be presented to the County Commission:

- Ongoing expenditures related to testing and vaccination efforts should continue to be approved in the current manner until such time as our Auditor can no longer have reasonable time to be prepared for the final audit to the program.
- Any other miscellaneous uses of the remaining funding deemed appropriate should be directly evaluated and approved by the County Commission under the current manner in place.
- Seeing that the function and purpose of the Christian County CARES Committee is now complete, the Commission should vote to dissolve the Committee.

A final recommendation from the existing Committee would be for the County Commission, following the dissolution of the CARES Committee, to formally establish a new committee which is given the task of evaluating and recommending potential uses of American Rescue Plan Act funds with respect to the guidance and limitations yet to be provided by the US Treasury. This new task will certainly require a similar collection of knowledge and skillsets as have been required within the existing committee.