The United Way Help Center will assist individuals who have been laid-off or furloughed or self-employed individuals whose business has been severely affected by the pandemic or aviation-related layoffs. Here's what to know:

**HOW DO I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?**

To set up an appointment, call United Way's information line by dialing 2-1-1, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Note: United Way 211 is available 24/7 for other calls, but appointments for the Help Center must be made during these hours.) The center will be open on a monthly basis as long as funds are available.

*Everyone who calls for an appointment by May 15 and meets requirements will receive an appointment for the session that starts June 1. Visit unitedwayplains.org/helpcenter to see when appointments are being accepted for the following month.*

**WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE HELP CENTER?**

To qualify for help through the Help Center, individuals must:
- Pre-register by calling United Way's information line by dialing 2-1-1
- Have been laid-off, furloughed and approved for unemployment compensation between July 1, 2019 and the present (not fired, quit, or on paid medical leave) or are self-employed and whose business has been severely affected by the pandemic (the individual's job or business was/is in Sedgwick, Butler, Sumner or Cowley counties or individual lives in those counties)
- Show that they have emergency financial needs and have insufficient personal resources to adequately provide shelter and food

**WHAT SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED AT THE HELP CENTER?**

- Emergency financial assistance (food, utilities, and shelter). Checks will be written directly to the landlord, bank or utility company. No cash on premises.
- Food assistance
- Budget and debt management counseling from Consumer Credit Counseling Service
- Arrangements for utility bill payment plans
- Help applying for government programs
- Job training and job search assistance
- Continuing education information

Operational assistance at the Help Center provided by Catholic Charities. Financial assistance through the Help Center is being provided by United Way of the Plains’ Pandemic Fund, which is supported by donations from individuals and organizations.

**WHAT SAFETY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN AT THE HELP CENTER?**

The Help Center will implement pandemic safety measures, including face masks required for all entering the building, limiting the number of people in the building at one time, social distancing, disinfectant wipe-downs, etc.

**QUESTIONS?**

For questions not addressed here, dial 2-1-1.