

OVERVIEW OF FOOD ASSISTANCE (SNAP) PROGRAM

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND SENIORS – JANUARY 19, 2022

WHAT IS FOOD ASSISTANCE?

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides qualifying low-income households with food benefits, access to a healthy diet and education on food preparation and nutrition. In Kansas, the program is known as the Food Assistance Program.

The Food Assistance Program serves as the first line of defense against hunger. It provides crucial support to elderly households, to low-income working households, to other low-income households that include the unemployed or disabled and to households transitioning from welfare to work. Food assistance customers can spend their benefits to buy eligible nutritious food and plants and seeds to grow food for their household to eat.

WHAT IS FOOD ASSISTANCE? (cont.)

Monthly benefits are provided on a Kansas Benefit card, which looks and functions like a debit card. When food is purchased, the cost is electronically subtracted from the individual's account.

The card may also be used at enrolled farmers' markets to purchase items such as fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables.

The Kansas Benefit card can only be used at USDA enrolled stores and can only be used for food items. It cannot be used to purchase nonfood items or be “cashed” out.

Included food items for the household are items such as fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, etc.

Households **CANNOT** use benefits to buy liquor, vitamins, foods that are hot at the point of sale, household supplies etc.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

- Persons who work but have a low income and those who are unemployed may be eligible.
- Persons who live together and buy food together may be eligible. Household members do not have to be related to be considered part of the household.
- Persons aged 60 and older and persons with disabilities may be eligible.
- Any single individual, household or group of individuals who live and eat together, whose income and resources are low and who meet certain basic program requirements may qualify.

RESOURCES

- All households may have up to \$2,500 worth of resources. Households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or is disabled may have up to \$3,750 in resources. Some countable resources that apply toward the \$2,250 (or \$3,750) limit are:
 - Cash, checking and savings accounts
 - U.S. Savings Bonds
 - Savings Certificates
 - Buildings or land (except family home)
 - Jointly owned resources
 - Cars and other vehicles

FOOD ASSISTANCE MONTHLY INCOME AND ISSUANCE TABLE

Household Size	Maximum Benefit (monthly)	Gross Income Maximum (monthly)
1	\$250	\$1393
2	\$459	\$1888
3	\$658	\$2379
4	\$835	\$2871

ABAWD

- An Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents or ABAWD is a person between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents.
- Food assistance has a provision that ABAWDS are limited to receiving food assistance for 3 months in a 36-month period. If the individual is working and/or participating in a work program for 20 hours or more per week they are meeting work requirements and may continue to receive SNAP.
- This provision is currently suspended by the USDA but will restart when the national public health emergency declaration ends.

ACCESS TO FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Application Submission and Eligibility Determination
 - Online
 - Face-to-Face
 - Fax
 - Email
 - Drop-Off
 - Postal Mail
 - Helping Agencies
 - Amazon Connect

Food Assistance Caseload and Expenditures

Month	Persons	Expenditures
July 2021	208,928	\$60,188,996
August 2021	199,137	\$55,136,517
September 2021	198,977	\$50,509,532
October 2021	199,598	\$56,211,108
November 2021	197,663	\$80,8009,083

Food Assistance Caseload Summary



Program		FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 GBR	FY 2021 GBR
SNAP (Food Assistance)	Average Monthly Persons Assistance	219,733 \$299,351,743	205,261 \$269,849,832	193,036 \$255,965,736	182,371 \$242,918,172
SNAP Employment and Training	Average Monthly Adults Assistance	785 \$841,880	329 \$139,177	2,458 \$3,734,556	2,483 \$3,723,954

CHILD SUPPORT COOPERATION

- Providing information or cooperating with child support is a requirement for food assistance in Kansas based on state law.
- Good cause exceptions are allowed:
 - The child was conceived as a result of incest or rape;
 - The caretaker is currently being assisted by a public or licensed private social agency to resolve the issue of whether to keep the child or relinquish the child for adoption;
 - The caretaker was a victim of domestic violence whereby compliance with program requirements would increase risk of harm for the individual or any children in the individual's case. In July 2021 there were 323 SNAP and 25 childcare noncooperation actions.

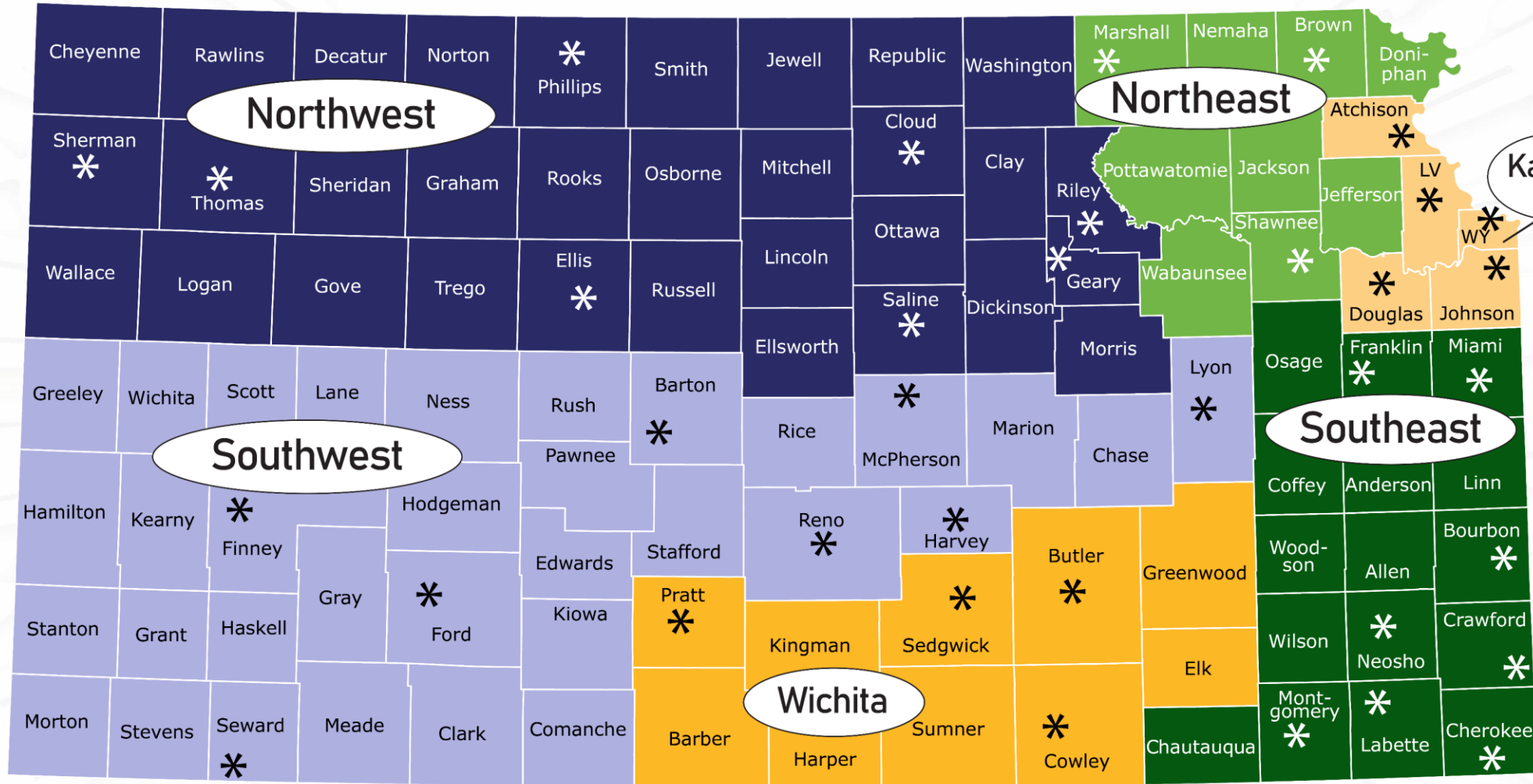
PANDEMIC PROGRAMS

- USDA had two additional programs in 2020 and 2021:
 - Emergency Allotment program began in March 2020. Food assistance households received emergency allotments in an amount equal to the maximum benefit for their household size, minus their monthly base benefit. This is authorized by President Biden's Executive Order on Economic Relief Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic issued Jan 22, 2021
 - P-EBT gave food benefits to authorized eligible families with school aged children who were unable to receive free and reduced meals due to school closures for five consecutive days due to the pandemic.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- Employment services programs are available for food assistance recipients.
- Services are available for all food assistance recipients to seek employment, those services can include:
 - Help in obtaining and maintaining employment
 - Job training
 - Help in obtaining a GED or in learning English
 - Transportation assistance
 - Clothing
 - Moving costs related to a job
 - Physical or mental health services
 - Drug or alcohol problems, or domestic violence
 - Childcare

DCF Regions



* DCF Service Center

QUESTIONS
