

Question: What is the Hero Relief Program?

Answer: This program is designed to provide child care benefits to essential workers (see list below) with children across Kansas, so they are able to respond to the COVID-19 needs in the state.

Question: Who are the eligible essential workers?

Answer: Healthcare workers:

- Workers who perform critical clinical research, development, and testing needed for COVID-19 response.
- Healthcare providers and Caregivers including physicians, dentists, psychologists, mid-level practitioners, nurses and assistants, infection control and quality assurance personnel, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, social workers, optometrists, speech pathologists, chiropractors, and diagnostic and therapeutic technicians and technologists.
- Hospital and laboratory personnel (including accounting, administrative, admitting and discharge, engineering, epidemiological, source plasma and blood donation, food service, housekeeping, medical records, information technology and operational technology, nutritionists, sanitarians, respiratory therapists, etc.).
- Workers in other medical and biomedical facilities (including Ambulatory Health and Surgical, Blood Banks, Clinics, Community Mental Health, Comprehensive Outpatient rehabilitation, End Stage Renal Disease, Health Departments, Home Health care, Hospices, Hospitals, Long Term Care, Nursing Care Facilities, Organ Pharmacies, Procurement Organizations, Psychiatric Residential, Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers, and retail facilities specializing in medical good and supplies).
- Public health / community health workers, including those who compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information.
- Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities.
- Workers who manage health plans, billing, and health information, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Workers who conduct community-based public health functions, conducting epidemiologic surveillance, compiling, analyzing and communicating public health information, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Workers performing information technology and cybersecurity functions at healthcare and public health facilities, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Workers performing security, incident management, and emergency operations functions at or on behalf of healthcare entities including healthcare coalitions, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Pharmacy employees necessary to maintain uninterrupted prescription filling.

First responders:

- Public and private personnel (front line and management) in emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, and private security, to include public and private hazardous material responders, air medical service providers (pilots and supporting technicians), corrections, and search and rescue personnel.

Food and agriculture workers:

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, convenience stores, and other retail (including unattended and vending) that sells human food, animal/pet food and pet supply, and beverage products, including retail customer support service and information technology support staff necessary for online orders, pickup and delivery.
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations, including dark kitchen and food prep centers, and carry-out and delivery food employees.
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food ingredient production and processing facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging.
- Farmers, farm workers, and agribusiness support services to include those employed in auction and sales: grain and oilseed handling, processing and distribution; animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically and for export.
- Farmers, farm workers, support service workers, and their supplier employees to include those engaged in producing and harvesting field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; biodiesel and renewable diesel facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs.
- Employees and firms supporting the distribution of food, feed, and beverage and ingredients used in these products, including warehouse workers, vendor- managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers.
- Workers supporting the sanitation and pest control of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail.
- Employees in cafeterias used to feed employees, particularly employee populations sheltered against COVID-19.
- Workers in animal diagnostic and food testing laboratories in private industries and in institutions of higher education.
- Government, private, and non-governmental organizations' workers essential for food assistance programs (including school lunch programs) and government payments.
- Employees of companies engaged in the production, storage, transport, and distribution of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including seeds, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids.
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health (including those involved in supporting emergency veterinary or livestock services); raising of animals for food; animal production operations; livestock markets; slaughter and packing plants, manufacturers, renderers, and associated regulatory and government workforce.
- Transportation supporting animal agricultural industries, including movement of animal medical and reproductive supplies and materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, live animals, animal by-products, and deceased animals for disposal.

- Workers who support sawmills and the manufacture and distribution of fiber and forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood and fiber products.
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary for agricultural production and distribution.

Judicial branch (essential services):

- Judicial officers and personnel deemed essential by The Office of Judicial Administration to ensure the continued operations of the Kansas court system

National Guard:

- National Guard members that are on orders, to include state active duty, Title 32, or Title 10 orders and members in an Inactive Duty for Training status.
- At the discretion of the Adjutant General, this category also includes full-time staff of the Kansas National Guard or Department of Military Affairs that are necessary for the execution of the National Guard’s mission.

Frontline child and adult protection specialists:

- Social workers and investigators employed by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (or one of its protection and prevention services case management grantees) whose jobs require in-home and other face-to-face interactions with members of the public.

Child care providers caring for children of eligible workers listed above:

- Educators and other workers in these childcare centers, family childcare, schools, and other facilities who are caring for children of eligible workers listed above. Client statement will be used as verification.

Question: What are the income guidelines?

Answer: This program is for those healthcare workers and first responders with income at or less than 250% of the federal poverty level.

Household Size	250% FPL
2	\$3,593
3	\$4,525
4	\$5,458
5	\$6,392
6	\$7,325

Question: How long will I receive benefits?

Answer: When determined eligible, benefits will continue for 6 months.

Question: How will I receive notification that I’ve been approved?

Answer: The notification process is the same as child care subsidy was for non-essential employees.

Question: How will benefits be paid?

Answer: EBT payment information will be shared if you are approved.

Question: Where do I find the application/apply?

Answer: Paper applications are available outside each local service center or at:

<http://content.dcf.ks.gov/ees/KEESM/Forms/ES-3100.pdf>

Online applications are available on the DCF website:

<https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apsssp/sspNonMed.portal>

Question: I already receive child care subsidy and I am an essential worker, what should I do?

Answer: Call your local service center and ask to have your case reviewed for the Hero Relief Program.

Question: My provider doesn't currently accept DCF Subsidy, but is willing to, how do they become a DCF provider?

Answer: You will need to complete a DCF child care application and indicate that you are an essential worker. A referral will be sent to the DCF Child Care Provider Enrollment unit and a child care provider packet will be sent to the provider to complete and return with information on becoming a DCF provider. *As long as you and your provider are approved, they will be paid from the date of your application.*

Question: I am a provider, but I don't currently accept DCF subsidy, how can I become a DCF provider?

Answer: The parent of the child that you are caring for will need to fill out a DCF child care application and indicate on the application this is child care for essential workers. A referral will be sent to the DCF Child Care Provider Enrollment unit and a child care provider packet will be sent to you to fill out and return with more information on becoming a DCF provider. *As long as you and the family are approved, you will be paid from the date of the family's application.*



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