

# OVERVIEW OF FOOD ASSISTANCE (SNAP) PROGRAM

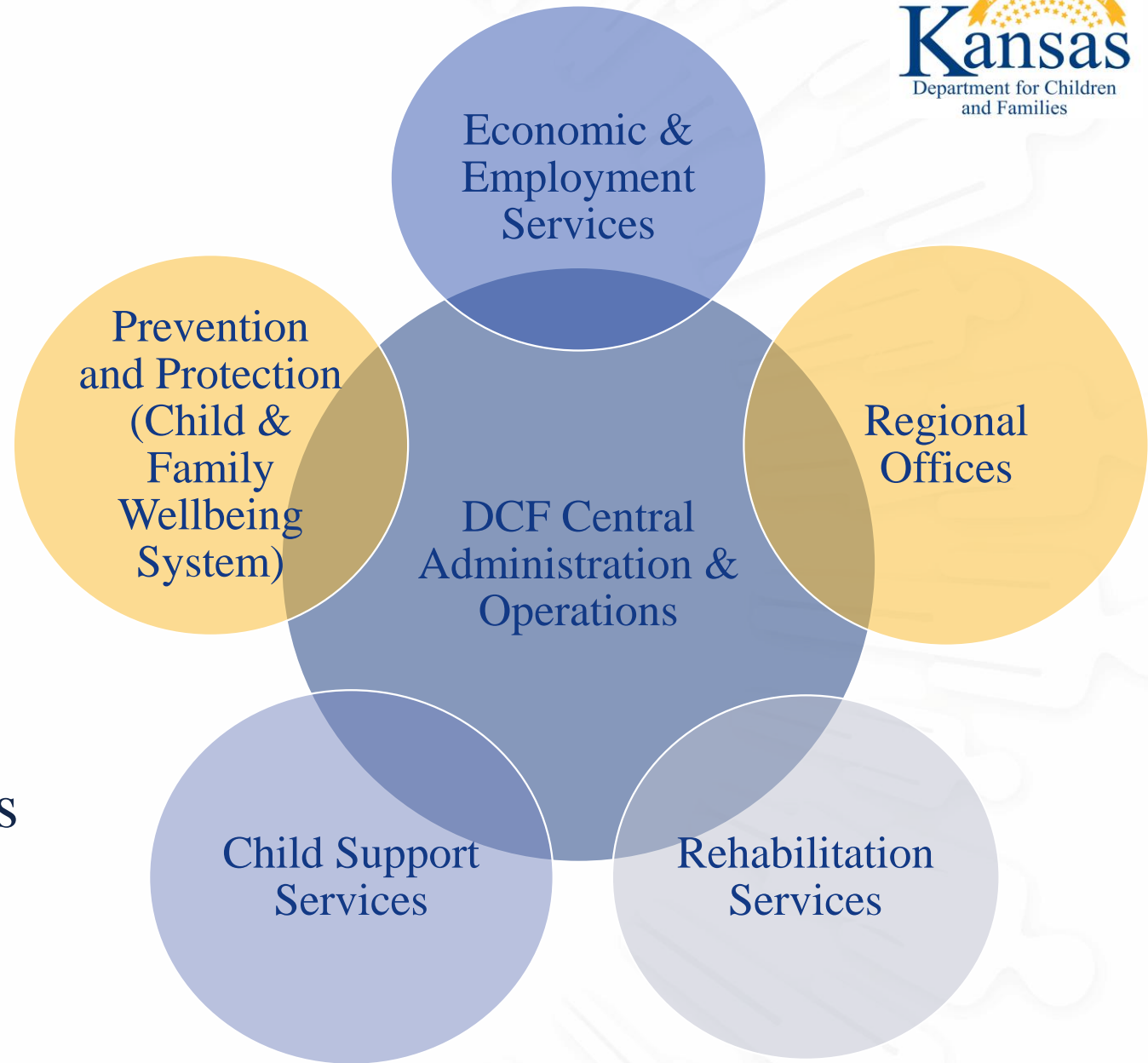
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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

# ORGANIZATION

## DCF Major Programs

- Programs collaborate for family and individual outcome achievement
- Programs are supported by core operations.
- Program and practice are carried out by teams in 36 service centers across 6 Regional Offices



# ECONOMIC & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES




Director of Economic & Employment services – Sandra Kimmons

Economic and Employment Services (EES) provides a variety of programs that can help families achieve self-sufficiency. These include:

- Cash assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- Food assistance (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Child Care assistance
- Employment assistance
- Energy assistance
- Emergency Water Assistance Program

Kansas Benefits Card Support

 1-800-831-5235

# 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 and benefits are 100% federally funded with SNAP dollars.

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.
- Able-bodied persons, age 18-49, without children, who work or attend an approved training program 30 hours per week or qualify for an exemption from work activities.

# TYPICAL SNAP CLIENT

Average Age – 40.7

Average Household - 2.1 persons

Average Children in household – 2.39

Average Monthly Benefit - \$217 per person or \$443 per case

61.2% are high school / GED educated

56.8% have earned income



# SNAP IN KS

JUNE 2022

**TOTAL SNAP HOUSEHOLDS – 97,284**

**ONE ADULT WITH CHILDREN - 18.2%**

**TWO PARENT HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN – 8.5%**

**ELDERLY & DISABLED CASES – 30.9%**

**SNAP CHILDREN –**

**10.5% INFANTS,**

**17.2% TODDLERS,**

**72.3% SCHOOLAGE**



# SNAP IN KANSAS

## Additional June 2022 Information

<b>LENGTH OF TIME ON SNAP</b>	<b>61.4% RECEIVE FOR ONE YEAR OR LESS</b> <b>36% RECEIVE FOR 6MO OR LESS</b>
<b>SNAP FAMILIES WITH EARNINGS</b>	<b>56.8% OF ALL FOOD ASSISTANCE CASES HAVE EARNED INCOME</b>
<b>FAMILY ALSO RECEIVES CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>FAMILY ALSO RECEIVES LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)</b>	<b>20.1%</b>
<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT OF SNAP BENEFIT (June 2022)</b>	<b>PER CASE - \$443</b> <b>PER PERSON - \$217</b>

# ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

- 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 / Phone

# VERIFICATIONS

- Identity of person applying for assistance and any other adult in the household
- Gross non-exempt monthly income for anyone over 18 in the assistance household
- Resources
- US Citizenship
- Non-Citizen Status
- Child or Dependent Care Expenses
- Medical Expenses

# INTERFACES

- Lexis Nexis
- The Work Number/TALX
- Social Security System
- PARIS (Public Assistance Reporting Information System)
- SAVE
- Kansas Lottery
- Kansas Department of Labor
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- KDOC

# INTERFACES (cont.)

- Kansas Child Support Services
- KEES System
- Kansas Adult Supervised Population Electronic Repository (KASPER)
- National Directory of New Hires (NDNH)
- Electronic Disqualified Recipient System (eDRS)

# RESOURCES

- All households may have up to \$2,750 worth of resources. Households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or is disabled may have up to \$4,250 in resources. Some countable resources that apply toward the \$2,750 (or \$4,250) 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 (one car is exempt)

# HOPE ACT

- Drug felon restriction to food assistance, treatment, and drug testing
- Child support referral and cooperation
- Vehicles counted as a resource
- Kansas Benefits Card photo ID
- Electronic check for false information



# HOPE ACT (cont.)

- Broad-based categorical eligibility prohibited
- SNAP recruitment prohibited
- ABAWD waivers prohibited from being implemented. No ABAWD waivers have been requested. DCF issued a memo to offer ABAWD exemptions in 2019 but rescinded the memo and policy when discussion led to the conclusion that the law was not clear regarding exemptions.
- Count the full income of non-citizens when determining SNAP benefit instead of a prorated amount

# FOOD ASSISTANCE MONTHLY INCOME AND ISSUANCE TABLE

Household Size	Maximum Benefit (monthly)	Gross Income Maximum (monthly)
1	\$281	\$1473
2	\$516	\$1984
3	\$740	\$2495
4	\$939	\$3007

# Food Assistance Caseload and Expenditures

Month	Persons	Expenditures
July 2022	197,821	\$49,768,201
August 2022	197,542	\$47,604,696
September 2022	194,997	\$46,164,955
October 2022	193,754	\$57,004,268
November 2022	192,213	\$50,235,975

# Food Assistance Caseload Summary



Program		FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 GBR
SNAP (Food Assistance)	Average Monthly Persons Assistance	198,457 \$290,432,934	203,424 \$479,649,612	198,332 \$651,145,586	197,828 \$540,546,293
SNAP Employment and Training	Average Monthly Adults Assistance	228 \$82,287	435 \$145,779	424 \$146,208	950 \$798,000

# Food Assistance Funding



Federal Grant Awards	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23 Est
SNAP Administration (1)	\$25,895,996	\$26,272,383	\$29,656,626	\$30,293,789	\$29,949,040
SNAP E&T Administration (2), (3)	\$789,085	\$2,026,421	\$1,602,977	\$1,107,836	\$672,528
SNAP E&T Participant Expenses (4)	\$67,491	\$46,288	\$67,010	\$78,582	\$93,386

# 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.

# 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

# SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

ABLE BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS –  
2022 Sen. Sub. For H.B. 2448



Per 2022 Sen. Sub. For H.B. 2448, all Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents on the SNAP program must participate in SNAP Employment & Training as a condition of receiving food assistance if:

- The ABAWD client is aged 18 – 49; and
- The ABAWD client is not employed at least 30 hours a week.

The program went live on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, after the USDA approved the State's plan. DCF has 15 career navigators for implementation and are collaborating with 5 community organizations for the program.



# QUESTIONS

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