



# DCF Legislative Testimony

March 10, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF:** Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks, Director of Economic and Employment Services, Department for Children and Families

**TESTIMONY ON:** **Informational Briefing on SB363:** Requiring the department of health and environment (KDHE) and the Kansas department for children and families to enter into data-matching agreements with state agencies to verify eligibility for food and medical assistance and KDHE to submit certain data to the centers for medicare and medicaid services, prohibiting certain public assistance waivers or exemptions without legislative approval and self-attestation for purposes of determining eligibility for public assistance, limiting retroactive enrollment in medical assistance, immediately terminating eligibility for medical assistance upon confirmation of death of the enrollee, increasing the age limit for able-bodied adults without certain dependents and prohibiting certain exemptions from work requirements under the food assistance program.

## DCF | SB363 | H.R.1 CODIFICATION & BENEFIT PROGRAM VERIFICATION

Chair Averkamp and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 363.

### **Total Fiscal Impact**

The total ongoing impact of SB 363 is \$819,712 in FY 2026 and \$8,343,453 in FY 2027 with an increase in FTE of 96 positions as detailed in the table below:

|   | SFY 26           | SFY 27             | SFY 28             | FTE       |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Staff to Maintain and Draw Reports for Interfaces                               | \$0.00           | \$162,753          | \$162,074          | 2         |
| Eligibility Staff   | \$0.00           | \$5,013,007        | \$4,987,618        | 62        |
| Additional SNAP E&T staff for Increased Caseload Included in the GBR            | \$712,953        | \$2,697,955        | \$2,697,955        | 32        |
| Additional Participant Expenses for Increased SNAP E&T Caseload Included in GBR | \$106,759        | \$469,738          | \$467,738          | 0         |
| <b>Total All Funds</b>  | <b>\$819,712</b> | <b>\$8,343,453</b> | <b>\$8,315,385</b> | <b>96</b> |

**Note:** The cost table above represents the DCF fiscal note submitted for SB 363 and includes all identified cost impacts, with the exception of a potential system upgrade estimated at \$137,500, plus or minus 50%.

These estimates are based on the anticipated increase to the current workload from HR1 and this potential legislation. These estimates were applied to the current FTE count to determine additional staffing needs. Each section in the testimony below details the costs and FTE for each category.

### **Systems Interfaces with Other State Agencies**

SB 363 directs the secretary of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to enter into agreements with other state agencies to allow for the review, comparison and verification of data for food assistance eligibility. Data used from other state agencies to review SNAP food assistance eligibility includes death records, wage information, residency changes, incarceration status, changes in employment and lottery winnings. SB 363 requires more frequent review for these databases. Additionally, these interfaces would need to be expanded in order to meet some of the data matching requirements as they currently are used for non-food assistance programs or do not fully meet the stated requirements.

### **The following elements of the bill would be costly and hard to comply with:**

Some of the interface verifications would need to be expanded in order to meet some of the data matching requirements as they currently are used for non-food assistance programs or do not fully meet the stated requirements. These changes would create a significant number of new tasks due to the increased frequency of some checks and the amount of data required. This would require additional staff time, mail costs, as well the creation of new system agreements.

- Quarterly basis, from the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), including, but not limited to, potential changes in income, wages or residency as identified by tax records.
  - **There are currently no agreements with KDOR. This would require a new agreement to be developed.**

- EES checks income every 6-12 months depending on the program, DCF would likely already have more accurate information than the information provided by annual tax records. Because of how the agency budgets income, staff would have to re-calculate tax income information to see if there is a change. If there is a change, they'd have to request verification of the change due to the Unclear Information policy for Food Assistance. **This process could be error prone and negatively impact the SNAP Payment Error Rate.**
- On a quarterly basis, from the Department of Labor (KDOL), including, but not limited to, changes in employment or wages.
  - DCF currently has access to this information and uses it when determining initial eligibility and during redetermination reviews. Ongoing comparisons would increase the number of tasks to be completed.
- On a semi-monthly basis, KDOL, including, but not limited to, potential changes in employment, income or assets.

**Employers only report quarterly to KDOL, so requiring KDOL to be checked semi-monthly would increase work with little to no value.**

**These changes would require system changes and a significant amount of staff time.** On average 27% of our Food Assistance cases have earned income that could be impacted by this change. The estimated cost for all system changes is \$137,000 +/- 50%. The earliest this system change can be made is December of 2026.

**Information Verification**

Section (4) of SB 363 states the following:

*Unless required under federal law, the Kansas Department for Children and Families shall not accept self-attestation of income, residency, age, household composition, care-taker relative status or receipt of other coverage ... or request authority to waive or decline to periodically check any available income-related data sources to verify eligibility for TANF, food assistance, medical assistance or assistance under the child care subsidy program.*

The following table details DCF programs and whether these items are currently verified beyond self-attestation, guided by federal statute:

|                           | SNAP                 | TANF                 | Child Care                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income                    | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                            |
| Residency                 | Yes                  | No                   | No                             |
| Age                       | No                   | No                   | Yes, for benefit children only |
| Household Composition     | Only if questionable | Only if questionable | Only if questionable           |
| Caretaker Relative Status | No                   | Yes                  | No                             |
| Receipt of Other Coverage | KDHE                 | KDHE                 | KDHE                           |

Requiring additional verification beyond self-attestation from applicants and will create additional tasks to be performed by eligibility workers. This will require more time to determine initial and ongoing eligibility. **This additional verification may also result in benefits being delayed to needy and eligible families.**

## **Staffing Impact**

Additional staff will be required to manage the interfaces and produce the information needed to verify eligibility. These positions would be located in the Economic and Employment Services (EES) administration. These duties require the hiring of two Management Systems Analysts with an annual salary and benefits of \$66,576. Other expenses would also be incurred by these positions such as communications, travel, fees, etc. at an estimated cost of \$12,271 per FTE for the first year. The annual estimated costs for these positions including other operating costs are \$162,753 during the first year (SFY 2027).

The SNAP caseload averages about 100,000 adults per month. This population includes families and individuals who may move frequently. Additionally, those who are employed mainly work low-wage jobs with varying hours per week. These individuals may also change employment. Based on the data comparisons to be carried out, the frequency with which differences and changes are identified and made would increase significantly. Each change would require action by the case worker. Per USDA regulations, program staff have ten days to review and initiate changes to the cases.

Due to the increased number of data sources being checked and the continuous nature of the checks, the frequency of updating food assistance benefits will increase. **As each change task must be assigned, reviewed, and action taken, additional FTEs will be needed.**

Currently, there are 404 regional workers performing SNAP-related activities. The changes noted to comply with SB 363 (report reviews and information verification) are **expected to increase the amount of work needed to be performed by 35%, or an additional 62 FTEs.** These FTE would be benefits-eligible and additional building space would be needed. The following table details the salary and other operating expenses (OOE):

| <b>Item</b>           | <b>FY 2027</b>     | <b>FY 2028</b>     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits | \$3,779,724        | \$3,840,143        |
| Standard OOE          | \$1,233,283        | \$1,147,475        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$5,013,007</b> | <b>\$4,987,618</b> |

An additional \$5 million is needed to fund the increase in staffing specifically related to increased monitoring and review of benefits with increased data comparisons. This assumes a July 1, 2026, implementation date.

## **SNAP Work Program**

**Additional funding related to the SNAP Work Program was included in the Governor's Budget Recommendations.**

In July 2025, H.R.1 was passed by Congress and signed by the President. This bill made significant changes regarding work requirements for SNAP recipients, including:

- Increasing the age of Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents to 64 (previously it was under 60).
- Changing the exception of those with dependent children to only apply to children under 14 (previously it was 18 or younger).
- Removing work requirement exceptions for people experiencing homelessness, under 24 and aged out of foster care at 18, or veterans.
- Established new exemptions for "Indian", Urban Indian", or "California Indian" as defined in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

**SB 363 incorporates the first three changes into Kansas statutes. These changes are expected to make an additional 20,977 current SNAP recipients subject to work requirements.** These people would be assigned to the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program in DCF.

It is estimated an additional 1,951 individuals will be assigned to and participate in the SNAP E&T program. Currently, there are 19 non-supervisory FTE assigned to the SNAP E&T program to handle a monthly caseload of 1,171 individuals. **To maintain the current staff/client ratio, an additional 32 FTE would be required.** The following table details the additional costs associated with this expansion of the SNAP E&T program:

| Administrative Costs                                   | SFY2026 (1)       | SFY2027             |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits for 32 FTE                       | 517,881           | 2,071,523           |
| Standard OOE Per FTE                                   | 195,072           | 626,432             |
| <b>Total Administrative Costs</b>                      | <b>\$ 712,953</b> | <b>\$ 2,697,955</b> |
| Participant Expenses                                   | SFY2026 (1)       | SFY2027             |
| Additional SNAP E&T Participants                       | 1,951             | 1,951               |
| Average Cost Participant Expenses Per Person/Per Month | \$ 18.24          | \$ 20.06            |
| Months   | 3                 | 12                  |
| <b>Total Participant Expenses</b>                      | <b>\$ 106,759</b> | <b>\$ 469,738</b>   |
| <b>Total Overall Cost</b>                              | <b>\$ 819,712</b> | <b>\$ 3,167,693</b> |

(1) The SFY 2026 figure is based on three months.

Funds will be requested as state-only funds. DCF will fully budget the Federal SNAP E&T funds expected to be allocated at the federal level. No federal funds are expected to be available to cover the projected increase in program expenses.