



# DCF Legislative Testimony

March 10, 2026

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

**TESTIMONY ON:** UPDATE on SNAP Payment Error Rate

# DCF | SNAP PER

Chair Averkamp and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide follow-up information to the House Select Committee on Government Oversight on the varied topics discussed over the past several months. The following testimony is organized by meeting topic.

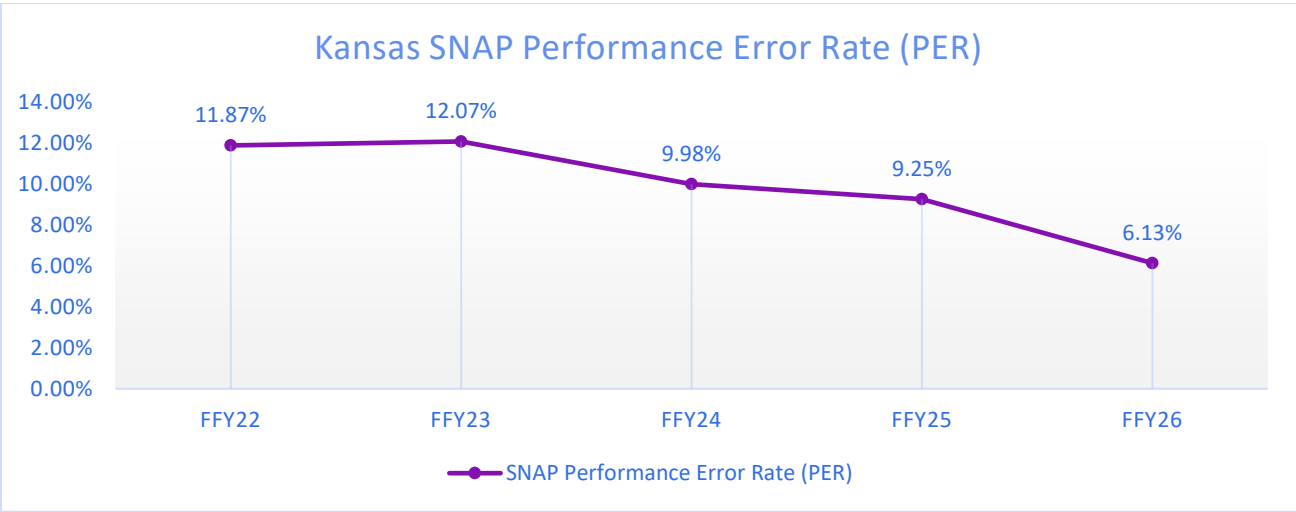
Kansas SNAP benefits provide over \$400 million of food assistance to the most vulnerable Kansans every year. Currently, SNAP benefits are fully funded by the federal government. H.R.1 requires states to pay a portion of benefit costs based upon Payment Error Rates (PER) over 6% effective Oct. 1, 2027. The federal fiscal year (FFY) runs October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. *Unrelated to the PER, H.R.1 also shifts administrative dollars from 50/50 to 25/75 SGF. See appendix item A for SNAP impacts.*

Per H.R.1 the currently federally paid benefits would be matched at the following percentages:

Payment Error Rate	State Match Percentage
PER Below 6%	0% of federal benefits
PER 6%-7.99%	5% of federal benefits
PER 8% - 9.99%	10% of federal benefits
PER above 10%	15% of federal benefits.

The agency is continuing to take aggressive steps to reduce the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Payment Error Rate (PER). We have set the following performance benchmarks to have the PER under six percent by October 2026:

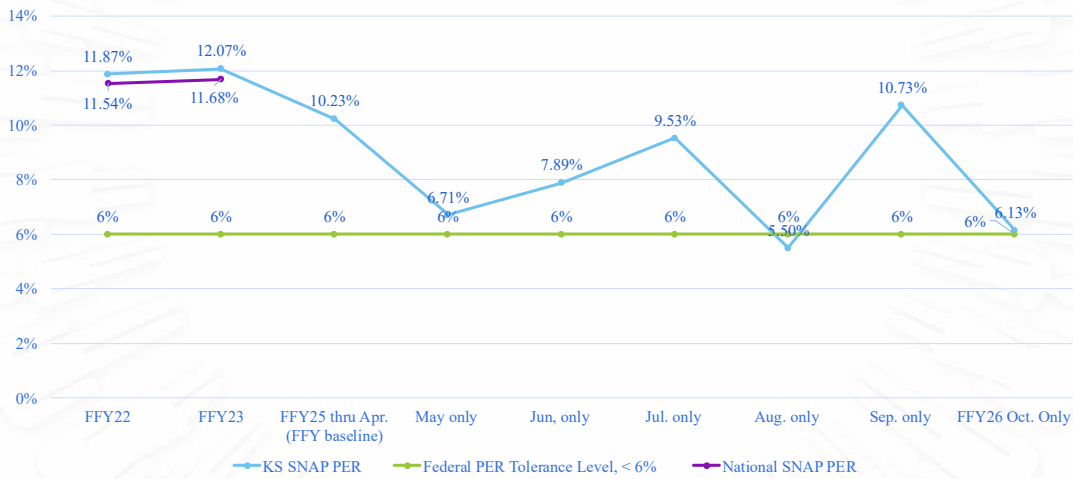
- **December 2025: cumulative 9% or less - completed**
- March 2026, less than 8%
- June 2026, 7.0% or less
- October 2026, less than 6%



# SNAP Monthly PER



Figure 2: FFY 26 **monthly** (only) case review results across (about) 92 cases read monthly. Data is 4 months behind. Zero (0) means no data yet.



The Kansas PER for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 shows an error rate at 9.25% which equates to \$41M in cost share of the previously federally paid benefits based on current projected spending. **Currently, the FFY 26 cumulative performance is 6.13% bringing us down a level to an expected cost of \$20.6M in cost share.** It is important to note that the PER is updated each month to reflect cumulative performance for the entire fiscal year and may fluctuate from month to month. The calculation of the Payment Error Rate is based on a federally mandated quality control case read process that reviews an average of 92 cases per month. Review results become available about 4 months after the performance month.

**With the above performance benchmarks and current progress being made, the agency hopes to have a 0% cost share for FFY26, which is the federal fiscal year we are currently in. In the event that we remained in the lowest cost share category (6% - 7.99), we anticipate a cost shift of \$20.6M for federal benefits.**

The agency is already implementing the below steps to reduce the PER:

- **October 2025**, information verification beyond self-attestation: DCF implemented requirement for shelter expense verification (copies of leases, etc.)
- **January 2026**, DCF implemented statewide DCF eligibility determination workforce performance expectations for accuracy in eligibility determination for food assistance. Performance Management Plan (PMP) accuracy expectations were updated as follows:
  - o 100% Exceptional
  - o 98% -99.9% - Exceeds Expectations
  - o 97.5%-97.9% - Meets Expectations
  - o 94% -97.4% - Needs Improvement
  - o below 94% – Unsatisfactory

- **DCF joined the SNAP National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) on 2/17** in order to verify in real time if a client is receiving SNAP in multiple states at any given time. Per USDA, "the NAC's primary goal is to enhance program integrity, reduce improper payments, increase customer experience and ensure fair and accurate distribution of SNAP benefits to eligible recipients across state lines".
- **In March 2026,**
  - o Information verification beyond self-attestation for utility expenses launches.
  - o A comprehensive interview tool for DCF eligibility specialists launches, supporting consistent accountability across verification of eligibility determination questions and conversations.
- **In April 2026, a single statewide training curriculum source and plan will be used statewide,** increasing consistency in transfer of learning of policies and eligibility rules – eliminating the different independent regional training curriculums.
- **In June 2026, DCF will implement Eligibility Determination and Benefit Calculation (EDBC) Logic for High Error Cases in KEES.** Based on data characteristics that are similar across cases with errors, KEES will flag cases at a high risk for errors prior to the eligibility workers authorizing benefits. Flagged cases will require further review before benefits can be issued.
  - o *This was funded through the Kansas Health Foundation / Hungry Free Kansas grant to the agency.*
- **In December 2026, DCF eligibility specialists will begin assigning 6 and 12-month certification periods to most SNAP households.** This timeframe of recertification of some snap households is within a shorter timeframe than in the past. This change requires programming changes to launch in July. The impact of recertification at more frequent intervals than in the past means that reporting requirement changes (accountability) will be reviewed more frequently for any increase or decrease in benefit amounts.