



State of Kansas Office of Recovery NEWSletter

February 8, 2021

As we continue to fight this pandemic and recover from its impacts, the Office of Recovery is here to keep you informed of resources, funding and key program developments.

At the end of 2020, the federal government extended the deadlines for spending the CARES funding and authorized additional COVID relief spending. Some of the support has already been received (a second round of \$600 stimulus checks, for example) but much of the funding is still on its way.

Although the Office of Recovery does not have a role in allocating this funding, we are ensuring coordination and communication among all state programs. We will keep you informed of progress and other news through this newsletter. For more frequent updates, please visit our website at [covid.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov).



Services and Support

Not exhaustive

Health

- **Vaccine roll out continues** across the state. For all the latest information on doses administered, availability, safety and more, please visit [here](#)
- To find your **nearest vaccination location, where to get tested** for COVID, what to do **if you think you're sick** and more, please visit the [Find My Vaccine Tool](#)

Business

- Small businesses can apply for **forgivable loans** through the **Paycheck Protection Program** until March 31st. Read more in the **Program Spotlight** section below for details of the program and how to apply

Essential needs

- Kansans on **SNAP** should have already seen an automatic **15% increase** in benefits

- Coming soon! **Rental and utility** assistance, including arrears coverage and future payments

For the latest on how **2020 COVID Relief Funds** were spent, please visit the Office of Recovery's [dashboard](#) for the previous month's updates.



Funding Status

Not exhaustive

2021 COVID Relief Funding: Received

- **Healthcare:** Kansas received funding for testing, monitoring and tracking efforts as well as vaccine distribution
- **Education:** Funding for K-12 public schools for 2021 COVID relief (to be spent by September 2023) has been obligated to Kansas
- **Emergency rental and utilities assistance:** Kansas has received approximately **\$200 million to support renters** with previous and future payment challenges; program expected to launch March 1

2021 COVID Relief Funding: Updates Expected Soon

In the next month, we expect to hear updates from the federal government on:

- **Transportation:** Airport support / grants
- **Education / childcare:** Support for extended childcare and providers, support for private schools
- **Agriculture:** Funding for specialty crops and stress relief



Program Spotlight: Paycheck Protection Program

The federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has reopened applications for forgivable loans to small businesses, with \$234 billion available to **both first and second time borrowers**. The program rewards business owners who prioritize protecting their employees and is critical to keeping businesses afloat and Kansans employed.

Last year, 54 thousand Kansas small businesses received \$5 billion in funding, which can be forgiven if most of it went to payroll and employment was not reduced significantly. The funds went mostly to small businesses, as the average business received a loan of less than \$100,000 and had 10 employees.

This year, the Small Business Association is **accepting applications through financial institutions around the state until March 31, 2021**. (Find the one closest to you [here](#))

- If your business already received PPP funds, you are eligible for up to \$2 million more in funding if you have 300 or fewer employees
- If your business has not yet received PPP funds, you are eligible for up to \$10

- million if you have 500 or fewer employees
- Hospitality businesses (including hotels and restaurants) can now receive an increased loan total (3.5x average monthly payroll vs 2.5x previously and for other industries)
- 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives and direct marketing organizations are now eligible for these loans
- Eligible non-payroll expenses (up to 40% for loan forgiveness) now include worker protection, operational expenses (accounting, software, etc.) and supplier costs

Additional information on the loans can be found [here](#), and you can contact the [Kansas Department of Commerce](#) with any additional questions.



Agency Spotlight: Kansas Department of Transportation

On February 4, Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary Julie Lorenz announced the **investment of \$84 million in highway funds** from the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act.

Governor Kelly and Secretary Lorenz used three goals to guide distribution of funds:

1. Invest maximum amount of money into our economy in the least amount of time
2. Invest money in every county, leaving no part of Kansas behind
3. Target additional economic opportunities in communities hardest hit by the pandemic

All Kansas counties and more than 600 cities will receive money through the Special City County Highway Fund. About \$12.5 million will be distributed to local governments to make their budgets whole again, as many are facing revenue shortfalls due to the decline in motor fuel tax revenues (of which one third goes to local governments).

The City of Newton is a prime example of the positive impact coronavirus relief funds have on a community. In July 2020, Newton was awarded \$2 million as part of a Cost Share Program to extend streets. Newton is slated to receive an about \$41,000 from the new funds and Harvey County will receive about \$77,000.

Additionally, a minimum of \$25 million more will be advanced in state highway preservation lettings by December and invest \$10 to \$15 million for local partnership programs.



Office of Recovery Contact

Moving into 2021, the Office of Recovery is shifting its direction and transitioning to new leadership. To the leadership and staff who have run the office, we are grateful for your hard work and dedication to push out resources, distribute funding and develop programs. As the office transitions, a special **Thank You to KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz, Lyle Butler, SPARK and the entire Office of Recovery team.**

The Office of Recovery is still here to offer support and coordination, and staff are available to answer your questions by phone and email.

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Recovery@ks.gov

As the focus of the Recovery Office shifts towards accounting and reporting on Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars, as well as coordinating the second relief bill, these functions will be under the purview of the Governor's Office through the Secretary of Administration DeAngela Burns-Wallace.

Warm Regards,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.

On behalf of the Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly
Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

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