



State of Kansas Office of Recovery

NEWSletter

March 5, 2021

The Federal government is expected to pass the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) early next week. This will provide significant funding for state and local governments to continue their support for pandemic relief and economic rebuilding. As it becomes clear on what funding and programs Kansas will have, we will use this newsletter to communicate updates.

Maximizing impact from programs funded under the CARES Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 133) continues to be the priority for the Office of Recovery. For more frequent news, please visit our website at covid.ks.gov.



Services and Support

Not exhaustive

Health

- To find your **nearest vaccination location**, please visit the [Find My Vaccine Tool](#). For the latest information on doses administered, safety, and more, please visit www.kansasvaccine.gov.
- **To find out where to get tested** for COVID, visit [Go Get Tested](#).
- **Uninsured or underinsured?** You can apply for insurance through the [Healthcare.gov](#) marketplace or if you qualify for Medicaid, visit the [KanCare](#) website.
- **3 NEW mobile COVID-19 testing units** are now available and **free for anyone** (insurance not required). Please see this [news release](#) for more information on locations and opening hours.

Business

- Small businesses can apply for **forgivable loans** through the **Paycheck Protection Program** until March 31. Until Wednesday, March 10, the program will focus on applications for businesses with under 20 employees. Please see the [Governor's news release](#) for more information.

Education

- **Remote learning grants** have been [reopened](#) through **spring 2021**. For questions, please email: rlg-support@ku.edu.

Essential Needs

- Kansans on **SNAP** will continue to see a **15% increase** in benefits until the end of September.
- 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.



Updates expected soon on further 2021 funding received under the Consolidated Appropriations Act in the next month:

- **Health Care:** Grants for mental health and substance abuse and prevention treatment
- **Education / Childcare:** Support for private schools, support to higher education institutions
- **Agriculture:** Funding for specialty crops and stress relief

Funding received and expected from the American Rescue Plan will be shared in subsequent newsletters.



Program Spotlight: Rental & Utilities Assistance

The **Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA)** provides support for rent, utilities and internet. The program will launch on March 15.

Kansas received over \$180M in funding to provide assistance to renters who are struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This program will provide up to **12 months of support for:**

- **Current or past-due rent**
- **Past-due utility bills**
- **Internet, when needed for distance learning, remote working, or to access federal, state or local services**

Applicants can apply for all, some, or just one of the available services, and payments will be made directly to the landlord or provider.

Both tenants and landlords will need to fill out an application. To be eligible for this program, applicants must be:

- **Renting**
- **Facing COVID-19 hardship**
- **At risk of housing instability or homelessness**
- **Earning 80% or less of the average median income**

Tenants who received federal subsidies that adjust rent based on income are still able to apply if they are struggling to afford their portion of rent.

This program will be administered by Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, the same organization that served nearly 8,000 households (over 20,000 Kansas) through the Kansas Eviction Prevention Program that ended in December 2020.

For more information and to sign up for the mailing list for a notification of program launch, please visit the KERA website [here](#).

Renters in the city limits of Wichita must apply to their specific program, the Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Applications are now open and can be found [here](#).



Community Spotlight: Supporting Essential Workers

Using the Kansas Coronavirus Relief Funds, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Department of Family and Children, and Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services worked together to **ensure essential workers who contracted COVID-19 were financially supported.**

In the video below, Kayzy Bigler, the Unit Director for Children and Families at KDHE, and Scott Allegrucci, from the Governor's Office, talk about some of the heroes who used this

fund.



Community Impact: Meat Processor Expansion

The Securing Local Food Systems grant, administered through the Kansas Department of Agriculture and funded through the SPARK Taskforce with CARES Act funding, served 257 grantees across 80 counties. Nearly **20% of those grantees were slaughter and processing facilities, receiving over \$4.5 million in funding**. Many of these grantees were able to upgrade their facilities to commercial levels, increase their processing capacity and accelerate business growth projects at a time when much of the economy was forced to slow down.

Slaughter and Processing Facility Grantees



Cedar Vale Locker, Chautauqua County

Cedar Vale Locker has been able to add a second shift, double their staff and increase the number of animals processed by about 80%.

“The CARES Act funding has literally been a game changer for not only Cedar Vale Locker as a business, but the entire livestock community within 200 plus miles of us,” said Aaron Moreland, owner. “I can’t imagine how we would have ever reached these new heights had we not received the generous grant. We are so grateful!”



Hundreds of families will continue to benefit from this for years to come. To learn more about Cedar Vale Locker, visit their website [here](#).

Alta Vista Meat Co., Wabaunsee County



At the beginning of the pandemic, Alta Vista Meat Co., felt helpless with hundreds of farmers and ranchers calling in desperately trying to schedule animals for processing.

“It was heartbreaking and frustrating and an extremely stressful time,” said Amie Brunkow, co-owner (along with Sue Streeter). “When this grant opportunity

came around, it was the answer to a prayer.”

The CARES Act grant enabled them to increase intake of beef by 54% and hogs by 81% and hire several more full-time employees.

To learn more about Alta Vista Meat Co., visit their website [here](#) or check them out on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

K&S Meat Processing, Stanton County

Owned by Douglas Folger, K&S Meat Processing in Johnson used the CARES ACT grant funds to increase capacity, now processing twice as many head of custom beef per week. The increase in efficiency has allowed Doug to hire two part-time employees and he is looking for a third.

“This grant has been a godsend,” said Doug.

To learn more about K&S Meat Processing, please call them at 620-492-6277.



Office of Recovery Contact

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

(785) 368-8507

Recovery@ks.gov

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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