



# State of Kansas Office of Recovery

# NEWSletter



April 2, 2021

As we continue to respond to this pandemic and its impacts, the Office of Recovery is here to keep you informed of resources, funding and key program developments. We are receiving more information every day, and have even seen some funding come through from the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We will continue to communicate updates relevant to Kansas through this newsletter.

The Office of Recovery will also continue to maximize impact from funding under the CARES Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 133). For more frequent news, please visit our website at [covid.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov)



## Services and Support

*Not exhaustive*

### Health

- Kansas moved into Phase 5 of the COVID-19 vaccine plan on March 29. All Kansans aged 16 years and above are eligible for vaccination. 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](https://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.
- Coming soon! You may qualify as a healthcare provider for provider reimbursements and telehealth program funding. More information can be found [here](#).

### Education and Childcare

- Applications for assistance for non-public K-12 schools and funding for K-12 districts now open. Please visit [KSDE's website](#) for more information.
- Coming soon! Increased support for families and child-care providers.

### Essential Needs

- Kansans on SNAP will continue to see 15% increase in benefits until the end of September.
- [Applications now open](#) for the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program providing emergency rental, utility, and internet assistance.

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



**Updates expected soon on further funding** in the next month:

- **Agriculture:** Funding for specialty crops and stress relief
- **Venues:** Shuttered Venue Operator Grant applications open April 8

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



### Program Spotlight: Provider Relief and FCC Telehealth

With the onset of the pandemic, the medical field has experienced both hardships and opportunities for innovation. HHS shows that 43.5% of Medicare fee-for-service primary care visits were telehealth in May, compared with <1% in February 2020. In fact, 48% of Kansans have utilized telehealth in the last year.

As a result, the federal government has renewed funding for two programs focused on supporting medical providers to meet the needs of their patients during the pandemic. Qualifying providers will soon have the opportunity to apply for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Provider Relief Fund.

The FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program is designed to help providers cover costs associated with delivering connected care services to patients. The goal of the program is to help health care providers give connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program funds providers' telecommunications services, information services and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services. Providers can learn more and check if they are eligible [here](#).

The HHS Provider Relief Fund (PRF) is designed to support medical providers with the financial strains of the pandemic. Qualified providers of health care, services, and support may receive PRF payments for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue due to COVID-19. These distributions do not need to be repaid to the U.S. government, assuming providers report on use of funds for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue. Disbursed funds do not need to be applied to treating COVID, and can be applied for by medical providers that do not treat COVID. Providers can learn more and check if they are eligible [here](#).

"Telehealth is a powerful tool in chronic disease prevention and management," said Ryan Lester of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). "Telehealth interventions can improve clinical health outcomes by increasing medication adherence, set dietary goals, provide a more complete data picture for clinicians and reduce access to care barriers for patients, especially in a rural setting. Increasing access to telehealth is a real win-win scenario for Kansas residents and physicians."

The Kansas Recovery Office held an informational webinar for medical providers with KDHE and KDADS on both programs – you can watch a recording of the event [here](#).



### Program Spotlight: Shuttered Venue Operators Grants

Concerts at the Cotillion in Wichita were a central part of so many Kansans' lives. Local movie theaters and venues can be the cornerstones of communities across Kansas. With the onset of the pandemic, many of these businesses were forced to shut their doors.

In order to help revitalize these Kansas businesses, the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the opening of the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants

(SVOG) program. SVOG includes more than \$16 billion in grants to shuttered venues, to be administered by the SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance.

Eligible applicants may qualify for the federal grant equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue for 2019, with the maximum amount available for a single grant award of \$10 million. For eligible applications with up to 50 full-time employees, \$2 billion is reserved. The program was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act, signed into law on December 27, 2020.

Eligible entities must have been in operation by February 29, 2020 and include:

- Live venue operators or promoters
- Theatrical producers
- Live performing arts organization operators
- Relevant museum operators, zoos and aquariums
- Motion picture theater operators
- Venue must have fixed seating
- Talent representatives
- Owners of eligible business entities

All eligible Kansas venues are encouraged to take part in the SVOG program. You can learn more about the program and apply [here](#).



## Community Impact: Remote Learning Grant Program

Given the sudden shift to remote learning at the onset of the pandemic, many Kansas families struggled with finding support for their child's educational needs. As summer 2020 turned to fall and "back-to-school" looked very different across the state than in years past, many families sought help to navigate the challenges of remote and hybrid learning. These families needed alternative education supports that simply didn't exist prior to the pandemic. To address this issue, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund offered organizations Remote Learning grants from March 2020 CARES Act funds. These grants allowed organizations like the Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA to ensure that school-age children are in safe, secure settings and that they receive quality supervision and learning supports when schools are in hybrid or remote learning modes.

Through this funding, the Boys & Girls Club serves students who were having difficulty with their school work. They are able to offer tailored support for individual families to address COVID-related stresses and keep their students from falling behind.

"Generous funding provided by the Cares Act Remote Learning Grant helps Boys & Girls Clubs in Kansas strengthen children and teens' academic development and enhance their social-emotional well-being," said a representative from the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. "By positioning Clubs to provide critically important virtual learning opportunities to supplement the school day, some of our state's most economically distressed families can continue working throughout the pandemic."

The YMCA, similarly, has helped remove cost barriers for families of more than 1,400 students across Kansas. Using Remote Learning grants, these and other community organizations have been able to continuously operate safe spaces for student learning, adhering to social distancing protocols. These spaces have been critically important for students whose parents have maintained in-person jobs throughout the pandemic.

"The Remote Learning grants are an example of state agencies and community-based organizations quickly coming together to figure out how to keep our children safe and learning, while also considering the realities of parents, schools and employers," said Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. "It's a win-win situation when parents know that their children are in a supervised environment, learning is supported and employers have sufficient staff to keep the economy moving."

For more information, please visit the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's website [here](#).



## 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](mailto: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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