



State of Kansas Office of Recovery

NEWSletter

April 16, 2021

New guidelines are being released every week around available funding and its uses from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Office of Recovery is here to keep you informed of relevant resources, funding and key program developments not just across ARPA, but also 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

- All Kansans aged 16 years and above are eligible for vaccination. To find your **nearest vaccination location**, please visit the [Find My Vaccine Tool](#). The latest information on vaccine administration, safety and more, can be found [here](#).
- **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](https://www.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** are now being accepted. Please visit the [Kansas State Department of Education \(KSDE\) website](#) for more information.
- Coming soon! Increased support for families and child-care providers.

Essential Needs

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

Others

- Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program now open. More information can be found [here](#).

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



For decades, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided funding for rural communities to promote the use of the internet to stay connected, to promote education and to receive virtual healthcare through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program. With the onset of the pandemic, this program has become increasingly important.

The USDA has allocated \$42.4 million in funding for 2021 DLT grants. The program aims to help rural communities overcome the effects of remoteness and low population density. The program supports eligible rural communities with the costs associated with capital assets, instructional programming and technical assistance.

Program funds can be used on:

1. Broadband facilities
2. Audio, video and interactive video equipment
3. Terminal and data terminal equipment
4. Computer hardware, network components and software
5. Inside wiring and similar infrastructure
6. Instructional programming that is a capital asset
7. Technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

DLT grants are available to rural areas with population of 20,000 or less. Eligible applicants include most entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications, including most state and local governmental entities, federally recognized tribes, non-profits, for-profit businesses and consortia of eligible entities. Potential applicants can learn more, check if they are eligible and apply [here](#). Applications will be open through June 4, 2021.

The Office of Recovery co-hosted a webinar on the USDA DLT program with the Office of Broadband Development, Office of Rural Prosperity and the Department of Agriculture. A recording of the webinar is available [here](#).



Community Impact: Just Food



Cars line up for Just Food curbside service.

The need for food assistance programs was clear from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Douglas County allocated federal CARES Act funding to communities for emergency food support in March of 2020.

Just Food, a food, basic needs and diaper bank of Douglas County, was one of the recipients of the CARES Act, and used the federal aid to expand its space and increase its impact on the community.

In the first weeks of the pandemic, JustFood's clients increased by 44 percent. During this time, Just Food shifted to a curbside service, distributing more than 14,000 food pantry boxes from March to July 2020.

Just Food received approximately \$500,000 (\$300,000 for renovations and \$200,000 for food purchasing) from Douglas County as a part of CARES Act funds the State of Kansas allocated to counties. Used in conjunction with other funding sources, Just Food expanded its pantry space by 65 percent. With the added capacity as well as improved aesthetics and functionality, Just Food was able to better serve 270 households and roughly 800 people on its first day after completing renovations.

The goal of this renovation was to create more accessibility with an ADA entrance, host more education classes in Claire's teaching kitchen, provide private one-on-one health sessions and to create an open and inviting space where clients can shop safely and with dignity.



Before CARES Act-supported renovation



After expansion of space by 65%



Office of Recovery Contact

The Office of Recovery is still 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

Join Our Mailing
List

Kansas Office of Recovery | covid.ks.gov