



Office of Recovery

July 9 Newsletter

Kansas Office of Recovery sent this bulletin at 07/09/2021 02:42 PM CDT

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July 9, 2021



The executive committee meeting of the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce will take place Thursday, July 15 at 1 p.m. CT. The taskforce, originally established in May 2020 to oversee the distribution of funds from the federal CARES Act, is charged with leading Kansas forward in continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through allocation of federal funds coming to Kansas through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A recording of past meetings and materials can be found [here](#).

New guidelines regarding available funding from the ARPA are released each week. The Office of Recovery will keep you informed of relevant resources, funding and key program developments, not just across ARPA, but also under the CARES Act

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 the Office of Recovery website at: [COVID.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov)

Program Spotlight

Child Care Resources for Kansans and Providers



Last week, Governor Laura Kelly announced two child care resources for Kansans and providers: the Hero Relief Child Care Assistance Program and the Child Care Sustainability Grant program. Funding for these programs comes from federal relief dollars included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP).

Hero Relief Child Care Assistance Program

In an effort to improve access to quality, affordable child care, more Kansas families are now be eligible to apply of the Hero Relief Child Care Assistance Program.

First implemented at the beginning of the pandemic to assist essential workers with the costs of child care, this new round of assistance allows all Kansas workers the opportunity to take advantage of expanded financial eligibility guidelines.

Under the new guidelines, any Kansas worker who makes 250% or less of the federal poverty level (a monthly income of up to \$5,458 for a family of four or \$4,525 for a family of three) is now eligible for child care assistance. The expansion also includes waiving the family share deduction for essential workers and reducing the deduction for all others. Families also will see an expanded eligibility period from 6 to 12 months.

This program is available to families who need child care for employment as long as the adults in the household are employed an average of 20 hours per week. Some education or training activities also may be supported under the traditional Child Care Assistance Program.

For more information and for instructions on how to apply, visit www.KSHeroRelief.com.

Child Care Sustainability Grant program

The Department of Children and Families, in partnership with Child Care Aware of Kansas, is launching the Child Care Sustainability Grant program to aid child care providers in meeting the costs of operating their business. Nearly \$50 million will be distributed through the program, with grant awards ranging from \$5,000 for family child care programs to \$60,000 for large centers.

This support comes at a critical time for Kansas providers. Many have struggled to stay afloat amid increased costs to provide child care in line with CDC COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and, in many cases, experienced a decrease in revenue due to illness. This funding is intended to give them the assistance needed to continue providing the best quality care for children in their programs.

The Child Care Sustainability grant application became available via the Child Care Aware of Kansas website on July 1, and must be received by July 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. All child care facilities that are licensed by and in good standing with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are eligible to apply. Funds may be used for any normal operational expenses, additional expenses the child care program has due to meeting CDC guidance for mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.

For more information about the Child Care Sustainability Grants, visit <https://ks.childcareaware.org>.



Services and Support

American Rescue Plan Act

- The application form for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Relief

Funds (LFRF) for Non Entitlement Units (cities under 50,000), awarded by the U.S. Department of Treasury and disbursed from the State of Kansas, is now available. A link to the application was emailed directly to contacts for the Non Entitlement Units of local government (NEUs). If you did not receive a message, please submit an updated email through the Office of Recovery [inquiry form](#).

- Funds will be distributed in two payments - half now and half in twelve months - to those who have completed the application and certification process, with initial payment processing having begun on **July 1, 2021**.
- For the State to fulfill the Treasury's deadline for distributing NEU awards, all applications must be completed by **July 26, 2021**.
- The latest version of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on ARPA can be found [here](#). FAQs will be updated frequently, with edits highlighted in the Office of Recovery newsletter.
- Local Governments and State Agencies can find a checklist to use before spending ARPA funds [here](#). This content was developed by the Office of Recovery in partnership with CliftonLarsonAllen.

Health

- All Kansans aged 12 years and above are eligible to be vaccinated. 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](#) marketplace or learn more about KanCare eligibility and apply at <https://kancare.ks.gov/>.
- Applications for the Kansas Prevention Collaborative Community Initiative grant are now being accepted. Learn more [here](#).

Essential Needs

- Kansans participating in **SNAP** will continue to receive a **15% increase** in benefits through September 30, 2021.
- [Applications are now open](#) for the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program providing **emergency rental, utility, and internet assistance**
- Child Care Sustainability grant applications open through July 30, 2021. Learn

more and apply here.

Others

- FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is open. More information and application [here](#).
- FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund opened on June 29. More information about the program is available [here](#).

For the latest on how **2020 COVID Relief Funds** are spent, please visit [the Investment Dashboard](#) for the previous month's updates.



Funding Status

Behavioral Health

- KDADS received notice of award for the [Mental Health Block Grant \(ARPA\)](#) and [Substance Abuse Block Grant \(ARPA\)](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is distributing \$3 billion across the country in American Rescue Plan funding — the largest aggregate amount of funding to date for its mental health and substance use block grant programs

Agriculture

- Funding for [specialty crops](#) has been announced (HR 133). The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Contact the RO

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

[Question/Request Form](#)

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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