



Kansas Guardianship Program Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021



KGP WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce the launch of the updated KGP website in October 2021. It has been a long time in the making and brings us to a relevant presence in the electronic world. Please visit the website and let us know what you think—

<https://ksgprog.org/>

All of us here at KGP want to extend a very special thanks to Chris Radeke, the KGP business manager, who spent many hours working to get the website in place.
THANK YOU CHRIS!

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IMPORTANT NOTE: If you change the banking institution for direct deposit of the stipend, it is vital to notify the KGP business manager at cradeke@ksgprog.org or call at 785-587-8555#11 or 1-800-672-0086#11

KGP Volunteers Change Lives

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) make referrals to the KGP for those persons who are the most vulnerable amongst Kansans. They have no family or funds and lack the ability to make decisions or advocate for themselves. The question becomes, who will serve in the role of decision maker for these individuals?

Volunteers throughout the State of Kansas step forward and say, here I am, I can stand with and for that individual. And stand with and for those persons they do, every day, making a difference in big and small ways.

THANK YOU!



SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

SSA Announces Increase in Benefits

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9 percent in 2022.

The 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2021.

Does COVID-19 financial assistance affect my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility or payment? - August 4, 2021 SSA announcement

We determined that, under our rules, COVID-related financial assistance would not affect eligibility for SSI or the monthly SSI payment amount. Specifically, **we do not count** the financial assistance listed below against your eligibility or payment amount. We are reviewing SSI claims and other SSI records going back to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to restore SSI payments for people whose SSI was affected by receiving any of the assistance listed below:

(EIP) Economic Impact Payments

- State Stimulus Payments (*Some exclusions may apply.*)
- Unemployment Assistance (also includes regular unemployment)
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Loan Forgiveness to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program: Loans/Grants to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals /Grants
- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Direct Payments to Farmers and Ranchers
- COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program
- COVID-19 Funeral Assistance
- Emergency Rental Assistance Fund
- Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing/Rural Rental Assistance
- Homeowner Assistance Fund
- Housing Assistance and Supportive Services Programs for Native Americans
- Tribal Payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Supporting Foster Youth and Families
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- Emergency Assistance to Children and Families through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund
- Farm Loan Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers
USDA Assistance and Support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Land Owners and Operators, and Groups

What is OneCare Kansas?

The term “OneCare Kansas” refers to a new Medicaid option to provide coordination of physical and behavioral health care with long term services and supports for people with chronic conditions. OneCare Kansas expands upon medical home models to include links to community and social supports. OneCare Kansas focuses on the whole person and all his or her needs to manage his or her conditions and be as healthy as possible. All the caregivers involved in a OneCare Kansas member’s health communicate with one another so that all of a patient’s needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

OneCare Kansas is intended for people with certain chronic conditions, like diabetes, asthma, or mental illness. These people must be KanCare members. They can be members who also receive Medicare along with Medicaid.

Eligibility for OneCare Kansas

There are rules that apply to OneCare Kansas and who will be eligible.

To be eligible for OneCare Kansas, a member must have at least:

One serious and persistent mental illness, defined as having at least one of the following diagnoses:

- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depressive Disorder

Or one chronic condition defined as people who have

- Asthma that also are at risk for developing:
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Kidney Disease (not including Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 4 and ESRD)
- Cardiovascular Disease
- COPD
- Metabolic Syndrome
- Mental Illness (not including Paranoid Schizophrenia and Severe Bipolar Disorder)
- Substance Use Disorder
- Morbid Obesity (body weight 100lbs over normal body weight, BMI greater than 40, or BMI over 30 with obesity-related health problems)
- Tobacco Use or exposure to second hand smoke

OneCare Kansas Service (continued)

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OneCare Kansas provides the following services:

- Comprehensive care management
- Care coordination
- Comprehensive transitional care, including appropriate follow-up, from inpatient to other settings
- Patient and family support (including authorized representative)
- Referral to community and social support services, if relevant
- Health Promotion

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GUARDIANS

KanCare Clearinghouse

PO Box 3599

Topeka, Ks 66601

1-800-792-4884

1-844-264 6285 FAX

KanCare—Customer Service

Managed Care Enrollment Center 1 866 305 5147

Aetna 1 855 221 5656

Sunflower 1 877 644 4623

United 1 877 542 9238

**KANSAS
GUARDIANSHIP
PROGRAM**

3248 Kimball Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66503

Phone: 785-587-8555
Fax: 785-587-9626
1-800-672-0086

Service doesn't
have to be big
and grandiose to
be meaningful
and make a
difference.

Cheryl A. Esplin

Kansas DCF Announces Permanent Increase to Food Assistance Benefits - DCF News 9/23/21

Kansas Department for Children and Families Secretary Laura Howard today announced that Kansas residents who receive food assistance will see a permanent increase in their benefit beginning Oct. 1.

"Access to healthy food is a key component of a family's well-being," Howard said. "This permanent increase helps us address food insecurity, especially among children, which has a positive impact on the overall health of our community."

The change is taking place due to the 2018 Farm Bill that directed USDA to re-evaluate the Thrifty Food Plan, which is used to calculate benefits for food assistance. Through this year's adjustment, the maximum allowable allotment increased to \$250 for a household of one. The maximum allotment amounts for households the size of two or more also have increased.

Other annual adjustments also have been made:

- The gross and net income limits have increased this year
- The maximum excess shelter deduction is increasing from \$569 to \$597
- The standard utility allowance is increasing from \$364 to \$392
- The limited utility allowance is increasing from \$247 to \$286
- The maximum creasing from \$247 to \$286
- The telephone standard is increasing from \$35 to \$37
- The Standard Medical Deduction remains the same \$175

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Most households will see changes in their benefits for the month of October to reflect the annual adjustments.

Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) temporarily increased food assistance benefits by 15% from March 2021 through September 2021 due to the national public health emergency.

The temporary 15 percent increase ends Sept. 30 and will be replaced with the new amounts. Taken together, food assistance recipients will see a 10 percent increase from pre-March 2021 benefit levels.

The chart shows the Oct. 1 maximum benefits as well as gross income and net income limits for food assistance:

| Household size | October 1, 2021 maximum benefits | October 1, 2021 maximum gross income | October 1, 2021 maximum net income |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$250 | \$1396 | \$1074 |
| 2 | \$459 | \$1888 | \$1452 |
| 3 | \$658 | \$2379 | \$1830 |
| 4 | \$835 | \$2871 | \$2209 |
| 5 | \$992 | \$3363 | \$2587 |
| 6 | \$1190 | \$3855 | \$2965 |
| 7 | \$1316 | \$4347 | \$3344 |
| 8 | \$1504 | \$4839 | \$3722 |
| Each additional person | + \$188 | + \$492 | + \$379 |

The minimum allotment is \$20. All food assistance benefits are based on household size, household income and allowable deductions.

