The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation’s most important and effective anti-hunger program. Congress made many temporary improvements to SNAP during the COVID-19 pandemic to take advantage of the program’s ability to deliver benefits quickly in response to job and income losses, including by authorizing emergency allotments and certain eligibility and administrative changes. These changes have either already ended or will expire when the public health emergency ends. As of April 2022, about 40 states still issue emergency allotments, including Kansas.

**Whom Does SNAP Reach?**

In fiscal year 2021, it helped:

- **200,300** Kansas residents, or **7%** of the state population (**1 in 15**)
- **41,500,000** participants in the United States, or **13%** of the total population (**1 in 8**)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KANSAS</th>
<th>NATIONALLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>almost <strong>72%</strong> of SNAP participants are in families with children</td>
<td>almost <strong>66%</strong> of SNAP participants are in families with children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>almost <strong>37%</strong> are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled</td>
<td>almost <strong>36%</strong> are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than <strong>46%</strong> are in working families</td>
<td>almost <strong>42%</strong> are in working families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2019

**Most SNAP Participants in Kansas Have Incomes Below the Poverty Line**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income at or below 50% of poverty line</th>
<th>Income between 51-100% of poverty line</th>
<th>Income above 100% of poverty line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2019

**Many Kansas households struggle to put food on the table. The most recent data show:**

- **11.3%** of households were “food insecure,” meaning that their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources.
- **9.1%** of the population lived below the poverty line.
- **12.1%** of children lived below the poverty line.
- **3.4%** of older adults lived below the poverty line.

**SNAP reaches populations in need:** **68%** of eligible individuals participated in SNAP in Kansas in 2018, and **62%** of eligible workers participated.

SNAP lifted **65,000** people above the poverty line in Kansas, including **33,000** children, per year between 2013 and 2017, on average. (These figures adjust for households’ underreporting of benefits.)
What Benefits Do SNAP Participants Receive?

SNAP targets benefits according to need. Households with very low incomes receive more SNAP benefits than households closer to the poverty line because they need more help affording adequate food. SNAP participants in Kansas received $265.32 million in benefits in 2019, $336.63 million in 2020, and $488.52 million in 2021, including temporary pandemic relief. A congressionally directed update to the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), upon which SNAP benefits are based, went into effect for fiscal year 2022. The table below shows actual benefits in 2019 and 2021 (including the temporary pandemic measures). We also estimated 2022 average benefits without the temporary measures to reflect the level of SNAP benefits after the measures expire, and including the TFP revision.

### Average Monthly SNAP Benefit By Demographic Group, FY 2019, Kansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2019 (pre-pandemic)</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2021 (includes pandemic increases)</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2022 (estimated, excluding emergency allotments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For each household member per month:</td>
<td>$119</td>
<td>$203</td>
<td>$153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each household member per day:</td>
<td>$3.92</td>
<td>$6.68</td>
<td>$5.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CBPP analysis of data from USDA Food and Nutrition Service, FY 2019

How Does SNAP Benefit the Economy?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that in a weak economy, $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.50 in economic activity. Households receive SNAP benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of about 254,400 authorized retail locations around the country, including some 2,100 in Kansas.

For more information on SNAP, including Kansas-specific information, please see:

- Kansas SNAP program: [http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Food/FoodAssistance.aspx](http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Food/FoodAssistance.aspx)

Notes:

- In addition to SNAP, in FY 2021, based on preliminary data, an average of about 500 individuals in Kansas received benefits through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), which is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma.

a Shares are for fiscal year 2019, the most recent year for which demographic data are available. The shares may be different during the COVID-19 pandemic.

b Ibid.

c Due to a data anomaly caused by the federal government shutdown in 2019, SNAP average benefits for fiscal year 2019 in most states are modestly higher than they otherwise would have been.