



Public Assistance Work Requirements and Employment & Training Programs

Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)
Division of Family Support
Public Assistance Reform Task Force: August 19, 2019

Department for Community Based Services: Eric T. Clark, Commissioner

Division of Service Regions

Division of Administration and Financial Mgmt.

Division of Child Care

Division of Family Support

Division of Program Performance Quality Control

Division of Protection and Permanency

Division of Family Support

Nutrition Assistance Branch

Program Integrity Branch

Policy Development Branch

Family Self Sufficiency Branch

Medical Support and Benefits Branch

Kentucky HEALTH

HEALTH: Helping to Engage and
Achieve Long-Term Health



Kentucky HEALTH

- Kentucky HEALTH is a new community engagement requirement for adults ages 19 to 64 who receive MAGI (modified adjusted gross income) Medicaid.
- Kentucky HEALTH does not impact aged, blind, or disabled individuals receiving Non-MAGI Medicaid.
- Due to a legal decision, Kentucky HEALTH did not begin on April 1, 2019.

Kentucky HEALTH

- Medicaid recipients subject to Kentucky HEALTH are required to complete 80 hours per month of community engagement.
- Failure to comply with the community engagement requirement results in a suspension from the managed care organization (MCO) enrollment.

Community Engagement Exemptions

- Pregnant women
- Children 18 years & younger
- Individuals over age 64
- Medically frail individuals
- Primary caregiver of a child age 18 years & younger, or primary caregiver of a disabled tax dependent
- Full-time students
- Refugees
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Individuals receiving Medicaid as a former foster care youth

Satisfactory Conditions for Community Engagement

- Individuals who receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Individuals who receive KTAP (Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program)
- Individuals enrolled in KI-HIPP (Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment)
- Individuals working an average of 120 hours per month at paid employment

Qualifying Community Engagement Activities

- Subsidized or unsubsidized employment
- Self-employment
- Community service
- Education (GED/College/Vocational training)
- Caregiving
- Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP helps people with little or no money to buy food items at participating stores.
- SNAP applicants age 16-59 must agree to complete Work Registration with the state employment agency.

ABAWD

- “Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents”
 - Between the ages of 18 and 49
 - Have no children under the age of 18 residing in the home
 - Have no disabilities
- Individuals who are unable to work due to physical or mental health reasons, pregnancy, caring for a child or an incapacitated family member, are not considered ABAWDs.

ABAWD

- ABAWDs must participate 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month in approved activities.
- If an ABAWD does not meet this requirement, then it is considered a noncompliant month.
- An ABAWD who accumulates 3 noncompliant months in a 36 month period will lose eligibility.
- ABAWDS who lose eligibility may regain eligibility by demonstrating compliance for 30 days.

SNAP E&T

SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) is a program that helps SNAP recipients receive education, training, work experience, and employment.



ABAWD and SNAP E&T

- Kentucky has a voluntary SNAP E&T Program, which is open to any SNAP recipient Work Registrant age 16 up to 60 years of age.
- ABAWDs can choose to meet their SNAP work requirements by participating in the SNAP E&T Program.

SNAP E&T

SNAP E&T has partnerships across the commonwealth, in which providers & partners provide services to individuals, which may include:

- Basic/Adult education
- Employment Readiness Training (ERT)
- Integrated Education and Training (IET)
- Job retention services
- Vocational training
- Work experience
- Workfare

SNAP STATS

- A total of 469,450 total individuals received SNAP benefits in KY in July 2019 (this statistic includes all household members).
- In July 2019, 71,038 were Work Registered individuals.
- Of these individuals, 56,346 were ABAWDs.

SNAP E&T Supportive Services

- Up to \$25/month for transportation
- SNAP E&T can assist with qualifying for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)



Childcare Assistance and SNAP E&T

- SNAP E&T recipients may qualify for a child care subsidy through the Child Care Assistance Program. Copayments are determined by the amount of countable income in the household.
- CCAP applicants must have a gross income at or below 160% of the federal poverty level to be eligible at application, and at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to be eligible at recertification. These income guidelines do not apply to CCAP cases approved by Protection & Permanency.

Work Registration

- Individuals who apply for SNAP and KTAP (Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program) can work register on the Kentucky Career Center website:

<https://focuscareer.ky.gov/careerexplorer/home>

- The Commonwealth of Kentucky's Career Development Office operates the Kentucky Career Center website

KTAP & Work Registration

All KTAP applicants, ages 18 through 59, must register for work with the state employment agency, unless exempt.



KTAP

The Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) is the monetary assistance program established using federal funds from the TANF block grant.



TANF

KTAP

- KTAP provides financial assistance to needy dependent children in Kentucky and the parents or relatives with whom the children reside.
- KTAP provides financial assistance with a lifetime limit of 60 months.

Kentucky Works Program (KWP)

The Kentucky Works Program (KWP) assists work eligible individuals who receive KTAP to obtain employment and educational training that leads to self-sufficiency.



Kentucky Works Program (KWP)

- Work eligible individuals are required to participate in KWP unless the individual meets exemption criteria.
- Example Scenario:
 - Single-parents who have a child under 6 years old must participate in KWP for 20 hours per week.
 - Single-parents whose children are 6 years and older must participate in KWP for 30 hours per week.

KWP Supportive Services

- Payments are provided to working eligible individuals for transportation and travel-related expenses such as gas, parking, tolls, and bus fares, which are determined necessary for an individual to participate or prepare to participate in Kentucky Works Program activities, including employment.
- KWP participants may also be eligible to receive child care assistance, which is 100% funded with TANF funds and is free to the KWP participant.

The Benefit Cliff

- “Benefits cliff” is a term to describe a barrier for low-income families trying to move up the economic ladder.



- It describes situations where going to work or getting a raise causes a family to backslide.

The Benefit Cliff

In benefits cliff scenarios, benefits decrease as earnings increase, and the loss of benefits may partially or completely offset the family's earnings. For some benefits, there is no phase out and the loss of benefits is abrupt.



Ways Kentucky is Addressing the Benefit Cliff

“Two Month Earned Income Exclusion”: Each adult in a KTAP case is allowed a one-time exclusion of wages as an incentive to become employed or to improve the employment situation.

- Improvements include a raise in pay, different job, moving from part-time to full time, etc.
- A 2-month exclusion of wages is applied to the wages of each adult member of an active KTAP case who begins new employment or increases wages.

Ways Kentucky is addressing the Benefit Cliff

Work Incentive (WIN) program:

- Employed adults of a KTAP case discontinued with earnings may be eligible for WIN reimbursement payments of \$130 per month for up to nine consecutive months.
- Receipt of WIN reimbursements is limited to one eligibility time frame and cannot be waived or postponed.

Resources

- Kentucky HEALTH homepage:
<https://kentuckyhealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>
- Official CHFS Press Release from 3-27-2019:
<https://kentuckyhealth.ky.gov/Documents/CHFS%20Statement%20on%20Kentucky%20HEALTH%20Ruling.pdf>
- ABAWD information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ABAWD>
- DCC-113, Facts about the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Documents/dcc11319.pdf>
- TANF work requirements:
<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/95566/work-requirements-in-social-safety-net-programs.pdf>
- Kentucky Career Center website:
<https://focuscareer.ky.gov/careerexplorer/home>

Questions?