

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES Department for Community Based Services Office of the Commissioner

Andy Beshear Governor 275 East Main Street, 3W-A Frankfort, KY 40621 Phone: 502-564-3703 Fax: 502-564-6907 www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs Eric C. Friedlander Secretary

Marta Miranda-Straub Commissioner

July 29, 2022

Mr. Mark Mitchell Block Grant Coordinator Legislative Research Commission Room 172, Capitol Annex Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed are the following half-year block grant status reports, submitted pursuant to KRS 45.357:

- Social Services;
- Community Services;
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF);
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); and
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed, please contact Laura Begin at Laura.Begin@ky.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Marta Miranda-Straub -8A72BE89C475443... Marta Miranda-Straub

Commissioner

Enclosures



Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the					
Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.					
Block Grant Manager:	Marta Miranda-Straub	7/29/2022			
	Marta Miranda-Straub Commissioner	Date			

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$119,235,600.00	\$18,577,874.44	\$133,100.00	\$137,946,574.44
Actual Expenditures	\$109,972,332.78	\$17,152,517.43	\$42,617.59	\$127,167,467.80
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available Balance	\$9,263,267.22	\$1,425,357.01	\$90,482.41	\$10,779,106.64

* Please Note that General Funds include \$10,709,144.52 in Master Settlement Agreement Tobacco Funds.

CARES FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CARES Annual Budget	\$2,393,262.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,393,262.55
CARES Actual Expenditures	\$2,393,262.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,393,262.55
CARES Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CARES Available Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

*Please note that the Annual Budget for CARES reflects the remaining balance of the award at the beginning of SFY 22 as it was received in FFY 20. The award has now been liquidated in its entirety.

CRRSA FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CRRSA Annual Budget	\$73,022,629.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73,022,629.20
CRRSA Actual Expenditures	\$52,822,080.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,822,080.50
CRRSA Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CRRSA Available Balance	\$20,200,548.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,200,548.70

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

ARPA FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
ARPA Annual Budget	\$299,584,108.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$299,584,108.25
ARPA Actual Expenditures	\$189,188,833.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$189,188,833.82
ARPA Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ARPA Available Balance	\$110,395,274.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110,395,274.43

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
 To provide child care services to children who reside with a low income parent(s) who works, seeks work, attends a job training or educational program or receives, or needs to receive, protective services, which may include preventive services. 	An average of 22,740 children per month received child care through CCDF during the second half of this State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022. Of this total, an average of 18, 869 children were served to allow low- income parents to work, 2,973 children were served through prevention or protection services, and 135 were teen parents. Some families received assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to address more than one service need.
 To provide access to quality child care that supports the parent participating in the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). 	An average of 784 children per month with parents participating in Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) and the Kentucky Works Program received child care assistance through funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

Department: <u>Community Based Services (DCBS)</u>

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

2 To model 1		During the second half of SEV 2022 any any installant ACC any any
3. To provide consumer education and promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions on the child care that best		During the second half of SFY 2022, approximately 9,466 consumer education materials were disseminated to help parents make informed choices when choosing child care.
suits their family's		Families seeking child care may choose either a licensed, certified, or registered provider utilizing one the available options below:
		 Parents may utilize the toll-free phone number "Find Kentucky Kid Care" to locate quality child care in Kentucky. The toll-free number links the parent to a centralized statewide referral call center that refers the parent to child care providers within their area. The DCBS Division of Child Care (DCC) administers the toll-free line. There were approximately 32 referral calls received during the second half of SFY 2022.
		 Parents may search for providers by address, provider name, or License/Certificate number by accessing the Division of Child Care (public search) website: <u>https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/find-care.aspx</u>
4. To increase the av childhood develop and after- school o	pment and/or before-	An average of 6,661 children are receiving before- and after-school child care services per month through CCDF.
services, includin	through statewide	Kentucky All STARS five (5) tiered quality rating and improvement system for all Licensed Type I and II child care facilities and certified family child care homes.
assistance, and qu under the Kentuck Program.	ality rating visits	As of June 30, 2022, the total number of participants in Kentucky All STARS Program are as follows:
i iogram.		1035 All STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 140 All STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 330 All STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 239 All STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes 185 All STARS Level 5 centers and family child care homes
		The All STARS Rating staff conducted 60 environmental rating scales of child care programs between January 1 and June 30, 2022.

Department: <u>Community Based Services (DCBS)</u>

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

6.	To expand the availability of new and existing resources targeted at quality improvement by contracting for the provision of these services.	DCBS contracts with the University of Kentucky-Human Development Institute to increase the quality and quantity of accessible, affordable, developmentally appropriate early and school age care. All STARS Quality Coordinators consult with and visit child care providers to give technical assistance and complete Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) for providers seeking an All STARS Level 3, 4, or 5 and to assist providers with a self-assessment for a STARS Level 2. A total of 4,285 technical assistance consultations/visits was completed. During technical assistance visits, child care providers work on improvement plans to increase the quality of their services.	
		Professional Development Coaches work with child care staff to develop enhanced professional development plans and connect providers to available educational and professional resources.	
7.	To ensure regional professional development opportunities through training and technical assistance using a statewide coordination of services.	The Child Care Aware of Kentucky network consists of seven training coaches who ensure access to regional professional development opportunities by identifying training needs and trainer recruitment.	
		The Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Credential is required of all instructors who provide child care training to caregivers in the process of pursuing professional development goals or completing the annual training requirement established by state regulation. As June 30, 2022, there were 740 individuals holding a current Kentucky Trainer's Credential.	
		The Early Care and Education Training Records Information System (ECE-TRIS) stores the training records for child care providers. During the second half of SFY 2022, there were 79 registered providers, 717 certified providers, and 92,443 licensed providers and staff who had completed training sessions.	
8.	To ensure health and safety standards for children in care through licensed and certified child care programs. Make available flexible care options with the registered provider program.	DCBS contracts with the Office of Inspector General to enforce standards for licensed and certified providers. As of June 30, 2022, there were 2,002 certified, licensed, and registered child care programs for 21 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 95.	
		The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of June 30, 2022 was:	
		Licensed1,763Certified216Registered23Total2,002	

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the BLOCK GRANT PLAN IN FINANCES AND/OR OBJECTIVES)

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law. This reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The new law makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them.

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) three-year plan for States and Territories is required from each CCDF Lead agency in accordance with Section 658E of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (CCDBG Act), as amended, CCDBG Act of 2014 (Pub. Law 113-186) and 42 U.S.C 9858.

The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) filed the preliminary FY2022-2024 CCDF State Plan with the Legislative Research Commission on May 18, 2021, with scheduled federal submission on July 1, 2021. Kentucky received federal approval of this state plan on December 13, 2021.

The Coronavirus Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The state of Kentucky was awarded \$192,572,592. The Division of Child Care dedicated \$165 million to sustainment payment funding for regulated child care providers (licensed, certified, and registered providers). Providers were awarded four separate payments based on capacity. The first payment was \$300 per child. The following three payments was \$260 per child. The remaining funds were allocated to cover the entire cost of the federally required fingerprint-based background checks, training and technical assistance focused on CPR, First Aid, Epi Pen and Blood Borne Pathogens training and resiliency and trauma-informed care training. The remainder of the funds was dedicated to parent co-payments for children in the Child Care Assistance Programs (CCAP), paying CCAP based on enrollment versus attendance through December 31, 2021 and establishing a permanent staffed Family Child Care Network within each of the 8 DCC regions across the state.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Kentucky was awarded a total of \$763 million. This is being dispensed from two funding sources that each have unique purposes. The largest portion of the funding, over \$470 Million is designated for sustainability payments. The second stream of funding, over \$293 Million, is slightly more flexible and the federal government has designated it for four specific purposes, including: increasing provider payments, improving payment policies, increasing wages for early childhood educators in centers and family child care homes, and building the supply of child care for underserved populations.

The ARP Sustainability Payments will be disbursed in nine quarterly payments. DCC has designated \$49.6 million dollars for each payment period. To qualify for these funds, child care programs must have been open and serving children by March 11, 2021 (licensed, certified, or registered providers). Programs must participate in the KY All STARS program and must be eligible to accept children on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in order to receive ARP funds. Child care program receiving ARP funds were required to sign a contract outlining the requirements of the funding and must complete a monthly data sheet documenting data on enrollment, staff turnover, and other identified data points. Three payments have been released as of June 30, 2022 (the first payment was issued in November 2021; second payment in January 2022; third payment in April 2022).

The second stream of funding has been dedicated to several other much needed projects:

- Preschool Partnership Grants This is a collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education to support children who qualify for CCAP and children with special needs who receive IEP services and focuses on social/emotional supports and special education training. Partnering child care programs must be high-quality (Level 3, 4, or 5 STAR);
- Increase CCAP Reimbursement Rates;

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

- Address the CCAP benefits cliff effect by providing an additional 3 months of additional reimbursement at 50% of typical rate upon graduation from CCAP program. This began in March 2022, and as of June 30, 2022, 56 children (37 families) have benefitted from this program. This program will be expanded to 6 months beginning September of 2022;
- Pilot an Infant and Toddler Project to combat the decrease in programs accepting families accepting CCAP and to increase infant and toddler care for our most vulnerable population. As of June 30, 2022, 29 providers have signed contracts for 381 slots;
- Provide facility repair grants. As of June 30, 2022, 763 awards have been issued;
- Develop and deliver two training academies for credentialed trainers one focused on working with children with special needs and the other focusing on director skills. Those who attend are required to provide these trainings through the state over the course of the next two years;
- Provide funding to the Kentucky Apprenticeship program through the Governor's Office of Early Childhood;
- Provide start-up grants for certified child care homes. As of June 30, 2022, 15 FCC grants have been issued;
- Provide a grant match to businesses interested in opening on-site employee-based childcare. As of June 30, 2022, 3 grants have been awarded;
- Provide a grant match to open new child care programs in child care deserts. As of June 30, 2022, 15 grants have been issued to providers in 10 different counties identified as child care deserts;
- Update technology systems and provide new computers to child care programs through the state for enrollment, billing, and other business practices.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

CCAP promotes, expands, and improves the quality of care for children in Kentucky and ensure that families most in need are aware of and have access to quality child care. The approach to service delivery combines the efforts of the DCC staff and other service providers and partners to address a family's needs in a comprehensive fashion thereby maximizing the likelihood that a family will achieve positive outcomes. DCC serves Kentucky's most vulnerable children prioritizing children with special needs and children receiving protective services. TANF recipients and persons transitioning off TANF are also eligible for child care assistance. During the second half of SFY 2022, the average number of families served in CCAP per month 12, 640.

DCBS contracts with the Cabinet's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to inspect, monitor, and license center-based providers, and inspect, monitor, and certify family child care home providers and conduct home checklist of registered providers.

Kentucky All STARS is the state expanded five-star quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs. Studies show that children who attend high quality early learning environments have better math, language, and social skills. The unified system serves all early care and education programs including child care centers, Head Start, and public preschool. Evaluation and analysis continues to inform sustainability planning, and identify successes, lessons learned, and challenges of the Kentucky All STAR Quality Rating System across the Commonwealth.

Kentucky All STARS Quality Rating System builds upon Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards and research-based indicators of quality. It recognizes programs that have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement. On the path toward higher quality, programs can benefit from supports including training, technical assistance, and coaching.

Additionally, targeted quality set-asides under CCDF are being utilized to promote and improve the quality of infant/toddler training opportunities, enhance professional development activities, improve education in child care programs, improve staff and child interactions, increase parental involvement, and facilitate regulatory compliance to all child care programs.

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

The family co-payment structure ensures that no family pays a co-payment if the family's monthly income is below \$1400. Family co-payments are structured so that a family whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level pays no more than 10% of its gross monthly income for childcare. When the provider's customary rate exceeds the Kentucky Child Care Maximum Payment Rate, families will be responsible for the difference plus the family co-payment. DCC is currently utilizing CRRSA funds to cover co-payments..

Licensed or certified providers who are accredited by a national organization receive an additional two (2) dollars per day above the maximum rate of pay. They also receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for providing child care for non-traditional hours. Licensed, certified, or registered providers may receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for care of children with special needs. These rates may be cumulative and do not exceed the amount charged to the general public for the same care.

Administrative regulation amendments were filed to increase the income eligibility standards for families at initial application from 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) to 85% of the State Median Income (SMI) beginning July 1, 2022. This amendment also has a number of other changes to take effect at future dates such as increasing add-on incentive rates for providers specific to accreditation, providing special care, and providing care in nontraditional hours; extending the transitional period for families deemed ineligible to continue receiving CCAP due to exceeding the income standards from three months to six months; and exempting income from the eligibility determination for individuals meeting other eligibility requirements who are employed in a licensed child-care center or registered family child-care home as a child care staffing incentive. The impact of these changes will be documented in the next CCDF Half-Year Block Grant Report.

DCC continues to work with the Office for Administrative and Technology Services (OATS) to design and implement the data management system for the Kentucky All STARS Program. This data management system for Kentucky All STARS went live on June 24, 2018. Providers can now see their current All STARS rating, see all correspondence and program history completed under the All STARS regulation, and may apply for new ratings and submit Annual Quality Reviews through the Kentucky Integrated Child Care System (KICCS) system. Providers will have the option to submit via email and paper for processes that were initiated outside of KICCS. All new processes will be submitted via KICCS. Coaches and Raters have all received training on how to support providers through this process. DCC extended All STARS expirations dates during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19. All child care programs remained at their current All STARS level. All STARS rated programs, Levels 2 through 5, received a one year extension on their certificate of expiration. DCC automatically approved all Annual Quality Reviews (AQR) to ensure disbursement of All STARS payments.

DCC extended All STARS expirations dates during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19. All child care programs remained at their current All STARS level. All STARS rated programs, Levels 2 through 5, received a one year extension on their certificate of expiration. DCC automatically approved all Annual Quality Reviews (AQR) to ensure disbursement of All STARS payments. With the declining numbers of Covid-19 DCC resumed activities related to the Kentucky All STARS Program on October 1, 2021. DCC ensured that All STARS Raters met rating reliability before resuming normal activities. Due to various issues and COVID-related stress on providers over the course of 18 month, DCC opted to give these providers the option to extend their expiration date by one year and have them submit an AQR for this year for review from All STARS Staff.

Having achieved the baseline goal of 45% for all licensed early care and education providers in Kentucky to obtain a high-quality rating, the Division of Child Care continues to support quality improvement through provider training and engagement. As of June 30, 2022, 1,929 programs (100%) have verified ratings in Kentucky All STARS, with 40% of programs rated as high-quality.

Kentucky All STARS Ratings as of June 30, 2021							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5		
Licensed Types I&II	855	114	295	205	105		
Certified	140	25	19	1	6		
Licensed Head Start	40	1	16	33	74		
Totals	1,035	140	330	239	185		

Quality Initiatives

Kentucky All STARS continues to see a growth of professional development intended to enhance the quality of child care through the utilization of Tobacco Master Settlement dollars. The Division of Child Care approved training organizations and the non-college scholarship program to provide training and technical assistance to Early Care and Education Professionals for obtaining the Commonwealth Child Care Credential and the Child Development Associate. Monetary awards are issued for completing professional development educational achievements, and mini-grants for national accreditation of early childhood are provided to early care and education professionals, licensed centers, and certified homes that are increasing the quality of staff and programs.

- 127 KIDS NOW Child Development Associate mini-grants invoiced, for a total of \$44,975.00 during the second half of SFY 2022.
- 401 Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
- 89 Milestone Achievement Awards for completion of a Commonwealth Child Care Credential, Child Development Associate (CDA), Director's Credential, Associate or Bachelor Degree in Early Care and Education issued during the second half of SFY 2022, for a total of \$15,525.00.
- 57 Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the second half of SFY 2022 assisting early care and education professionals pursuing a CDA, Directors Credential, or an Associate or Bachelor Degree in early care and education studies, for a total amount of \$5,550.00
- 2,579 Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.

Department: <u>Community Based Services (DCBS)</u>

Block Grant: Community Services Block Grant

This report is submitte the Block Grant applie	-		report on achievements ma	ay be compared to
Block Grant Manager	Marta Miranda		7/29/2022	
Diotx Grant Manager	Marta Miranda-St Commissioner	raub	Date	
1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total

I. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	I rust/Local Match	lotal
CSBG Annual Budget	\$12,552,468.00	\$104,268.00	0.00	\$12,656,736.00
CSBG Actual Expenditures	\$10,180,799.19	\$99,746.36	0.00	\$10,280,545.55
CSBG Encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CSBG Available Balance	\$2,371,668.81	\$4,521.64	0.00	\$2,376,190.45

FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CSBG-CARES Annual Budget	\$8,177,966.61	0.00	0.00	\$8,177,966.61
CSBG-CARES Actual Expenditures	\$4,982,483.58	0.00	0.00	\$4,982,483.58
CSBG-CARES Encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CSBG-CARES Available Balance	\$3,195,483.03	0.00	0.00	\$3,195,483.03

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

	OBJECTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
1.	Provide, through contracts with 23 local	1.	DCBS implemented contracts with all twenty-three (23)
	Community Action Agencies (CAAs), needed		CAAs, serving one hundred and twenty (120) counties of
	services to clients whose income meets poverty		the Commonwealth, for provision of appropriate required
	guidelines on a statewide basis.		services based on their approved plans and budgets.
			Some agencies had carryforward monies remaining from
			the previous SFY contract period that was put on their
			current SFY contract during the time period in question.
2.	Conduct an annual fiscal audit under auspices	2.	DAFM maintains contractual arrangements for personnel
	of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services		responsible for these duties.

January 1, 2022-June 30, 2022			
Department: Community Based Services (DCBS)	Block Grant: <u>Community Services Block Grant</u>		
with actual audits being conducted by certified public accountant firms and approved by DCBS-Division of Administration and Financial Management (DAFM).			
3. Monitor CAAs for compliance with standards of performance as promulgated in Kentucky Administrative Regulation for Community Action Agencies and in accordance with plan and budget instructions and federal and state statutes.	3. For the period of January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022, thirteen (13) CAAs CSBG contracts were monitored by Division of Administration and Financial Management (DAFM). All agencies monitored had no findings for non-compliance.		
4. Monitor CAAs for compliance with the Organizational Standards as determined by the Office of Community Services and promulgated in the Kentucky Administrative Regulation in accordance with state and federal statutes.	4. The Division of Family Support (in DCBS) and Community Acton Kentucky perform Organizational Standard monitoring desk reviews for each of the 23 local CAAs each fiscal year. Nine (9) of twenty-three (23) agencies were monitored from January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022. All monitoring was conducted via desk review.		
5. Obtain contract service reports to use for training and technical assistance.	5. Service and fiscal reports from each CAA are reviewed on a quarterly basis year-to-date. Information is maintained on the DCBS data system and reported as required to federal and state officials.		
6. Provide training and technical assistance based on input from all contract agencies.	6. Community Action Kentucky (CAK) and DCBS provide training and technical assistance through different venues, including work sessions, annual conference, and regional trainings. Trainers or consultants with expertise in their fields are often selected to facilitate these sessions.		
	Community Action Kentucky held the Summer Conference Series: Disaster Planning and Recovery: By Failing to Prepare, you are Preparing to Fail. This session was presented by Shelly Trent, Next Steps.		
	CAK, in collaboration with DCBS, held the 2021 CSBG Spring Work Session on March 22 & 23, 2022. All twenty- three (23) CAAs were represented. The training included the following: Opening Session (welcome, CSBG Annual Report in Review, Cabinet Updates/Questions and Answers); Using Case Management to Focus on Family Goals, Understanding Readiness for Change, Goal Planning, Self- Care, and Avoiding Burnout.		
	CAK staff conducted ongoing technical assistance and trainings for CAAs from January 1 through June 30, 2022, through email, phone calls, and go to assistance.		

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

January 1, 2022-June 30, 2022

 Department:
 Community Based Services (DCBS)
 Block Grant:
 Community Services Block Grant

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law March 27, 2020, granting the state of Kentucky an additional \$16.8 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. CSBG funds are allocated to each of Kentucky's 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in order to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty throughout their communities. These additional CARES funds have been divided proportionately to CAAs and will be used to address a variety of needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to, rent/mortgage and utility assistance payments, grocery vouchers, employment related assistance, and medical assistance (copays, transportation, PPE, etc.).

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) filed ordinary and emergency administrative regulation amendments to 922 KAR 6:010 on May 21, 2020, in response to the Office of Community Services (OCS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) CSBG Information Memorandum (1M) 2020-157, authorizing states to, "revise the income limit for eligibility ceiling from 125 to 200 percent of the federal poverty level for CSBG services furnished during fiscal years 2020 and 2021, including services furnished with the state's regular CSBG appropriations during those years," via the CARES Act. The regulation changes also granted CHFS the flexibility to waive the twenty percent in-kind matching for additional CSBG funds provided by HHS; the twenty percent in-kind match was waived for CSBG-CARES funds.

H.R. 6119, the "Further Extending Government Funding Act" which includes a short-term continuing resolution that provides fiscal year 2022 appropriations to Federal agencies through February 18, 2022, for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government; includes supplemental appropriations for the continuing support of Afghanistan evacuees; and extends several expiring authorizations. The Continuing Resolution (CR) passed with language extending the use of the 200% FPL for CARES, FY21 and FY22 funds that are released during the CR. Approval has been given to allow 200 percent FPL for CSBG and CARES that applies to FY 2022 funds made available during the timeframe has been extended through September 30, 2022.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

Using a compliance monitoring instrument based on state statutes, contractual requirements, minimum program, and management standards, DCBS performed contract monitoring for 13 of the 23 CAAs from of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. 13 of the agencies had zero findings.

DAFM based the Federal award number on what was given in FFY22. The expenditures represent January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

Implementation of uniform service definitions and a client service report/evaluation document have enabled Kentucky to compile service statistics consistent with both federal and state laws. Use of the data, as compiled by each of the CAAs on a monthly basis, enables the individual agencies to better evaluate their services and develop plans for service delivery.

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

January 1, 2022-June 30, 2022

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS) Block Grant: Community Services Block Grant

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Improved service delivery is continually sought primarily through ongoing training and technical assistance provided and planned for CAA staff. Contract requirements include a mandate for local CAA coordination with DCBS and other area service providers in order to avoid duplication of services.

Additionally, CAA Boards are responsible for an ongoing process to evaluate local needs and assure that needs are met.

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: <u>Low Income Home Energy</u> <u>Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</u>

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to					
the Block Grant application <u>surrently</u> on file with LRC.					
Block Grant Manager:	Marta Miranda-Straub	7/29/2022			
0	Marta Miranda-Straub	Date			
Commissioner					

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$108,602,851.00	\$0	\$0	\$108,602,851.00
Actual Expenditures	\$108,548,838.63	\$0	\$0	\$108,548,838.63
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$54,012.37	\$0	\$0	\$54,012.37

*THE EXPENDITURES ABOVE INCLUDE \$60,369,719.03 FROM AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AWARD

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

	OBJECTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
1.	A winter heating crisis component began on January 10, 2022, and ended March 31, 2022. The crisis component offers assistance for households experiencing a heating crisis and serves households at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).	1.	During the winter heating crisis component, 77,171 households were served with an average benefit of \$413.61. There was a benefits paid total of \$31,918,708.31. Note: Community Action Kentucky, Inc. (CAK) is using the ARPA funding first because it has a liquidation deadline of 9/30/22.
2.	A spring cooling subsidy program began on May 2, 2022, and ended June 17, 2022. The spring cooling component offers assistance to households at or below 150% FPL	2.	During the spring cooling crisis component, 53,326 households were served with an average benefit amount of \$169.26. There was a benefits paid total of \$9,026,000.00.
3.	Fifteen percent of LIHEAP funds were transferred to the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) for use in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which is	3.	Approximately 442 homes were weatherized during this timeframe with an average benefit of \$7,000.80 using a combination of DOE, WAP, and LIHEAP

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>	Block Grant: Low Income Home Energy
	Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
administered through Community Action Kentucky, Inc.	funds.
The purpose of these funds is to increase the number of	
homes weatherized and reduce utility costs for these low-	
income households. Weatherization assistance is provided	
to low-income households at or below 200% of the FPL	
utilizing a combination of U.S. Department of Energy	
(DOE) funds and LIHEAP weatherization funds.	
Weatherization activities are designed to make the living	
conditions of a home safe and healthy. Additionally,	
successful implementation of the program provides homes	
with more efficient energy use, conservation, and lower	
energy bills.	

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

For State Fiscal Year 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services agreed to transfer 15% of the LIHEAP allocation to KHC for weatherization activities. The program will be operated in accordance with DOE and LIHEAP rules.

On May 28, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) filed ordinary and emergency administrative regulation amendments to 921 KAR 4:116 to "revise the income limit for eligibility ceiling from 130% to 150% of the federal poverty level for LIHEAP services." The regulation amendment also granted CHFS the flexibility to omit copays and authorize summer cooling. This funding was provided to "prevent, prepare for, or respond to" home energy needs related to the national emergency created by COVID-19. The additional CARES funding was used to administer a new cooling program for Kentucky. LIHEAP provides bill payment assistance year-round for heating and cooling during subsidy and crisis components of the program. The LIHEAP heating subsidy component offsets home heating costs; assistance amounts are structures as a percentage of the household's annual heating costs and percentage of poverty met by the household. The LIHEAP heating crisis component offers assistance for an energy emergency. Assistance is limited to the amount necessary to relieve the crisis with the maximum amount not to exceed community action agency's local cost for a deliverable supply of the households' primary heating fuel or \$600 for gas or electric. The LIHEAP cooling subsidy/crisis component offers emergency cooling assistance. Recipients may apply more than once up to the maximum benefit amount of \$600.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

LIHEAP includes quality assurance and compliance monitoring as evaluative components. The 23 agencies that administer direct LIHEAP services conduct self-evaluations of their services and are subject to annual program performance evaluations by the Community Action of Kentucky, Inc. (CAK) in an effort to continuously improve the program. CAK monitors each of the 23 agencies between February and May of each year to ensure compliance with programmatic requirements, including correct eligibility and benefit determinations.

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: <u>Low Income Home Energy</u> <u>Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</u>

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Since 1989, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has contracted with CAK to operate the Crisis Component and the Subsidy Component. CAK subcontracts with the state's 23 Community Action Agencies to operate the LIHEAP program throughout the Commonwealth's 120 counties. The community action agencies have operated the program and delivered services in a manner that is consistent with the LIHEAP Block Grant Application, the federal and state regulations, and Cabinet policy. Annually, the program is reviewed for ways to improve services. Each year, a change committee meeting is held which consists of front-line staff, program managers and others to discuss and submit changes that would improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the program. These changes are submitted to the Cabinet as recommendations for change to the program design. All approved changes are added to the LIHEAP program manual and appropriate staff are made aware of those changes.

To provide oversight and technical assistance, DCBS participates with CAK monitoring agencies for fiscal and program requirements.

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: Social Services Block Grant

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager:

Marta Miranda-Straub

Marta Miranda-Straub Commissioner

DocuSigned by:

/29/2022

Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$29,705,228.10	\$340,357,316.75	0	\$370,062,544.85
Actual Expenditures	\$29,367,429.30	\$319,988,624.66	0	\$349,356,053.96
Encumbrances	0	0	0	0
Available Balance	\$337,798.80	\$20,368,692.09	0	\$20,706,490.89

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

	OBJECTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
1.	To provide protective services to <u>120,300</u> adults designed to prevent and remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation; to increase employability and/or self- sufficiency; prevent inappropriate placement; or secure appropriate placement.	1.	Adult protective services were provided to <u>114,569</u> individuals.
2.	To provide <u>415,600</u> children and their families with services designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation.	2.	Child protective services were provided to <u>395,804</u> clients.
3.	To provide <u>4,830</u> families with home safety services to enable them to improve or maintain adequate in-home living and family well-being.	3.	Home safety services were provided to <u>4,607</u> clients
4.	To provide <u>2,820</u> children and their families with services designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation, which may include counseling or interaction with courts on behalf of the juveniles.	4.	Juvenile services were provided to <u>2,680</u> clients.

7/29/2022

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Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: Social Services Block Grant

	OBJECTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
5.	To provide community based residential care and treatment for <u>526</u> children with behavior problems to enable the individual to become self-supporting; to function better in the community; to avoid inappropriate institutionalization; and to refer to appropriate institutions when necessary.	5.	Residential treatment services were provided to <u>281</u> children.
6.	To improve service delivery by providing approximately <u>592</u> hours of training per month for staff of the Department for Community Based Services.	6.	Training was provided statewide to $\underline{1,923}$ employees who work in the areas of protection and permanency, for a total of $\underline{8,542}$ training hours, or an average of $\underline{712}$ hours per month.

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

N/A

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

N/A

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

The vision statement of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) is to protect children and vulnerable adults and to promote self-sufficiency and permanency by providing the best regulatory framework and state plan structure possible. Our mission is also to ensure maximum flexibility for interpretation and implementation of policy and procedures, which best meet the needs of the community.

The Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP) recognizes the importance of a safe, secure and nurturing environment for each Kentucky child, adult and family. Within such an environment, we believe that families and their individual members become the most critical component of a strong society. Our vision is a division that is:

- Focused on families, children, and vulnerable adults
- Committed to families as partners in decision making
- Proactive, responsive, and accessible to all members of the community
- Sensitive to cultural and community differences
- Committed to innovation, continuous improvement, shared accountability, and measurable outcomes
- Community focused and partnership-oriented
- Recognized as the best human service delivery organization in the nation

To facilitate an accurate examination of the Cabinet's direct service delivery system, the Cabinet utilizes a continuous quality improvement (CQI) case review process, with the goal of ensuring quality, consistency, and timelines of services provided to clients to meet federal and state child welfare outcomes, and ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of families and children.

CQI is a structured process which allows staff to participate in the examination and evaluation of:

- The effectiveness, quality, and efficiency of services provided to clients served by the DCBS;
- DCBS internal systems, procedures, and outcomes; and
- The relationships and interactions between DCBS and each family, as well as DCBS and the community stakeholders providing services to each family

To facilitate an accurate examination of the Cabinet's direct service delivery system, the Cabinet utilizes a CQI case review tool that is designed to measure the Cabinet's ability to implement best practice and achieve positive outcomes on a state, regional, and individual case level. The Case Automated Review and Evaluation System (CQI CARES) assists in meeting the agency goals to improve outcomes by focusing on the coaching, mentoring, and monitoring process through review and supervision. CQI CARES is utilized for both first and second level case reviews and provides an opportunity through CQI meetings and processes to identify patterns/trends for quality improvement. The reviewer completes the case review tool in CQI CARES, and this provides case review data to assist with feedback and action planning that identifies both strengths and weaknesses of the case. By strengthening these processes and empowering staff to improve casework, it assists with meeting federal outcomes and requirements.

DCBS has also created the Kentucky Child and Family Services Review (KY CFSR) team in 2018. This team has developed and implemented the KY CFSR process in accordance with the federal CFSR. The review allows feedback to be provided to leadership, supervisors, and field staff. Feedback will include areas where the agency has strengths, as well as areas where the agency could improve performance and service delivery to the families and children served.

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: <u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</u>

 This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application suggestly on file with LRC.

 Block Grant Manager:
 Marta Miranda-Straub

 Marta Miranda-Straub
 7/29/2022

 Marta Miranda-Straub
 Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$180,689,420.00	\$58,404,429.01	\$0.00	\$239,039,849.01
Actual Expenditures	\$64,793,462.79	\$40,528,783.68	\$0.00	\$105,322,246.47
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available Balance	\$33,915,078.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,915,078.46

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" Actual expenditures contains data for 1/2022-6/2022. Due to data collection time frames, the TANF data for all other sections contains data for the six month period of 12/2021-5/2022. Available balances reflect the annual budget minus expenditures for the time frames 7/2021 to 6/2022.

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
PEAF Award Budget	\$17,411,149.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,411,149.25
PEAF Actual Expenditures	\$ 16,901,275.73	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$
PEAF Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PEAF Available Balance	\$ 509,873.52	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$ 509,873.52

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" Actual expenditures contains data for 1/2022-6/2022. Due to data collection time frames, the TANF data for all other sections contains data for the six month period of 12/2021-5/2022. Available balances reflect the annual budget minus expenditures for the time frames 7/2021 to 6/2022.

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u> Block Grant: <u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</u>

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

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	OD IE CTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
	OBJECTIVES		ACHIEVEMENTS
1.	TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #1: "Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives."	•	From December 2021 through May 2022, a monthly average of 10,342 families (comprised of 3,360 adults and 17,287 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP).
	 KTAP cash assistance 	•	The number of families receiving KTAP has decreased significantly in the last two years. Looking at data prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, from December 2019 through May 2020, a monthly average of 13,616 families (4,744 adults and 26,214 children) received KTAP cash assistance.
2.	TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #2:		In December 2021, 13,716 families received KTAP (4,710 adults
	"End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage."	•	and 26,260 children). The number of families receiving assistance increased to 13,944 in May 2022 (5,165 adults and 27,039 children).
	Provide supportive services, within budget limitations, to enable KTAP recipients to participate in job preparation and work with the goal of family self-sufficiency.	•	There were 666 adults receiving KTAP that were working in May 2022 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 625 in December 2021. The monthly average of adults working during this time period was 606. From December 2021 to May 2022, an average of 107 KTAP cases per month discontinued due to employment.
		•	There were 643 Kentucky Works Program (KWP) participants in adult education, high school, and college for May 2022 and a monthly average of 380 KWP participants during this six month time period.
		•	During December 2021, 2,877 KTAP recipients, or 44% of the KTAP cases who are required to participate in KWP, were participating in some Kentucky Works Program activity. Not all of these activities were counted in the federal participation rate. In May 2022, 3,379 KTAP recipients were federally required to participate in some Kentucky Works activity, with 50% participating. When compared to participation rates from prior years, the decrease in KWP participation was due to KTAP recipients unable to participate in the Kentucky Works Program due to the COVID-19 crisis.
		•	Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of six KTAP recipients from December 2021 through May 2022. This category of supportive services is intended to support KWP participation activities, and encourage employment. Allowable expenditures are outlined in the Family Support Operation Manual, and the most common use of these funds is the purchase of uniforms or clothing for employment.
		•	From December 2021 to May 2022, Relocation Assistance (RAP) was provided to 1 family during this time period. Due to the

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u> Block Grant: <u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</u>		
	nationwide COVID-19 pandemic, the need for relocation assistance was significantly reduced.	
	• Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) was provided to 5 families during the time period of December 2021 to May 2022, with an average of 1 family per month. Looking at data prior to the Pandemic, this was a decrease from 38 families during the time period of December 2019 to May 2020, (average of 6 families per month).	
	• For the period December 2021 through May 2022, an average monthly number of 770 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds.	
 3. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #3:</u> "Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of- wedlock pregnancies." > Teen Pregnancy Prevention > Statutory Rape Prevention 	• KY Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and KY Department for Public Health (DPH) have committed to renew a decades-old partnership from the early days of TANF in the late 1990s. This partnership intends to fulfill federal TANF Purpose #3, and address Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Statutory Rape Prevention.	
	• This project will encourage referrals from the TANF program to DPH programs, such as:	
	 HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program) 	
	• The goal of this partnership is not just to address prevention efforts, but to support young parents by streamlining referrals between the two departments.	
4. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #4:</u> "Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."	• In October 2021, the Division of Family Support (DFS) participated in the 3 rd Annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit, held virtually. The Fatherhood Summit is an event hosted by the Department for Income Support/Child Support Enforcement (DIS/CSE); and is a collaborative project with DCBS/DFS.	
 Responsible Fatherhood 	• Although the Kentucky Fatherhood Summit was originally planned to be an in-person event, the 2021 summit was changed to a 100% virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
	• DCBS/DFS continues to be involved with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF) Advisory Council, which is focused on planning the annual Fatherhood Summit, and building a partnership between government agencies & community partners to further the TANF goals of responsible fatherhood and two-parent family formation.	
	• Kentucky state government is a leader in the field of fatherhood conferences/summits, and annually the planning committee strives to involve other state governments in KY's summit. The 2021 3 rd Annual KY Fatherhood Summit featured a workshop in	

Department: <u>Community Based Services</u>

Block Grant: <u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</u>

	which Georgia state government officials presented an overview of GA Health & Human Services' Fatherhood Program. Their presentation focused on the power of community partnership. The Georgia Fatherhood Program is an employment-based program that works with unemployed or underemployed parents and cannot pay their full child support obligation. The program uses community resources and established partnerships to connect parents with resources that lead to jobs paying above minimum wage, greater self-sufficiency, and more emotional and financial involvement in their children's lives. KY policy makers from both DIS and DCBS hope to one day create KY's own fatherhood program modeled after Georgia's successful programs.
•	The 2021 KY Fatherhood Summit sought to provide outreach to Kentucky's inmate population. There are 14 correctional facilities that house KY's adult inmate population. Of the 14 prisons, 11 KY prisons signed up to provide "viewing parties" to inmates to be able to view the KY Fatherhood Summit in a group setting, as an educational opportunity. Unfortunately, not all of the prisons were able to provide live-streamed viewings due to poor internet connection at various rural prisons across the state. The prison administrative staff was provided with recordings so that they could air the summit at a later date. KY inmates and prison staff across the state were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, and the overall inmate outreach effort was successful.

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 reauthorized the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The DRA required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue regulations to do the following: define the activities that are countable toward the work participation rate requirements; define which cases contain a parent are included in the work participation rate calculation; and describe how states must document, verify, and monitor hours of participation. On June 29, 2006, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published an interim final rule implementing key provisions of the DRA effective October 1, 2006. The final rule addressing provisions of the DRA was published February 5, 2008. Changes from the interim rule were effective October 1, 2008.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program was scheduled for reauthorization in 2010. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630), extended the block grant through September 30, 2012, the end of Federal fiscal year 2012. A continuing resolution was passed to extend TANF through the end of March 2013. The Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2013 extended TANF through the end of September 2013, while the Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2014 (P.L. 113-46) provided funds through January 15, 2014. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2014 extended TANF through September 30, 2014. The Continuing Appropriations Act for 2015 approved TANF through September 30, 2015. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2016 extended TANF through February 8, 2018. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2017 extended TANF through FY 2018, which ended September 30, 2018.

H.R. 430, The TANF Extension Act of 2019, extended TANF through June 30, 2019. H.R. 2940, an act to extend the program of block grants to States for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and related programs, extended TANF through September 30, 2019; and H.R. 4378, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2020 and Health Extenders Act of 2019, extended TANF through November 21, 2019. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (H.R. 1865) extended TANF through May 22, 2020. Section 3824 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748), extended TANF program grants through November 30, 2020. The Continuing Appropriations, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8337) extended TANF through December 11, 2020. The Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8900) extended TANF through December 18, 2020.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133) extended TANF through September 30, 2021. On 9/30/2021, H.R. 5305 – "Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act" extended TANF funding through September 30, 2022.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of KTAP families for the months of December 2021 through May 2022 was obtained by averaging the total number of cases (families) during this time period. The number of KTAP adults and children was computed in the same manner. Not all cases contain an adult member. During this period, there was a monthly average of 6,785 child only KTAP cases that did not contain an adult member in the case. The number of KTAP families and recipients who received assistance was obtained from the PA-264 reports for December 2021 through May 2022.

Information regarding participation in the Kentucky Works Program and receipt of supportive services was obtained from reports taken from the Online Tracking Information System (OTIS). The number and type of cases discontinued were based on reason entries on Worker Portal (IEES) systems, including cases discontinued for exceeding the income limits due to earnings, receipt of or increase in earnings, and the removal of time limited deductions. The numbers for child care were obtained by averaging the total number of children who received assistance funded with TANF during this time period. The number of families who received Relocation Assistance during this time period was obtained from the OTIS and Worker Portal systems and averaged for this time period. Safety Net data is provided by DCBS's Division of Protection & Permanency.

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Special services were provided during this period of time to assist families in obtaining self-sufficiency or for the family to remain intact.

Effective April 2003, Employment Retention services were replaced with the Work Incentive Program (WIN). WIN is a reimbursement payment given to individuals who are employed and transitioning off of KTAP. The payment is provided to reimburse individuals for expenses incurred as a result of their employment such as transportation, special items needed to stay employed, etc. Eligible individuals may receive reimbursement payments of \$130 per month for up to nine (9) months. WIN is available to a family if the family includes an adult with wages who has been discontinued from KTAP on or after April 1, 2003. The family has to have an eligible child, be a resident of Kentucky, and have total gross income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Receipt of WIN reimbursement is limited to once in a lifetime. WIN is not available to a family if employment is obtained after the KTAP case is discontinued. The WIN program was developed as a result of findings from a Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) study indicating income supports are the most effective means to help individuals stay off public assistance. During the period December 2021 through May 2022, an average of 66 individuals per month received WIN. Pre-pandemic, 210 individuals received WIN in December 2019.

The Kinship Care (KC) program was created to offer an option to assist relatives in caring for a child who must be placed out of the child's home due to substantiated abuse or neglect. As of May 2022, there were 2,080 children in the Kinship Care program. Effective April 1, 2013, no new Kinship Care applications have been accepted. At the time of the KC moratorium in April 2013, there were 11,281 children receiving Kinship Care.

Special steps are taken to ensure KTAP recipients know about the 60 month lifetime limitation so they can take advantage of the Kentucky Works program. Up to 20% of the KTAP caseload may be exempted from time limitations due to hardship. As of May 2022, there were 234 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of December 2021 through May 2022, there was a monthly average of 19 families discontinued due to reaching the 60 month time limit.

CHFS Protection & Permanency (P&P) staff visits KTAP families whose KTAP case has been discontinued due to time limitations to ensure children are safe and to identify any emergency needs. Safety Net services are available to

a post-KTAP family who has lost cash assistance due to reaching the sixty month lifetime TANF limit, or had their KTAP case discontinued due to non-cooperation with the Kentucky Works Program. Safety Net services are funded through TANF and are available to families with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Benefits are temporary and may be authorized up to a total of \$635 for four (4) months during a twelve month period. These benefits are used to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing or utilities. During the time period of December 2021 to May 2022, no families received Safety Net services.

6. OTHER NEWS

In December 2021, Kentucky DCBS/Division of Family Support's application was chosen for the 2022 Administration for Children & Families (ACF) TANF Learning Community (TLC). From January 2022- December 2022, Mathematica analysts and ACF Regional Office members will mentor Kentucky TANF policy makers to assist with implementing innovative program strategies which improve agency performance and ultimately achieve better outcomes for children and families. The national TLC theme is: "Reimagining TANF Programs to Support Family Economic Independence and Mobility in a Post-Pandemic World." The title of Kentucky's winning application was "Creating Virtual Case Management Options for Both Rural & Urban Populations in the Kentucky Works Program."

Kentucky began work with Mathematica and representatives of ACF in January 2022 to create a virtual case management option for staff. On March 2022, the Division of Family Support implemented changes within the eligibility system to include the ability to schedule interviews and have virtual meetings via Teams software. With the system changes mostly in place, the focus of the project shifted to include Integrated Case Management. A pilot training is being created to bring a Human Centered Design and client-centered approach to case management. With these changes, we anticipate an increase of engagement in the Kentucky Works Program.