



CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Funding for Victims Advocacy  
SNAP Error Rate Reduction**

**Department for Community Based Services**

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# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families in Kentucky to help purchase food.

- Benefits are issued through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card
- Helps improve food security and nutrition
- Eligibility is based on income, household size, and certain expenses
- Administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
- Federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

# SNAP by the Numbers

December 2025

- 274,306 Active SNAP Households
- 576,667 Individuals
- \$99,209,044 SNAP Issuances – Currently 100% Federally Funded

Average SNAP per Household \$343 per Month

# Determination of SNAP Benefits

Federal rules determine eligibility and benefit levels.  
States administer the program.

SNAP benefits are calculated using federally defined rules:

- Household size
- Countable income
- Allowable deductions
- Maximum benefit allotments set by USDA

# SNAP Payment Error Rate

A Payment Error is an unintentional overpayment or underpayment of SNAP benefits.

Payment Errors:

- Incorrectly determining a household is eligible or ineligible
- Incorrectly calculating benefit amounts
- Errors when determining income and deductions
- Data entry errors
- Timing or verification issues

# Determination of Payment Error Rates

CHFS conducts internal reviews of cases

- Identify and correct payment errors
- 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> level reviews targeting cases with higher rates of error

Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) Samples SNAP cases

- Random Sampling of SNAP cases
- Submits cases to USDA

USDA calculates official Payment Error Rate (PER)

- Re-reviews 50% of state cases
- Validates state findings for accuracy
- May conduct additional verification

# Kentucky Monitoring of SNAP Payment Errors

- Continuous training and policy updates for eligibility staff
- Strong supervision, case reviews, and quality assurance
- Data-driven identification of error trends
  - Trend analysis drives policy updates, system changes, and revised training
- Modernized eligibility systems that reduce worker and user error:
  - Automated eligibility tools reduce manual error:
    - Automated processing of verifications
    - QR codes and simplified citizen portal (kynect)
    - Required action on computer matches with income or resource data

# SNAP Retailer Fraud

The USDA investigates and prosecutes retailer fraud

- Examples:
  - Selling items that are not allowed under SNAP
    - Tobacco, Alcohol, Fuel
  - Providing false information to the USDA
  - Trafficking in SNAP benefits
- Penalties:
  - Disqualification as a SNAP retailer
  - Financial Penalties
  - Criminal Charges

# SNAP Participant Fraud

States investigate recipient fraud

- Examples:
  - Providing false information about identity or income
  - Trafficking in SNAP benefits
- Penalties may include:
  - Disqualification for 12 months/ 24 months / lifetime
  - Repayment of benefits (claims)
  - Financial Penalties
  - Criminal Charges

# Federal Cost Share to SNAP with H.R. 1

- Cost share of SNAP Administration (cost share from 50% state / 50% federal to 75% state / 25% federal)
  - Cost sharing is a condition for participation in SNAP for all 50 states

SFY27	SFY28
\$43.8	\$58M

- Cost share for states with payment error rates exceeding 6%
  - Cost share is based on payment error rate
  - FFY25 – Kentucky current PER is 4%
    - Upcoming state budget there will be no cost share related to the PER for Kentucky

# Kentucky's Payment Error Rate

Projected for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 = 3.9%

- USDA will validate and release official rate in June 2026
- Kentucky has the lowest PER in the Southeast Region
- Kentucky is ranked 4th best in the nation
- Only 10 States and Territories are below 6%

# Funding for Victim's Advocacy Programs

ZeroV

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs & the Rape Crisis Centers  
Children's Advocacy Centers

# ZeroV

- Federal funding to support the operation of domestic violence shelters first became available in 1984.
- ZeroV is the CHFS-designated organization to provide victim services under Kentucky statute (KRS 209A).
- ZeroV-affiliated domestic violence programs provide emergency shelter, crisis intervention, crisis lines, counseling, transportation, transitional housing, and advocacy services to persons that seek emergency shelter and to those in the community.
- In 2017, KRS 403.750 required the Cabinet to establish certification standards for mental health professionals providing court-mandated treatment services for domestic violence offenders.
  - In 2018, CHFS partnered with ZeroV to administer the Batterer Intervention Provider (BIP) certification program.

# Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and Rape Crisis Centers (KASAP)

- The first federal funds that the Cabinet used to support the operations of rape crisis centers became available in 1986 through the mandatory sex offense funds within the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.
- The Cabinet and the general assembly have provided state general funds for the 13 regional RCCs that cover all 120 counties.
- Rape Crisis Centers provide legal advocacy, medical advocacy, crisis hotlines, crisis counseling, behavioral health therapy, and primary prevention services across the Commonwealth.

# Children's Advocacy Centers

- Child Advocacy Centers began as a small number of 3-4 centers in the late 1990's and have expanded to a statewide network.
- In 2013, CHFS began contracting with the state coalition, CAC Kentucky, to administer the funding that flows through the cabinet.
- Provide child-friendly interviews, medical exams, therapy, and advocacy in a coordinated, multi-disciplinary setting.
- Serve as a bridge among law enforcement, social services, legal systems, and mental health providers.

# General Funds for Each Program

Agency	Current Contract Amount
Domestic Violence – Zero V	\$13,912,648.47
Children’s Advocacy Centers	\$10,355,157.35
Rape Crisis Centers	\$7,776,079.10

# Questions?