



Information for Struggling Families about benefits now available to them

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 has changed many things for low income families. Use this list to be sure you get all the help you can. These resources are available to families with no income or modest income.

Monthly Child Care Tax payments:

_____ File a 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe taxes, so you are eligible for the Child Care Tax Credit

Tax Filing Date: May 17, 2021

This will help you to get the 2021 advance monthly payments of up to \$300 per child. You can claim the other half of the payment by filing a 2021 tax return. You may file even if you HAVE NO INCOME in 2021.

You can file a **free** tax return at [TurboTax](#), [My Free Taxes](#), [credit karma](#), [H&R Block](#) online resources. You don't need to pay anyone for this simple tax return.

These tax-filing programs all have both free and other paid choices. The free way of filing will work for what you need.

The tax helpers want you as a future customer. They also get some Federal support for filing simple tax returns. With many filing helpers, you have to make an account before you can find out if you are eligible. The companies safely save your information and will write you in the future (by email) about filing a tax return.

Filing a return will also let you to see if you can get an earned income tax credit for the past three years. It will also make sure you have gotten all the stimulus payments for which you are eligible.

Apply for no-cost medical coverage

Adults: Through August 15

_____ Apply: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/health-insurance-marketplace-glossary/>

For people with income between \$17,430 for a household of 2 (1 child) up to \$43,550 (150% of Federal Poverty Level) – zero cost for the **silver** plan – NO premium.

Higher incomes have major decrease in premium costs.

This goes on through 2022.

The money to pay for your coverage comes as tax credit. If you already have health insurance through the Federal Marketplace, sign in to your account to request this and lower your cost for remainder of the year. This benefit is retroactive, so some of the money will come in a tax refund on income tax return filed for 2021.

Information provided by Kansas Legal Services – www.kansaslegalservices.org

Information is accurate as of 4/28/2021. By necessity, all eligibility criteria for each program are not listed in the summary. For updated information, check <https://bit.ly/32WR2uI>

IF you got any **Unemployment Benefits** in 2021, you are automatically eligible for Zero cost, if you select the silver plan. Anyone who got **Unemployment Benefits** in 2021 can buy health insurance in the marketplace - this coverage will only last for 2021.

If you could be eligible for **COBRA coverage** after leaving a job, you can sign up for COBRA with your former employer for one year or for 60 days after the end of the COVID National Emergency. You can get a tax credit equal to 100% coverage for up to 6 months in 2021, for payments made between 4/1/21 and 9/30/21.

Health Insurance for Children: Health Wave - In Kansas, you may apply for children's health insurance any time. Apply online at <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspspp/>. You can view eligibility, after answering some simple questions and apply online if you are eligible.

Internet (Broadband) program – Please check the FCC website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, often for the latest information. You are eligible if your child gets reduced school lunches, or if you have loss of income due to COVID, or if your 2020 income was below \$99,000. (Not yet available) This will provide free internet for eligible families. You will be able to choose your own provider.

Back rent due or need for future rent:

KERA – Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance - help with paying rent, some utilities, including internet

Up to 12 months of payments (past due rent since April 1, 2020 and future rent)

You must make a joint application with your landlord

Must have had financial hardship due to COVID

Your income now (varies by county) has to be less than about \$40,000. Check on the website for specific information.

Apply here: <https://kera.kshousingcorp.org/kera#/>

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION IN THE TOPEKA AREA, YOU CAN CALL COMMUNITY ACTION AT (785) 836-4500. Trained, professional staff will assist you and/or your landlord at no cost.

SNAP (Food Help)

The amount of benefits for a family are up by 15% through September. This is about \$25 per person per month. Children who would have gotten free or reduced food from schools can get more money on the family SNAP electronic card, if they are not eating at school. This should continue through the summer.

The highest monthly income limit is \$1868 for a family of two, \$2353 for a family of three. The highest benefit is \$374 for a family of two, \$535 a month for a family of three. There are limits on resources (money in the bank, etc.)

Apply: <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspspp/sspNonMed.portal>

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