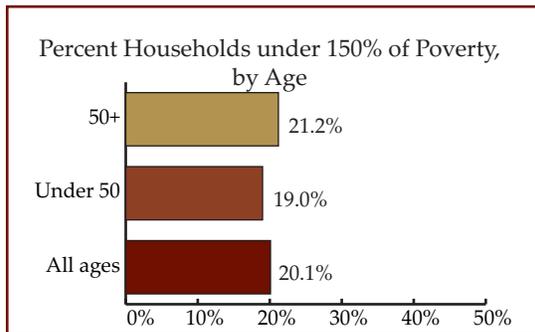


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

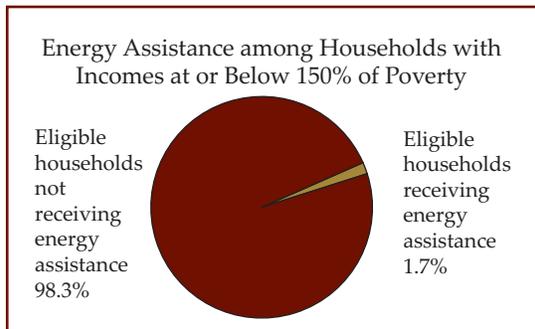
Kansas

Kansas in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	2,764,075
State median income:	\$64,215
Percent households age 50+:	47.3%

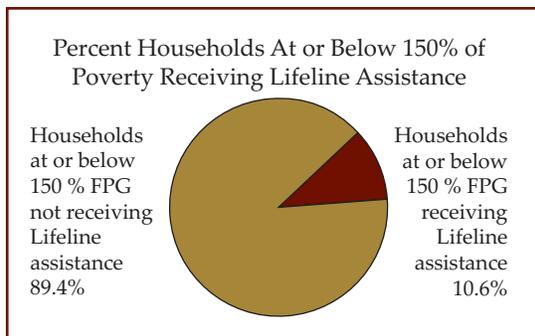


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 94.4%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-Up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in Kansas.

Lifeline

Lifeline provides participating low-income households with a monthly credit toward the price of basic local telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

Maximum monthly credit: \$19.50

Basic federal support: \$8.25

State support: \$9.50

Federal match: \$1.75

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$3,007,822

State: \$1,898,000*

* Source: National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), 2004–2005 Universal Service Funding Mechanism Survey.

The Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF), which is financed by a 4.32% assessment on the intrastate retail revenues of all regulated telecommunications providers, provides the state's contribution (\$3.50 per subscriber) to the Lifeline program. All contributors to the KUSF are permitted to pass on their costs to all non-Lifeline customers as a separate line charge on their monthly bill.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove either that they have household incomes at or below 150% of poverty, or that they are enrolled in any of the following programs:

- Food stamps
- General assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch
- Medicaid
- United Tribes Food Distribution Program

Beneficiaries must recertify with their local telephone provider periodically to remain eligible for this program.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 27,567

Participation rate: 13.3% (based on 150% of the federal poverty guideline)

Link-Up

Qualified customers receive a discount on the price of installing new telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

Link-Up subscribers receive the following:

- A credit of \$30 or a 50% reduction, whichever is less, on the charges customers pay for connecting to new telephone service
- The option of deferring payment on the balance of the connection fee (up to \$200) with no interest charges for a period not to exceed one year

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$68,476

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 3,859

Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance in Kansas includes the following programs:

- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of Kansas with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Kansas distributes payments under two categories of assistance: heating and crisis. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Kansas's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Heating: \$491 maximum per household

Crisis: \$491 maximum per household

Clients receive one benefit a year, which they may elect to split between heating and electric cooling costs. Benefits are paid to the energy provider. Heating and crisis assistance are available between January 15 and March 31 each year.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$29,475,324

Federal: \$29,475,324

Tribal set-aside: \$12,420

Regular net block grant: \$16,678,001

One-time additional net block grant: 10,108,016

Total emergency/cont.: \$923,223

FY2005 carryover funds: \$1,753,664

The Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services uses county branches throughout the state to accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers.

Kansas allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

• Heating assistance:	56%
• Crisis assistance:	19%
• Weatherization:	15%
• Administration, etc.:	10%

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household income at or below 130% of poverty are eligible for assistance.

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Applicants must be responsible for the payment of home heating costs.

Participation (FY2005 est.)

Households served:

Heating: 42,291

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Kansas with a formula distribution grant to help low-income residents—especially those 60 years and older, disabled, or living with young children—increase the energy efficiency of their homes, reduce their energy expenditures, and improve health and safety.

Benefits (FY2006)

Average expenditure per household: \$2,826
Weatherization technicians use energy audits to identify and implement energy-saving measures for each home. Examples of these measures include the following:

- Insulating attics, floors, water heaters, and exposed pipes
- Tuning up, repairing, or replacing the furnace or heating unit and/or air conditioner
- Providing ventilation fans—including electric, attic, ceiling, or whole-house fans—to increase air circulation
- Stopping air infiltration by weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows, replacing broken glass panes, and installing storm windows

Funding (2006)

Total: \$4,921,237

Federal: \$4,921,237

Department of Energy: \$2,427,263

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$2,493,974

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing distributes grants to nine local providers throughout the state, including community action agencies. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility,

and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty or 60% of the state median income, whichever is greater, may qualify for weatherization assistance. Preference is given to households with disabled, older, and/or very young members.

Participation (2006)

Projected households to be served: 1,279

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Seasonal/Deferred Payment

Between November 1 and March 31, Kansas prohibits regulated electric and natural gas utilities from disconnecting service to residential customers for nonpayment unless the National Weather Service forecasts temperatures of above 35°F for the 48-hour period immediately following the proposed disconnection. Customers can avoid disconnection when the temperature is above 35°F during the winter protection period (or at any other time of the year) by paying 1/12 of the amount owed and agreeing to a deferred-payment arrangement to pay the balance within 12 months.

Health

Kansas requires utilities to delay for up to 21 days disconnection of residential service if the customer notifies the utility—and the utility verifies—that such an action would adversely affect his or her health or the health of a permanent household resident. During the 21-day delay, the customer is expected to negotiate a deferred-payment arrangement to pay off the delinquent balance.