



KTAP: BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Kentucky’s basic cash assistance program for families with young children was overhauled in March 2023 to make long-overdue improvements benefitting children and families across the commonwealth. These changes in the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) included a large increase to the benefit amount, modest increases to eligibility levels, the repeal of outdated penalties for two-parent households, reduced “benefits cliffs” and substantial work supports.

MANY WHO WERE NOT ELIGIBLE IN RECENT YEARS MAY NOW BE

Income eligibility limits were increased by 20%, and the benefit levels were doubled. While each remain very low, they do provide more opportunity for basic cash assistance (since the last increase in 1995).

KTAP'S ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS INCREASED IN 2023 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES

NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS	MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME LIMIT	PAYMENT MONTHLY MAXIMUM
1	\$890	\$372
2	\$1,021	\$450
3	\$1,169	\$524
4	\$1,315	\$656
5	\$1,462	\$766
6	\$1,608	\$864
7+	\$1,754	\$964

WHAT ELSE HAS IMPROVED?

WORKING FAMILIES KEEP THEIR BENEFITS WHILE EARNING MORE

- Working participants keep more of the benefit as they earn more income for the first 12 months

CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY THAT KEPT FAMILIES FROM QUALIFYING IN THE PAST HAVE ALSO IMPROVED

- The cap on the value of things like bank accounts, family land, second family cars etc. while still being otherwise eligible was raised from \$2,000 to \$10,000.
- The outdated “two-parent penalty” known as “deprivation factors” that required parents be somehow unable to provide for the family was eliminated.

INCREASED WORK SUPPORTS

- Car repair assistance up to \$3,000 a year per household
- Transportation benefit is a maximum of \$300 per month
- Working parents can receive financial help with required fees needed for a job of up to \$400-per-fee
- KTAP participating families who have to move for a new job can receive up to \$1,500 for moving expenses
- Other covered work related expenses include uniforms, interview outfits or tools of \$600 per year

PARENTS PARTICIPATING IN KTAP MUST MEET SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CRITERIA:

- Must work or complete other work-related activities
- Must allow the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) to track their employment and other work preparation activities.
- Single parents must cooperate with Child Support Enforcement to find their child(ren)'s absent parent in order to collect child support and forward any child support payments to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

FAMILIES CAN APPLY FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS:

THERE IS A 60 MONTH LIFETIME LIMIT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN KTAP

1

Apply for KTAP online.

Start your KTAP application today at kynect.ky.gov

2

Apply via phone.

Call **1-855-306-8959** to speak with a caseworker

3

Fill out the application at home.

Mail, fax, or hand deliver an application to your local **DCBS office**

4

Apply in-person.

Visit your local **DCBS office**

ELIGIBLE FOR KTAP BUT DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Some eligible families can get one-time financial assistance through "FAST" as an alternative

A larger, one-time benefit of \$2,600 may be more useful than smaller, continued payments for some families. The Family Assistance Short Term (FAST) benefit can be used to repair a car, pay for unsubsidized child care, cover utilities, make a housing payment or purchase some items used for employment.