

EES Policy No. 23-01-02	RE: COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Allotment Termination
Policy Memo	Contact Persons: Sarah van Straaten
From: Sandra Kimmons	KEESM Reference:
Date: 01/17/2023	Other:
Primary DCF Areas Affected: Food Assistance	Where Posted on Web: http://content.dcf.ks.gov/ees/KEESM/Policy_Memo/policy_memo_list.htm

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 allowed for the issuance of emergency allotment (EA) supplemental payments when there is a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to the outbreak of COVID-19, and a state has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration. On December 29, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Division HH, Title IV, Section 503(b), of the Act ends Food Assistance EA that was provided by Section 2302(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

The law terminates Food Assistance EA after the issuance of February 2023 and states are not allowed to issue Food Assistance EA for benefit month March 2023. Kansas issues Food Assistance EA the month after the benefit month and this may continue. In other words, the last Food Assistance EA benefit for February 2023 will be issued in March 2023. This will be the last Food Assistance EA payment households will receive.

Mass Change Notification:

All active Food Assistance households will receive the below “Important Information about your Food Assistance Benefits” notification via mail correspondence. These notices are scheduled to start issuing to households beginning January 26, 2023.

Important Information about your Food Assistance Benefits

This letter is to inform you that the Emergency Food Assistance allotment will end February 2023. This means that the last Emergency Food Assistance allotment for February 2023 will be issued March 2023.

Why is the Emergency Food Assistance allotment ending?

Congress temporarily increased Food Assistance benefits because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. This means you have been getting more benefits on your Kansas Benefit Card each month than you normally would. Because the COVID-19 situation has improved, Emergency Food Assistance allotment will end with the last issuance in March 2023. The Kansas Department for Children and Families does not have any control over this change.

For more information on Food Assistance eligibility and benefits, please visit our website www.dcf.ks.gov.

What do you need to do?

We are just letting you know that the Emergency Food Assistance allotment is ending. You will continue to receive Food Assistance until the end of your approval period as long as you are eligible. When you need to report a change or reapply for a new approval period, we will give you another notice with instructions on how to do so.

How do you check the Food Assistance balance on your Kansas Benefit Card?

To check the balance on your Kansas Benefit Card, you can call the phone number listed on the back of your Kansas Benefit Card. Remember the last Emergency Food Assistance allotment will be issued March 2023.

What do I do if I have other questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at (888)369-4777.

Amazon Connect will have the following messaging:

- “We are just letting you know that the Emergency Food Assistance allotment is ending, because the COVID-19 situation has improved, Emergency Food Assistance allotment will end with the last issuance in March 2023. “

Fair Hearing Requests:

If a household request a fair hearing for Food Assistance EA for no other reason but to dispute the EA ending, which states were instructed to do, then Motion to Dismiss can be used.