

# LINC Commission Meeting

January 28, 2019



William L. Fambrough



Hazel Browne Williams



John F. Ramos Jr.



Lena Rivers Smith



Harold L. Holliday Sr.



Rosie Mason

## Kansas City Black History 2019

During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, African Americans in Kansas City fought with others across the country for full political, social, and economic rights. Empowered by political groups such as Freedom, Inc., local black activists championed legislation for public accommodations and fair housing and demanded equal education and employment. "There are two things we should all care about," the late civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer once said. "Never forget where you came from, and always praise the bridges that carried us over." In their own ways, and in their respective fields, the six African Americans celebrated on these pages made their marks and served as "bridges" – breaking down barriers in Kansas City, elevating and inspiring an entire community. We honor their achievements and those of dozens of other individuals spotlighted in past editions of Kansas City Black History.



# Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

## Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

## Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

## Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 | 4 – 6 pm  
Kauffman Foundation  
4801 Rockhill Rd.  
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

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## Agenda

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- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
  - a. **Approval November 2018 minutes (motion)**
- III. LINC in Photos (2018)
- IV. Point in Time Count
  - a. John Tramel (Drumm Farm Center for Children)
- V. Superintendent Reports
- VI. Fort Osage Update: Early Learning Center
  - a. Dr. Jason Snodgrass (superintendent)
- VII. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - a. Impact of Government Shutdown on Food Stamps
- VIII. Report Out
  - a. Dominic's Day
  - b. Onward Update
  - c. Girls Chess Tournament (Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>)
- IX. Adjournment



## THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – NOV. 19, 2018

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Sharon Cheers  
Tom Davis  
Aaron Deacon  
David Disney  
Rob Givens

Anita Gorman  
Tom Lewin  
David Ross  
Marge Williams

*Minutes of the Oct. 22, 2018, LINC Commission meeting were approved.*

LINC Treasurer **David Ross** introduced **Rachel Dwiggin**s of BKD who reported on BKD's work with LINC staff and the Finance Committee to produce the annual LINC financial audit. The auditors delivered an unmodified opinion on the financial audit, and on the single audit found no material weaknesses related to financial controls.

*A motion to accept the fiscal year 2017 audit as presented was passed unanimously.*

### Superintendent Reports

- **Christina Medina**, Director of Public Relations (Center School District), reported the district, along with the Hickman Mills and Kansas City school district, is partnering with KCATA to provide high school students with free bus passes to allow them to travel to jobs and to visit family members. The district is also partnering with Sprint to provide internet hotspots at the homes of students' families who lack internet access. Center High School recently hosted math relays. The district found that student mobility has an effect on student achievement for up to two years.
- **Steve Morgan**, Asst. Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported the new district stadium won an ADC Excellence in Construction Award. The new district Early Childhood Center ribbon cutting is scheduled for Jan. 2, 2019, at 4 p.m. **Kim Menezes** was recognized as Missouri Art Educator of the Year. The district's Every Minute Matters initiative emphasizes the importance of good attendance as an important habit for life beyond school.
- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), reported two Ruskin High School students received Wendy's High School Heisman Scholarships. The district is working to increase student use of free bus passes through the new partnership with KCATA. District and building leadership participated in a recent racial equity summit. District leaders are mentoring students on a monthly basis. Ruskin ROTC hosted a Veteran's Day breakfast. Smith-Hale Middle School students presented at a recent Project Lead the Way Summit.
- **Kevin Foster**, Executive Director (Genesis School), reported the Genesis community Thanksgiving celebration has been postponed due to a sprinkler malfunction. He thanked LINC for its help promoting reading events such as the Let's Read program and Family Literacy Night.
- **Bob Bartman**, Director (Education Policy Fellowship Program), reported this year's fellows completed their third seminar last week, with political consultant **Roy Temple**, school board lobbyist **Steve Carrell**, and Mo. State Rep. **Judy Morgan**. Next month the seminar will focus on communications.

LINC Deputy Director-Community Engagement **Brent Schondelmeyer** introduced a discussion of Onward, a new employee benefit providing the ability to take out small-dollar loans while building

savings and increasing financial literacy. A video overview of the Onward program was shown. Onward CEO **Ronnie Washington** gave a presentation on the genesis of Onward and on opportunities for funding of the program from Stanford University, Met Life, J.P. Morgan Chase, BlackRock Financial, and the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation. **Joe Poxsin**, owner of PRIER Products, Inc., reported on the introduction of Onward at the Grandview-based manufacturing company; the company is expanding the program after a successful pilot. Schondelmeyer reported LINC plans to offer Onward to part time staff beginning in January 2019. Discussion followed.

**Tom Esselman** of Connecting for Good reported on the organization's partnership with United Way of Greater Kansas City to provide volunteer tax preparation assistance to low-income families through the VITA program. Last year Connecting for Good helped 8,000 receive \$5 million in tax refunds at one VITA location; this year the group will coordinate assistance at all area VITA sites.

Craft introduced a video from the United Way's recent Chronic Absenteeism summit featuring keynote speaker **Hedy Chang** of Attendance Works, who spoke on the need for a new attendance paradigm and to invest in prevention and early intervention. Discussion followed.

LINC Caring Communities Administrator **Sean Akridge** reported on LINC's participation in October's national Lights On Afterschool celebration. LINC and its partners used the event to showcase opportunities children have in afterschool programs. A video slideshow featuring events at several LINC program locations was shown.

Craft invited attendees to the LINC Open House to view the remodeled office. The event is scheduled for Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.



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SERVICES**

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## **Youth Street Outreach Program**

The Youth Street Outreach Program is a collaboration between reStart, Synergy Services, and Drumm Farm. We provide case management, resources, and referrals for homeless and at-risk youth ages 12-21. We assist with obtaining ID docs, shelter, employment, transportation, food, clothing, hygiene items, and securing stable housing. We also provide drop-in groups at schools, libraries and community centers. In addition, all agencies provide clinical services for youth and work with community mental health agencies to address psychiatric and other significant mental health needs. For more information:

<b><u>Street Outreach Cell</u></b>	<b><u>Outreach Johnson Co</u></b>	<b><u>Safe Place / Synergy</u></b>	<b><u>Drumm Farm</u></b>	<b><u>reStart Youth Shelter</u></b>
816-204-6747	913-295-7067	816-741-8700	816-373-3434	816-309-9048

## **Point-In-Time Count**

Point in Time Count: a national annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness on the street, in shelters, and in places not meant for human habitation such as cars and abandoned buildings. HUD requires all communities that receive HUD funding to participate in the count and uses this data to as part of the decision on how much funding each community receives. The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness is Jackson & Wyandotte Counties' Continuum of Care and coordinates the Point in Time Count.

In addition to the data required by HUD, Kansas City also collects additional data on youth experiencing homelessness, including those outside of the HUD definition who are staying place to place ("couch surfing"), "Unaccompanied Youth" includes underage youth and young adults up to age 24. We hope to use this data not only to prove the need for youth-specific HUD funding but also non-HUD shelter & housing programs for unaccompanied youth.

**Point-In-Time Count Survey Link:**

[https://ica.formstack.com/forms/kcstreet\\_2019](https://ica.formstack.com/forms/kcstreet_2019)

# Teacher layoffs, school closings planned for cash-strapped Hickman Mills district

A budget snafu, on top of decades of declining enrollment and overspending, is forcing the Hickman Mills school district to cut \$5.5 million — reductions that could include closing some schools and laying off teachers and staff, officials say.

Administrators will present a partial plan to the school board Jan. 17, explaining their first steps to reduce spending. So far, administrators say, [they have come up with a plan to nickel and dime their way to saving about \\$3.2 million](#) by restructuring programs, reducing transportation and cutting back on travel and supplies.

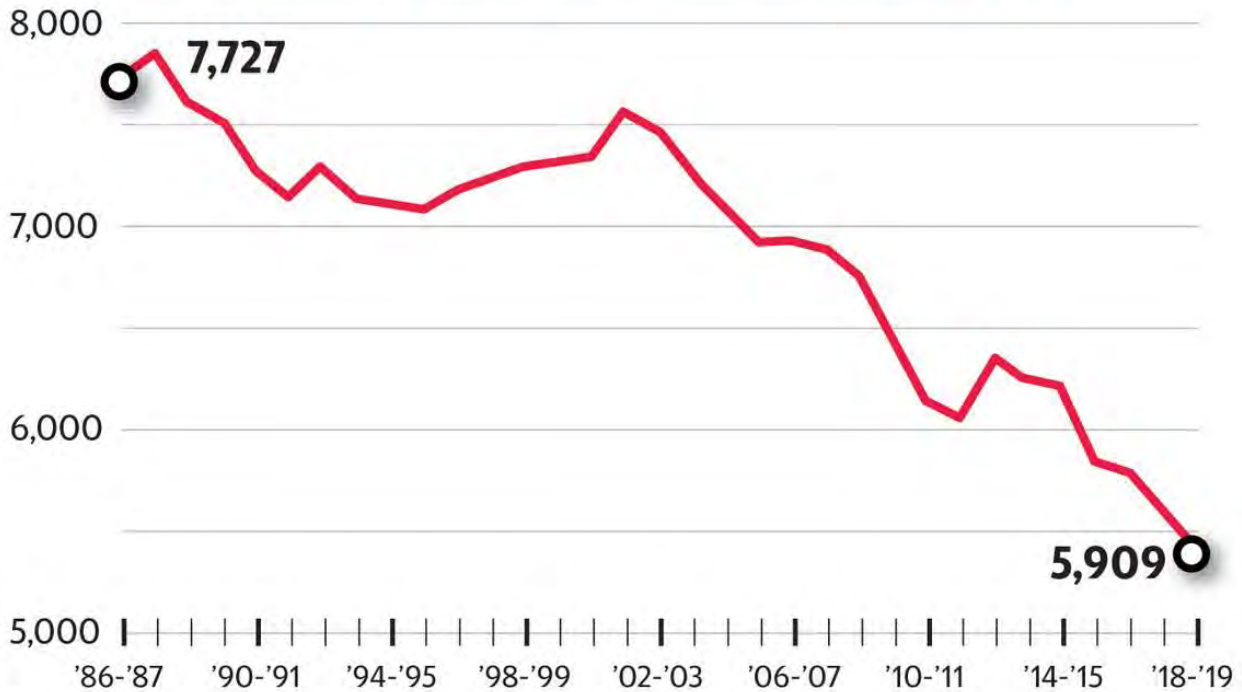
“But we still have work to do,” said Superintendent Yolanda Cargile.

Administrators are studying enrollment at each building so that in February they can present the school board with the remaining proposed budget cuts, which will likely involve plans for closing some schools and consolidating or laying off teachers and staff.

“Nothing is off the table,” Cargile said. “We want answers and we want to be able to give answers. The sooner we get information out the better it is for our staff.”

Several factors led to the dire budget straits.

## Hickman Mills school enrollment, pre-K-12



Source: Hickman Mills school district

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Perhaps most notable: a mix-up on the 2017 property tax valuation of the new Cerner campus near Bannister Road and Interstate 435. The complex was constructed with incentives from the [Kansas City Tax Increment Financing Commission](#), freeing the company from paying tax on the buildings for 23 years. Without the tax incentive, the complex would have been valued at \$40 million. But in reality, it is taxed at a value of only \$7 million.

But Jackson County officials mistakenly figured the district would receive revenues on the full \$40 million, so Hickman Mills set a low tax levy, according to Shelley Wiltsey, district director of business and finance. She said that even after the problem was discovered and the district was allowed to raise its levy to recoup some money, revenues were still short some \$600,000.

Jackson County officials did not respond this week to The Star’s questions about the property tax valuation mix-up.

Compounding that problem, for years Hickman Mills has been spending more than it was bringing in and dipping into its reserve funds, administrators told The



Star. The state recommends districts keep 24 percent of the total budget in reserve, enough to cover expenses for three months. But this school year, the reserve dropped to 8.5 percent, considered dangerously low. If a district's reserves drop to 3 percent the state takes over.

Wiltsey said that if Hickman Mills did nothing and continued at its current spending, "we would be at 3 percent in three years."

On top of that, the district has seen a continued drop in enrollment, meaning a drop in per-pupil dollars from the state.

"As our enrollment declines, our state funding declines," Cargile said.

Enrollment for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade has dropped from 7,727 students in 1986 to 5,909 today, according to a recent demographic study commissioned by the district. The district lost an average of 72 students a year for the last 30 years. In some years the drop was as many as 300 students, according to the study. Under the state's per-pupil allotment, a loss of 72 students equates to about \$347,250.

School officials said they see no evidence of any halt in the decline in the near future. If the decline continues at its current rate, the study said, the district's enrollment could drop to 4,500 students if not lower — about the size of two large high schools — in 10 years.

Another threat to district enrollment comes in the form of [two public charter schools](#) — one an all-boys college preparatory elementary-level academy, the other an elementary school. They have been proposed to open in the district sometime in the next two years, potentially pulling even more students from district classrooms.

While district leaders navigate through financial turbulence, they also have to focus on student achievement and district performance. Hickman Mills, like Kansas City Public Schools, has been working toward regaining full accreditation from the state. Both are now provisionally accredited, based on previous Annual Performance Reports, which show how public schools measure up in several areas, including student achievement, attendance and graduation rates. The state will release its latest reports in February.

"Our priority goal in all of this is to keep our priority on students," Cargile said. "So as much as we can reduce our budget, we don't want to reduce anything that is going to impact their learning. That is why it looks like we are nickel-and-

diming.” She said school officials are looking for savings in the corners of district operations and “trying to stay as far away as we can from impacting students.”

One savings option is to expand the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics program and the project-based learning program that Hickman Mills offers in only two schools. If the district blends those programs into the curriculum at every elementary school, students would no longer need to be bused from their home schools, saving thousands in transportation costs.

The school board expects to review a preliminary budget proposal at its next meeting, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 in the Administration Center, 9000 Old Santa Fe Road. The public is invited to offer input at what the district is calling a “Shaping Our Future” meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 30 at Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111 St. The board expects to vote on a final plan in February.

# Low-income families in Kansas City could see food stamps cut if shutdown continues

BY THE KANSAS CITY STAR EDITORIAL BOARD

The unintended consequences of the partial [federal government shutdown](#) will leave some low-income folks struggling to feed their families if the impasse doesn't end soon.

The deadline for food stamps recipients in [Kansas](#) and [Missouri](#) to receive their benefits for February was Sunday. The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) informed states that February food stamps payments for [SNAP](#), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, needed to be issued early due to the shutdown.

Low-income households will suffer the most. Their food [benefits](#) could be cut back considerably in March and then eliminated altogether in April if the shutdown continues, according to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#).

No family should go hungry in this country. But those in need could become collateral damage if the government remains shuttered and the philanthropic community can't fill the void.

"Everyone is operating on a wing and a prayer right now," said [Kathleen Kennedy](#) of faith-based [Bishop Sullivan Center](#), a household assistance organization that serves the Kansas City area. "You can't do what you need to do without eating. We are day to day, but we will do what we need to do to help families."

The organization and other food pantries will need an influx of volunteers, food and monetary donations if the shutdown continues.

Lawanna Duke, a 43-year-old food stamp recipient from Kansas City, Kan., is leaning on prayer to fight through the uncertainty of what lies ahead.

"Don't fight; don't cry; lift your head to the sky," Duke said.

She expressed frustration with President Donald Trump's emphatic [stance](#) on erecting a wall to protect the southern border of the country.

"Donald Trump doesn't run this world. My God does," Duke said.

Faith aside — and it's going take faith and more to help cash-strapped families put food on the table — recipients will be forced to budget their combined benefits until the standoff is over. That is a daunting prospect for those with no financial cushion.

"I just pray for the families with kids," Duke said.

Many in Kansas and Missouri were already struggling to pay for basic necessities.

In Kansas, more than 72 percent of [SNAP participants](#) are in families with children, a Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis found. Almost 34 percent are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities. More than 49 percent are in working families.

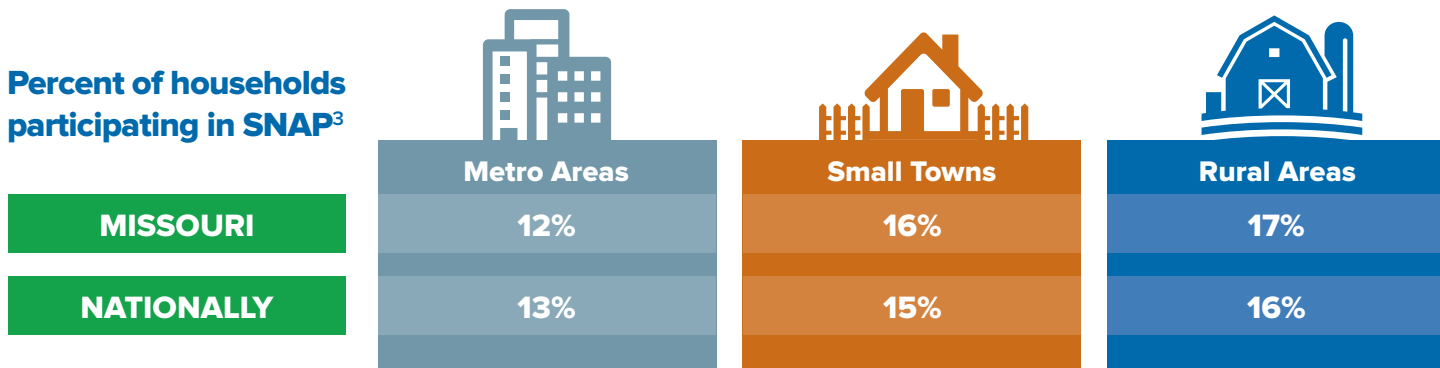
More than 13 percent of households in Kansas were labeled “food insecure,” or struggling to afford a nutritious diet. The [numbers](#) are similar in Missouri. Nearly 13 percent of Missouri households were labeled food insecure.

Food stamps don’t come close to covering the costs of a family’s groceries. But they are a lifeline for those who are trying to patch together a way to feed their families each day.

Some of the most vulnerable among us will need financial support in the coming weeks, and perhaps months. If Washington politicians can’t find a way to do the right thing and reopen the government, our Kansas City community will need to help fill in this gap.

### In Missouri

- SNAP reaches 375,465 households with 802,857 individuals in an average month (FY 2016).<sup>1</sup>
- SNAP helps 1 in 6 rural and small town households, and 1 in 8 households in metro areas afford healthy, nutritious meals.<sup>2</sup>

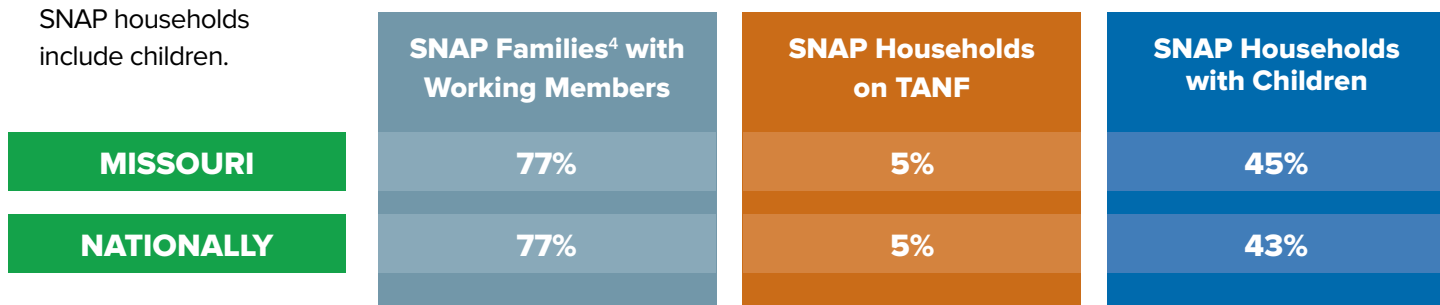


<sup>1</sup>USDA, Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2016.

<sup>2</sup>For the purpose of this analysis, “**Metro Areas**” are metropolitan statistical areas as delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), each of which contains at least one Census Bureau-delineated urbanized area of 50,000 or more people; “**Small Towns**” are micropolitan statistical areas as delineated by OMB, each containing at least one Census Bureau-delineated urban cluster of between 10,000 and 50,000 people; and “**Rural Areas**” are non-metropolitan and non-micropolitan areas.

<sup>3</sup>American Community Survey 2016 five-year estimates (2012-2016).

- More than three-quarters (77%) of SNAP families had at least one working member in the past 12 months.
- A very small number (5% or 19,000) of SNAP households were on TANF, making SNAP a critical safety net for families with children.
- More than 2 in 5 SNAP households include children.



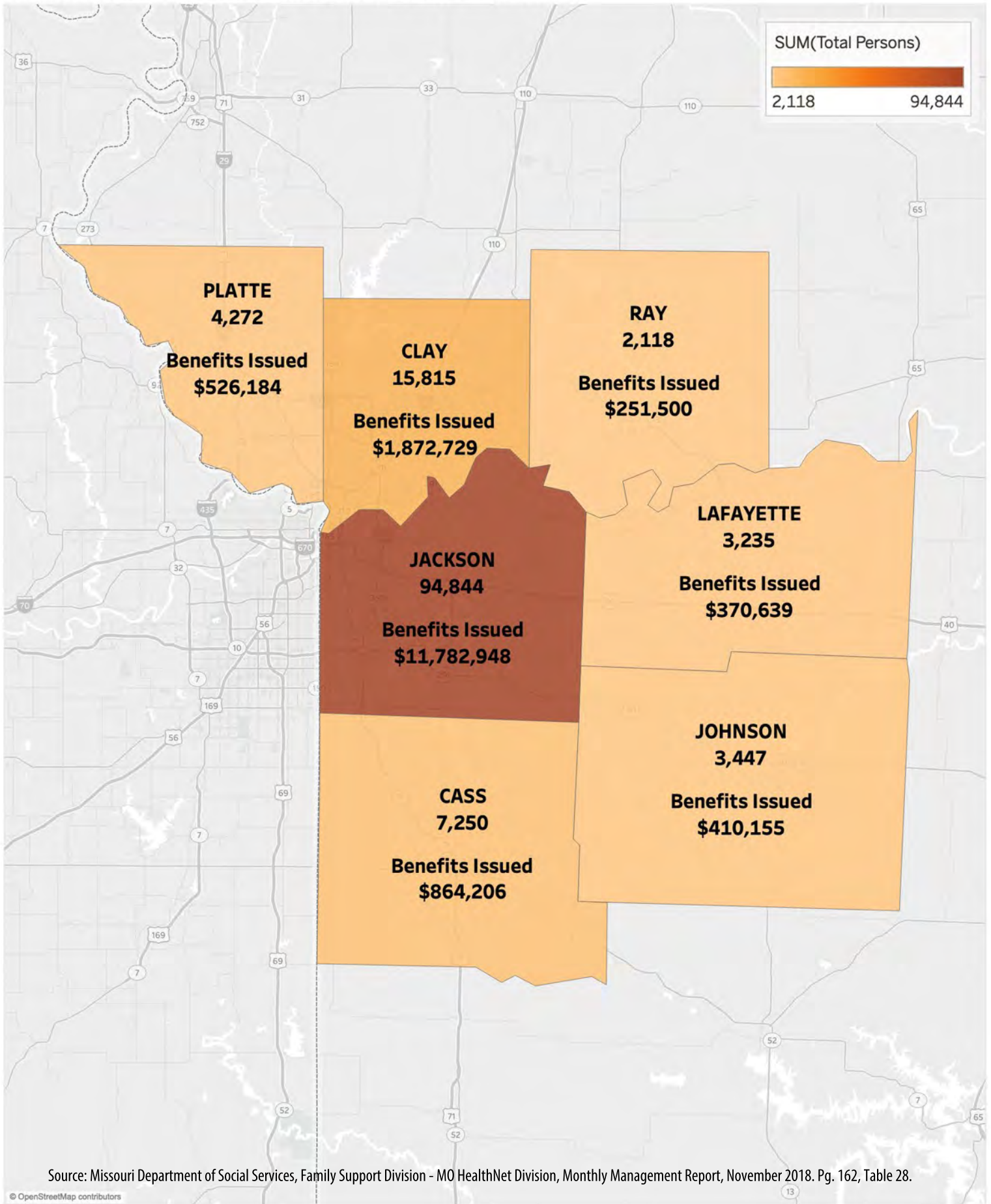
Source for working families data: American Community Survey 2016 five-year estimates (2012-2016).

Source for TANF and children data: USDA, Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2016.

<sup>4</sup>Based on the Census Bureau definition, **family** consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

FRAC analysis in collaboration with Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, PhD, RD, Professor, Arizona State University

Kansas City Area - Total Persons Receiving SNAP - Nov. 2018



Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division - MO HealthNet Division, Monthly Management Report, November 2018. Pg. 162, Table 28.

© OpenStreetMap contributors



# Important Update For Food Stamp Recipients



## Due to the partial federal government shutdown:

- You will get your February Food Stamp benefit in January.
- You will NOT get a Food Stamp benefit in February.

## Will I receive Food Stamp benefits in future months?

At this time we do not know if Food Stamp benefits for future months will be available.

## What can you do for your family?

- Carefully spend your Food Stamp benefit so that your food supply will last.
- Reach out to your local food bank or contact the Family Support Division for help locating other resources.

## Questions?

You can contact us at 1-855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636) or visit your local FSD Resource Center for help.



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January 22, 2019

## Many SNAP Households Will Experience Long Gap Between Monthly Benefits Even if Shutdown Ends

By Dorothy Rosenbaum

The Administration and states' efforts to issue February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamp) benefits early<sup>1</sup> to avoid deep benefit cuts in that month that might otherwise have occurred as a result of the partial government shutdown have created a new problem: a lengthy delay between February benefits (which most beneficiaries received by January 20) and March benefits. About 15 million households, which include about 30 million people, could experience a gap between monthly SNAP payments of more than 40 days. More than 4 million low-income households, including 8 million people, could experience a gap of *more than 50 days*.<sup>2</sup>

Even if the shutdown is resolved in time for the government to provide full March SNAP benefits on time, the much longer than usual gap between benefit receipt for February and March will cause some households whose budgets already are extremely tight to face heightened difficulties affording food, as they await their March benefits. In turn, this will place additional strain on the emergency food network and other community resources, which already are stretched.

### Most Households Receiving February SNAP Benefits in January; March SNAP Benefits Remain Uncertain and at Risk

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on January 8 that it would work with states to pay the vast majority of February SNAP benefits early, by January 20, to ensure that SNAP has the funding to stay open through February 2019. Despite the operational challenges of this approach, it appears that every state was able to issue benefits early, and in combination with SNAP's

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<sup>1</sup> Dorothy Rosenbaum, "USDA to Fund SNAP for February 2019, But Millions Face Cuts if Shutdown Continues," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated January 10, 2019, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/usda-to-fund-snap-for-february-2019-but-millions-face-cuts-if-shutdown>.

<sup>2</sup> Based on CBPP analysis of state SNAP participation and issuance schedules. For these estimates, we assume 85 to 90 percent of SNAP's February benefits were included in the early issuance. We also assume that all states made the early issuance on January 20. Since many states paid some or all of their SNAP issuance for February before January 20, the figures in this paper could *underestimate* the number of days between issuances for many households.

contingency reserve, there will be sufficient federal funding to cover all February SNAP benefits as a result.<sup>3</sup>

These recent actions that USDA and states have taken protect millions of low-income households — including millions of poor children, parents, elderly people, and people with disabilities — from having their basic food assistance cut back substantially in February. If the shutdown continues, however, the availability of March (and future months’) SNAP benefits remains very much in question. With a continuing shutdown, USDA would have to issue additional guidance to states explaining whether it has other options available to cover all of March benefits, or if not, how deep a benefit cut will be required in March and how states should implement it.<sup>4</sup>

Ending the shutdown, and funding and reopening the Agriculture Department and other parts of the government that now are shuttered, would be the best way to avoid cutting millions of households’ SNAP food assistance. For the remainder of this paper, we assume that SNAP will receive funding so that full SNAP benefits can continue in March and subsequent months — an assumption that is far from assured.

## **Many Households Will Have a Long SNAP Benefit Gap Even if the Shutdown Ends**

Even if SNAP receives funding to continue in March, the measures that the Administration and states took to protect SNAP in February could, for many households, create a much longer period of time between SNAP benefits than the usual 28- to 31-day cycle.<sup>5</sup> That’s because February benefits were issued at least ten days earlier than usual and most states stagger the issuance of SNAP benefits throughout much of the month, with some household regularly receiving their benefits in the latter part of the month.

Some states may be able to adjust their March issuance schedules to partly address this issue, but if all states paid February SNAP benefits on January 20 and don’t make changes to their March issuance schedules, we estimate that about 90 percent of SNAP households that receive ongoing SNAP benefits — about 15 million low-income households — will experience a more than 40-day gap between issuances. Almost 60 percent will experience a gap of more than 45 days, and 25 percent will experience more than a 50-day gap (see Figure 1).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Based on news reports and information from state officials and non-profit organizations. We are not aware of any states that did not make the early issuance.

<sup>4</sup> Under some legal interpretations, SNAP may have a permanent appropriation under the Food and Nutrition Act, or there may be other funding available for SNAP. See <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SNAP-Govt-Shutdown-Memo-Jan-2019.pdf>. Alternatively, Congress could conceivably provide additional appropriations for SNAP while a shutdown continues, though that seems unlikely at present. The analysis set out in this report describes how the Administration is expected to proceed if it does not adopt the legal interpretation that SNAP has a permanent appropriation or determine there is additional funding for another reason.

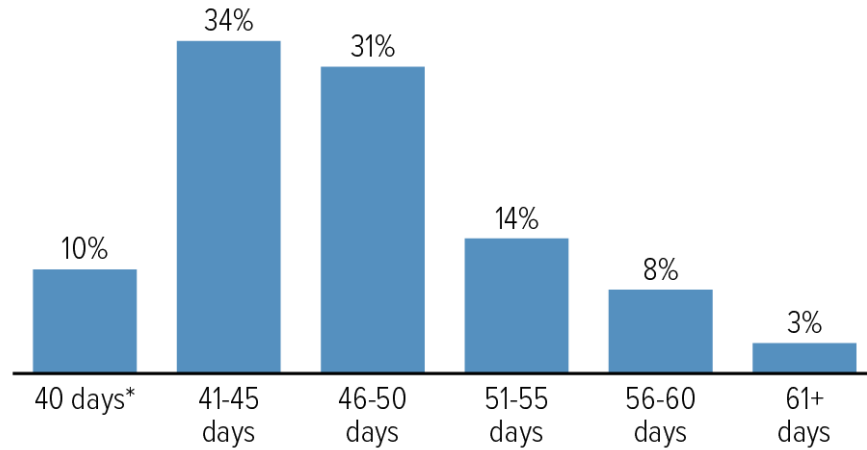
<sup>5</sup> USDA’s January 14, 2019 guidance makes clear that if the shutdown is resolved USDA will not reverse the early February issuance it set in motion on January 8. USDA’s guidance on Food and Nutrition Service programs during the shutdown can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/FY19Lapse>.

<sup>6</sup> Not all SNAP households receive ongoing benefits, so not all households’ benefits were included in the January 20 early issuance. This is because, for example, some households have newly applied or will apply in the days and weeks after January 20, 2019, and others may have been due for a regular reassessment of their eligibility that was not

FIGURE 1

## Due to Shutdown, Most SNAP Households Face Lengthy Gap Between Benefits

Share of ongoing SNAP households, by number of days between February and March issuances



\*This gap will occur in the seven states that issue all SNAP on the first day of the month and in other states that issue a portion on the first.

Notes: States issued February SNAP benefits in January to avoid benefit cuts that would have resulted from the partial government shutdown. The figures assume that states issued February SNAP benefits on January 20, the shutdown ends in time for the government to issue full March SNAP benefits on time, and states do not change their March issuance schedules. The gaps between receiving benefits may be longer because many states issued their February SNAP benefits a few days before January 20 and because there is no guarantee the shutdown will end soon. Gaps could be somewhat shorter if states make changes to their March issuance schedules. These figures do not include households whose eligibility had not been determined before January 20 and those that were due to be reassessed in January but the reassessment was not completed in time.

Source: CBPP analysis of state SNAP participation and issuance schedules from the Department of Agriculture

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

States have long had the option to pay SNAP benefits to different SNAP households on different days of the month. Spreading payments across multiple days evens state workloads across the month and helps to ensure that retailers that participate in SNAP do not face a severe increase in demand for food and staffing on the day that SNAP benefits become available. Any given household, however, must receive its SNAP benefits on or about the same day of the month, usually resulting in only 28 to 31 days between SNAP issuance dates. Only seven states issue SNAP to all households in the state on the first day of the month. Most others spread issuance out, often over

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completed in time to include their benefits in the early issuance. Based on SNAP application patterns and consultation with several state officials and other experts, we assume that about 85 to 90 percent of SNAP's February allotment was included in early issuance that occurred by January 20. We refer in this paper to households receiving the early issuance as "ongoing SNAP households."

ten or 20 days, and usually based on households' Social Security or case numbers or the first letter of the head of household's last name.<sup>7</sup>

In fact, SNAP law requires that “no household experience an interval between issuances of more than 40 days.”<sup>8</sup> It is not clear whether USDA will waive this requirement in response to the unusual circumstances resulting from the shutdown — as seems likely — or whether the agency will require states to develop an alternative issuance schedule to avoid gaps of longer than 40 days.<sup>9</sup> One possibility would be for states to change March issuance to occur on March 1, and to stagger the adjustment back to households' normal issuance cycle over several months, as needed to stay within the 40-day maximum interval between issuances.

### Households in Almost All States Will See Gaps Longer Than 40 Days

The length of the gaps between February and March issuances will vary by state, but as Figure 1 shows, the vast majority will be longer than 40 days.

- **States where *all* households will have 40 days between SNAP issuances:** Seven states, accounting for about 2 percent of SNAP issuances nationally, issue SNAP benefits to all households on the first day of the month. In these states, the gap for ongoing SNAP households that received the early February issuance on January 20 would be exactly 40 days, as households would receive their March benefits on March 1.<sup>10</sup> Those states are: Alaska, Guam, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virgin Islands.
- **States where households will have 40-49 days between SNAP issuances:** Another 21 states issue all (or almost all) of their ongoing SNAP benefits within the first ten days of the month. In these states, SNAP households will experience a 40- to 49-day gap in benefits. Those states are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
- **States where some households will have 50 days or more between SNAP issuances:** About half the states have some households that will have more than 50 days between SNAP issuances if the states do not change their issuance schedules. (See Table 1 for a list of the states.) In states that issue some SNAP benefits for ongoing SNAP households after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month, those households will have at least a 50-day gap; households that typically receive their benefits after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month will have a gap of 55 days or more. These households account for much of these states' ongoing SNAP benefits: *in 17 states, 50 percent or more of benefits will be issued with at least a 50-day gap.*

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<sup>7</sup> Each state's issuance schedule can be found at <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/Monthly-Issuance-Schedule-All-States.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Section 7(g)(2)(A), 7 U.S.C. 2016(g)(2)(A).

<sup>9</sup> In response to a question about whether USDA will waive the 40-day limit between issuances, USDA responded, “Once the early issuance is completed, FNS expects to work closely with our State agency partners to mitigate these challenges and develop solutions that balance effective program administration with meeting the needs of the households we serve.” See <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/EarlyIssuanceStateQAEmail1-14-19.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> The number of days would be exactly 40 if the state issued February benefits on January 20, the last day available for early issuance. Many states reportedly issued February benefits a few days earlier, which would result in a several day longer period of time between issuances.

TABLE 1

## SNAP Households in Some States Face a 50-Day or Longer Gap in Benefits as a Result of the Shutdown's Early February Issuance

State	Share of State's Ongoing SNAP Issued:		State's Share of Total SNAP Issued:	
	After 10th day (50+ day gap)	After 15th day (55+ day gap)	After 10th day (50+ day gap)	After 15th day (55+ day gap)
Alabama	65%	40%	4%	6%
Arizona	25%	0%	2%	0%
Arkansas	30%	0%	1%	0%
Delaware	65%	50%	1%	1%
Florida	65%	45%	18%	30%
Georgia	70%	40%	8%	11%
Indiana	70%	40%	3%	4%
Kentucky	50%	20%	2%	2%
Louisiana	40%	0%	3%	0%
Maine	80%	0%	1%	0%
Maryland	65%	40%	4%	6%
Massachusetts	30%	0%	2%	0%
Michigan	60%	30%	7%	8%
Minnesota	30%	0%	1%	0%
Mississippi	60%	35%	2%	3%
Missouri	55%	33%	3%	4%
New Mexico	50%	25%	2%	2%
New York	15%	0%	4%	0%
North Carolina	60%	30%	6%	7%
Ohio	50%	30%	6%	8%
South Carolina	50%	20%	3%	2%
Tennessee	50%	25%	4%	5%
Texas	40%	0%	11%	0%
Utah	67%	0%	1%	0%
Wisconsin	40%	0%	2%	0%
<b>U.S. Total<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: CBPP analysis of state SNAP participation and issuance schedules from the Department of Agriculture.

Note: These figures do not include households whose eligibility had not been determined before January 20 and those that were due to be reassessed in January but the reassessment was not completed in time.

<sup>a</sup> The U.S. total includes the states not shown in the table.

### Long Period Between SNAP Issuances Will Cause Hardship for Some SNAP Households

Assuming SNAP has full funding to continue in March, SNAP households should have available the same total amount of SNAP benefits over the three-month period (January through March) that

they otherwise would have. However, the change in the timing of February’s issuance and the long interval between January 20 and a March SNAP issuance is likely to cause hardship for some households and, as a result, increase the demands for emergency food assistance and other community services.

It’s well documented that SNAP benefits normally run out for most households before the end of the month. Within a week of receiving SNAP, households redeem over half of their SNAP allotments. By the end of the second week, SNAP households have redeemed over three-quarters of their benefits, and by the end of the third week they have redeemed 90 percent.<sup>11</sup>

SNAP benefits are not intended to cover the entire month for most households. The SNAP benefit formula assumes that families will spend 30 percent of their available cash income for food. Many households spend their SNAP benefits quickly because they can only be spent on food. Cash income from other sources is needed to pay for other expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utilities, essential non-food items, clothing, gasoline, and car repairs. As a result, families use their SNAP benefits first to make food purchases, saving cash for other needed expenses.

Moreover, SNAP benefits are low. SNAP is intended to provide additional benefits to meet the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), the Agriculture Department’s estimate of a bare-bones, nutritionally adequate diet. But substantial research has found that the TFP, which currently provides at most \$1.85 per person per meal for a family of three (the *average* benefit is about \$1.40 per person per meal), is not sufficient to meet the needs of most low-income households.<sup>12</sup>

Because SNAP benefits often fall short of meeting basic monthly food needs, and because struggling households have to use available cash to meet non-food expenses, families can find themselves at the end of their 30-day SNAP benefit payment cycle without enough food or the resources available to buy more food. Research has found that food spending, food consumption, and diet quality fall and that food insecurity, hospital admissions, and school disciplinary problems rise after households have exhausted their monthly SNAP benefits.<sup>13</sup> SNAP families often have to turn to social networks, food pantries, and others to get through the month.

Given the experience of the strain on low-income households’ budgets and community resources under normal SNAP issuance patterns — when the gap between SNAP issuances is no more than 31 days — stretching that gap to 40 to 50 days or longer could create substantial hardship and hunger and sharply increase demand for local emergency food providers and other community social services providers.

Many SNAP households may find ways to weather this disruption. In general, households that participate in SNAP demonstrate a capacity to manage limited budgets. But extending the time

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<sup>11</sup> Department of Agriculture, “Benefit Redemption Patterns in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,” February 2011.

<sup>12</sup> See, for example, Julie Caswell and Ann Yaktine, eds., *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Examining the Evidence to Define Benefit Adequacy*, Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, Washington DC: National Academies Press, 2013, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/IOMSNAPAllotments.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Steven Carlson and Brynne Keith-Jennings, “The Adequacy of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, forthcoming.

between monthly benefit payments for the vast majority of SNAP households will certainly cause difficulty for some substantial number of poor families. Many families may not be able to budget the advance food-assistance benefit over an extended period of time for several reasons, including:

- **Lack of information.** USDA, state officials, retailers, and state and local nonprofit groups and charities are working to educate SNAP households about the early issuance of February benefits and the fact that those households will *not* receive another issuance in February. States are urging households to factor the early payment and the delay until a March payment into their February food budget. *But USDA did not require states to send SNAP households individual notices about the change in February benefits.* Instead, states are trying to use newspaper stories, posts on their websites, fliers in local welfare offices, and their partners' networks to spread the news about the changes in the timing of SNAP benefit delivery. Many households likely won't understand that the benefits they received around January 20 are an early issuance of their February benefit and that a lengthy gap will ensue before they receive their next benefit insurance.
- **Confusion and misinformation.** Reports are emerging that there is considerable confusion about why households are receiving early SNAP benefits for February and what to expect in the future, especially given the uncertainty resulting from the government shutdown.<sup>14</sup> The confusion may result in some SNAP households spending their SNAP benefits relatively quickly, exacerbating their food shortages in the latter part of February and the first part of March.
- **Household income fluctuations or unexpected expenses.** Households living with very low incomes experience shocks to their monthly income on a routine basis. Workers can see their hours and pay reduced with little warning. Individuals with monthly income below the poverty line rarely have savings to manage unexpected expenses. If their income drops or expenses spike unexpectedly during this timeframe, perhaps because of a high winter heating bill, households generally will use available cash to manage their non-food needs, leaving less money to buy food at the end of the SNAP payment cycle.
- **Differing abilities among SNAP participants.** Even with advance warning and robust information, some SNAP households can struggle to manage a significant shift in their budget, particularly those with cognitive limitations. Managing a major monthly budget shift like this could be difficult for some individuals with mental impairments who do not receive assistance to manage their benefits.

## Conclusion

Even if the government shutdown is resolved quickly, the disruption in the timing of February SNAP benefits is likely to make it hard for many SNAP households to meet their basic food needs as they wait for their March SNAP benefit payment. Some 30 million people in about 15 million households — the vast majority of SNAP households — will not get their March benefit until at

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<sup>14</sup> See, for example, Alfred Lubrano, "Because of Shutdown, February food stamps disbursed on Wednesday," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 16, 2019, <http://www.philly.com/news/food-stamps-hunger-federal-government-shutdown-20190116.html>; and Anna Gorman, "Pain From the Government Shutdown Spreads. This Time It's Food Stamps," *Kaiser Health News*, January 18, 2019, <https://khn.org/news/pain-from-the-government-shutdown-spreads-this-time-its-food-stamps/>.

least 40 days after they received their February payment. Of these, 8 million people in more than 4 million households will need to wait more than 50 days. This benefit disruption will likely cause hardship for a substantial number of these households. We expect more households to try to turn to emergency food networks and other social services for help as they seek to stretch their benefits across more days.



# Financial Solutions Lab Welcomes Five Fintech Innovators to Boost Workplace Financial Health as Part of Five-Year, \$30 Million Initiative

*Winners use technology to offer underserved workers targeted workplace financial wellness solutions.*

**January 15, 2019 (New York)** – The Center for Financial Services Innovation (CFSI), along with founding partner JPMorgan Chase & Co., today announced the fifth cohort of Financial Solutions Lab winners, [focused on improving financial health at the workplace for underserved workers](#). The five chosen Fintech innovators will share insights on effective strategies for employers to promote the financial health of their workforce. Each company will receive \$125,000 in capital, strategic guidance, mentorship from CFSI and JPMorgan Chase, and additional resources to test, enhance and scale their products. “This year we were looking for solutions to improve financial health in the workplace,” said Jennifer Tescher, founder and CEO of CFSI. “Engaging with workers in the context of getting paid, buying health insurance and saving for retirement represents a powerful opportunity. For employers, helping improve the financial wellness of their workforce can increase productivity, improve retention and engender loyalty that ultimately accrues to the bottom line.”

According to the [U.S. Financial Health Pulse](#), only 28 percent of Americans are financially healthy and nearly half of all U.S. workers report being financially stressed. Meanwhile, the JPMorgan Chase Institute [found](#) that people in the U.S. delay getting healthcare until they have cash, and specifically when they get their tax refunds. As financial stress is [correlated](#) with increased absences from work, decreased on-the-job morale, higher rates of turnover and negative consequences related to physical health, there is tremendous benefit in improving workplace financial services.

“At JPMorgan Chase, we’re committed to the well-being of our employees. This means we’re always looking at new and innovative ways to address wellness in the workplace, including financial health. That’s why the Financial Solutions Lab is so important and why we help support it,” said Robin Leopold, head of Human Resources for JPMorgan Chase. “Supporting and improving mental, physical and financial health is good for employees and good for business.”

Over the course of the program, the FinLab will augment and gather critical evidence of the role that financial health solutions play in the workplace and measure the impact and performance of services across diverse work environments. This will also raise awareness for workplace financial health programs and develop best practices for employers.

## Meet the Cohort:

- **Brightside (San Francisco, CA)** is a personalized financial health platform providing employees one place to go for all their financial needs.
- **HoneyBee (San Francisco, CA)** helps employees, regardless of credit history, access an extra week's pay anytime to help manage unplanned expenses and build credit.
- **Manifest (Chicago, IL)** makes 401(k) transfers seamless as employees switch positions by standardizing the process and linking providers to dramatically reduce administrative costs, compliance liabilities, and time.
- **MedPut (New York, NY)** is an employee benefit option that provides 0% financing and bill negotiation services for out-of-pocket medical bills, with no impact to an employee's credit score.
- **Onward (Kansas City, MO)** is an employer-based mobile savings and credit app that enables workers to save effortlessly, build financial knowledge, and access responsible credit when emergencies strike.

In addition to \$125,000 in capital, each of the companies will receive:

- Access to the CFSI Network and partnership opportunities that can help innovators increase product reach
- One-on-one ongoing mentorship and expertise provided by CFSI and JPMorgan Chase executives and other industry leaders, from organizations including Ideas42, Frog, Hamburger Gibson, Paul Hastings, Promontory Financial and Washington University
- Peer learning via in-person retreats throughout the year and regular virtual working sessions

# Why Kansas City School Districts Pay For Homeless Students To Take Taxis To School

By [BARBARA SHELLY](#) • JAN 17, 2019

The streets near downtown Kansas City are still dark and quiet on this Thursday morning, but already a green taxi is idling outside of the City Union Mission's family shelter.

Cameon Valentine and her son, Nicoli, hustle out of their room shortly after 6 a.m. They're running a bit behind. "Come on, son!" Valentine says.

Nicoli detours to the refrigerator in the shelter's common room to grab a water bottle. The front door squeaks as he opens it.

"Bye," calls his mom. "I love you."

"Love you too," Nicoli says, his words nearly lost in the sound of car doors opening and closing. Then he is gone, an early morning cab rider headed for 7th grade classes at his middle school in the North Kansas City School District.

When Valentine lost her rental unit over the summer due to a missed utility bill, she was frantic at the thought that Nicoli and his younger sister, an elementary student, would have to leave the schools where they were happy and secure. Worried about putting them in new places, she entertained the thought of homeschooling.

But staffers at the North Kansas City School District had good news.

"Their schools told me, no, you're not pulling them out," Valentine said. "We can have a cab come and get them because technically you don't have a permanent residence."

Valentine's children are among thousands in the Kansas City area who benefit from a federal law, the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#). Signed into law in 1987, it guarantees students the right to an uninterrupted education even if they leave their school's boundaries to live in a shelter or motel room, or move in with family members.

So every school day, hundreds of cabs and vans crisscross the region, getting kids between home and school and home again. For families, the service is a godsend. For school districts, it's a mixed blessing.

## **A growing number of homeless students**

McKinney-Vento services cut down on the chaos created by student moves in and out of the classroom during the school year. [Multiple studies](#), both locally and nationally, have shown that children do better if they stay in the same school.

But the McKinney-Vento Act is a mostly unfunded federal mandate. Congress funnels some money through state education departments to award to school districts in the form of grants. But only a small number of districts benefit. Most foot the cost of transportation from their general funds.

As recently as a decade ago, McKinney-Vento services were mostly a footnote for many school districts. But in recent years the numbers of students benefiting from the program have soared.

Kansas City Public Schools [led the region](#) with 1,200 students receiving services last year. The Independence School District was close behind with 964. Numbers in Raytown and North Kansas City topped 500. Kansas City Kansas Public Schools served 876 homeless students last year. And the combined number of McKinney-Vento students served by Johnson County's six school districts has topped 1,000 the last seven school years.

Not all students accepted into their districts' McKinney-Vento programs need rides. Some still live within their school's boundaries or get rides from family members. Districts help homeless students in multiple ways, which include providing clothing and personal items, tutoring and waiving ACT test costs and graduation fees.

"We try to do everything we can to make sure that those students' attendance is not disrupted and they can continue their education," said Michele Eagle, McKinney-Vento coordinator for the Raytown School District.

## **The costs**

But transit is the biggest expense and the task that keeps district staffers busy.

"We probably right now are cabbing between 55 and 70 students on any given day," Eagle said. Last year, her district spent nearly \$500,000 on transit costs for homeless students.

Jessica Smith, who coordinates McKinney-Vento services for the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, puts the number of students getting rides in her district in the hundreds. She uses a private transit service, sending vans around the metro to pick up students.

“I have a kiddo who comes from Lee's Summit,” Smith said. “He's often late because the van will pull up to a home and the if kiddo is not ready, the driver will wait a couple minutes. A couple of minutes at every home can add up to a lot of time. But the kids get to school.”

Some of the increase in McKinney-Vento caseloads is due to schools getting better at identifying homeless students and offering them services. In Raytown, teachers and other staffers



watch for students who begin arriving late for class or who get dropped off by car instead of riding the bus, Eagle said.

But in Raytown, like other districts, the rise in transient families has mostly to do with housing.

Raytown is an older community of small homes that get passed around among landlords, Eagle said. Families often get dislocated in the shuffle, even if they're current on their rent.

"The end result is oftentimes the family has to move," Eagle said. "But because of the short notice and the lack of available housing in the area, they struggle to find a new permanent housing location, and they find themselves doubling up with a relative, going to a coworker, or staying in a motel."

Housing is also the major cause of dislocation in better-off suburbs, said Valorie Carson, with United Community Services of Johnson County.

"You have a lot of people who have incomes that are not increasing dramatically, yet the cost of housing continues to go up," she said.

An absence of family shelters in Johnson County and Wyandotte County worsens the problems. Taxis that collect students from shelters in downtown Missouri often cross the state line to get students to schools in Kansas City, Kan., or the Johnson County districts.

### **Preventing homelessness**

Many districts are looking at ways to prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place. They're partnering with churches and community groups to help stop an eviction, or counsel a parent about finances.

Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools led the way with [Impact Wednesdays](#), which is now known as Impact KCK. The partnership involves a large church, Avenue of Life, and multiple other ministries and social service groups.

Smith refers families to Avenue of Life, where they have an opportunity to meet with social workers, lawyers, potential employers and others, all gathered at the same place.

"Organizations like Avenue of Life partner with the school district to not only permanently house families, but to teach them how to stay permanently housed. That's the missing piece," Smith said.

Johnson County School districts like Shawnee Mission and Olathe have formed similar partnerships, Carson said.

"It's more cost effective to be able to prevent the experience of homelessness than it is to actually then try to get people back into housing," she said. "And that's where I think some of the community partnerships become very, very key."



*Myles Clay waits for the van that will take him to school.*

CREDIT BARBARA SHELLEY / KCUR 89.3

Homelessness happens, though. Kimberly Clay returned from a stay in the hospital after she suffered a stroke last year to find her belonging and those of her two sons out on the curb. Her landlady in Kansas City, Kan., had evicted them and changed the locks while she had been ill.

Clay sought help at the City Union Mission's family shelter, where she was accepted into the transitional living program. To her great relief, she learned her two sons, both high school students, could remain at their school in Kansas City, Kan.

“When we lost everything else, they could still hold on to that,” Clay said. “It meant they still had their friends. Their teachers were really supportive. My oldest son got to graduate from his home school and go on to a culinary program so that was great.”

About half an hour after Nicoli Valentine caught his taxi on that recent morning, a white van pulled up in front of the family shelter. Myles Clay was waiting with his fully loaded backpack, braving the morning cold with just a hoodie. His ride to Washington High School, where he is a junior, takes about 20 minutes. After school, he goes to a tech program at Kansas City Kansas Community College. Then the van brings him back to the shelter.

Clay is about to graduate from the City Union Mission’s family program. She’s looking for a job and a place to stay in Kansas City, Kan., so Myles can remain at Washington High.

Whatever the future brings, she’s grateful for those van rides and the McKinney-Vento program.

“It’s been something very positive,” Clay said. “It’s really gone a long way toward helping the kids be more stable in their educations.”

*Barbara Shelly is a freelance contributor for KCUR 89.3. You can reach her at [bshellykc@gmail.com](mailto:bshellykc@gmail.com).*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: Jan. 23, 2019  
Contact: Jennifer Sykes  
Phone: (913) 669-2872

## **Health Forward President/CEO Bridget McCandless announces retirement**

**Kansas City, MO** — Health Forward President/CEO Bridget McCandless, M.D., has announced her plans to retire later this year. Dr. McCandless joined Health Forward in September 2013, after serving as an inaugural member of the board of directors from 2003-2008.

New board chairperson Peg VanWagoner is forming a search committee, which will in turn hire a firm to conduct a search for Health Forward's next president/CEO.

Dr. McCandless plans to remain with Health Forward until her replacement has been announced.

"It has been a great honor to lead Health Forward. I am proud of this foundation's steady commitment to the community, the strong values that form and continue to guide the foundation, and the ongoing commitment to providing an independent voice for issues affecting those most in need," said Dr. McCandless.

"As we move forward to a new era, I know that this dedicated board and staff will continue to uphold the founding principles of compassion, inclusion, diversity, and stewardship. We hold close the knowledge that we are entrusted with public funds and that comes with great responsibility. I look forward to celebrating the next evolution of leadership and success of Health Forward Foundation."

Before arriving at Health Forward, Dr. McCandless spent her career providing medical care to low-income individuals, including serving 13 years as medical director of the Shared Care Free Clinic of Jackson County.

"The Health Forward Board of Directors is very grateful for Bridget's incredible leadership over the past five years and wish her all the best on this next journey," said VanWagoner.

"We look to our future with optimism and excitement. The board of directors commits to a thorough process to identify our next leader that will build on Bridget's many successes and advance the foundation forward."

Interested parties may email [executivesearch@healthforward.org](mailto:executivesearch@healthforward.org) until a search firm has been selected. Messages will be forwarded to the search firm.

# Rosemary Lowe, LINC Commissioner, honored at MLK Jr. celebration

Rev. Dr. Nelson “Fuzzy”Thompson” Legacy Award honoree Rosemary Lowe and (from left) presenter Rev. John M. Miles (Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church), SLCL Chairman Wesley Fields, U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, and SCLC President Dr. Vernon Percy Howard Jr.

LINC Commissioner Rosemary Lowe was presented with the Rev. Dr. Nelson “Fuzzy” Thompson Legacy Award during the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Kansas City Chapter 2019 MLK Day Community Mass Celebration at Palestine Baptist Church on Jan. 21.



Lowe received the award in recognition of her leadership in a life of

service to the community. Also recognized was the late Rev. Dr. Charles Briscoe, whose loved ones were presented the award on his behalf.

US Rep. Karen Bass, recently elected to chair the Congressional Black Caucus for the 116th U.S. Congress, was the keynote speaker at the event. Bass represents the 37th Congressional District in California which primarily metropolitan Los Angeles.

Prior to the mass celebration was a forum and panel discussion on the topic, “Moving from Mass Incarceration to Mass Mobilization: African American Men Rising!”

# LINC CHESS

## 2019 Tournament Season

**Sat., Feb. 9** Girls Tournament at Blue Hills

**Sat., Mar. 2** Wendell Phillips Elementary

**Sat., Apr. 6** Winnetonka High School

**Sat., May 4** Center High School

**Pre-register at [kclinc.org/chess](http://kclinc.org/chess)**



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