

Community Resources

The following are some of the potentially relevant community resources.

First Call for Help (FCFH)

Website: <https://www.firstcallelliscounty.com/>

- **Information and Referrals:** Provide information and referrals to other community service providers (services for children, food resources, pregnancy counseling, employment services, and transportation services).
- **Food Services:**
 - FCFH provides food assistance between distribution dates of other pantries. These items come from community member donations and from the St. Joseph food pantry. The pantry is open Monday - Friday 8:00 am -12:00 pm & 1:00 pm-4:30 pm. 1x a month per household (at least 30 days between visits).
 - Separately, Meals on Wheels meals are prepared fresh, hot and delicious each day by the Hays Medical Center food services staff. The meals are delivered by a community volunteer between 10:30 A.M. and 12 P.M. each day. Meals are only served to Hays residents who are elderly/home-bound and/or disabled individuals. Due to a limited number of "hotboxes" and drivers for delivery, we sometimes must put new callers on a wait list. Meals can be delivered 7 days a week or any combination of days if there is space available on the days selected. There is a charge of \$4.00 per meal and recipients are billed monthly (if you feel you may meet our low-income eligibility, ask us about the discounted rate).
- **Blankets, Diapers & Hygiene:** When available, diapers, wipes, and hygiene items such as shampoo or toothpaste can also be provided. Diapers are available for families with babies and/or toddlers 0-3 years who reside in Ellis County, Kansas. Participants may pick up diapers once every 30 days during our office hours or by appointment. 30 Diapers are allotted per month for Sizes 2-6 and 40 diapers are allotted per month for Sizes NB-1. We also have blankets that have been cleaned and donated for the chilly winter months.
- **First Step Housing:** FSH provides temporary housing of up to 6 months for segments of the population who can work and are committed to creating stability in their lives. Transitional housing also provides many supportive services, educational workshops and has the goal of transitioning participants into permanent, affordable housing.

- **Rent & Utility Assistance:** Individuals applying for this assistance must be an established resident of Ellis County, KS, meaning the deposits and first 2 months rent or bill is paid in full. Individuals applying for this assistance must be experiencing a crisis in their household, this could be related to medical, employment, sudden disruption of family, death, or other type crisis. Assistance can only be provided if there is an eviction or late notice issued. The amounts awarded are limited and usually are not sufficient to cover the full amount of rent or utility bill. First Call for Help will assist in identifying and/or suggesting other resources that may be available. Assistance with utility bills is reserved for families with children/youth, the elderly, and/or those with medical issues/equipment.
- **Laundry Love:** A FREE once-a-month laundry program that enables households to wash and dry up to 5 loads of laundry for free. Loads are PER household. 4:00-7:00 PM (we will stop washing new loads at 6:30 PM to ensure everything is in the dryers by 7:00 PM). 2025 Dates: April 17th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th, November 20th, December 18th.
- **Transient Assistance:** Transient Assistance is provided by a team of staff, volunteers, and law enforcement personnel who provide 24-hour emergency assistance to transient individuals. Transient individuals arrive in Hays for many different reasons, but the common thread is that they are from outside of Ellis County and are without resources and in need of help. At this time, our assistance is limited to fuel only. We ask that they contact the law enforcement dispatch center at 785-625-1011 when assistance is needed. Financial Assistance is limited and only made possible by contributions to the Second Mile Fund from the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance.

St. Joseph Food Pantry and Diaper Closet

Website: <https://www.stj-church.com/stjosephfoodpantry>

The St. Joseph Food Pantry and Diaper Closet are always open every 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The pantry/diaper closet is located in the large red brick school building in the back parking lot of St. Joseph Church. Those receiving support are asked to provide the name, address and birth date of each person in the household and a phone number for the household.

Catholic Charities

Website: <https://ccnks.org/hays>

- **Financial & Housing Assistance:** Emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, and prescriptions (\$150/year); predatory debt relief (loan); disability assistance;

catastrophic illness assistance; disaster relief; youth and young adult assistance (individuals 16 - 24 years of age who are on their own for \$1,000); immigration legal services financial assistance; additional financial resources.

- **Personal Care and Basic Needs** – Food (income guidelines, approval process, one box a month); Hygiene (one box every other month); gas and bus passes (income guidelines, vouchers are \$10 are only redeemable at 24/7 Gas Stations in Hays and Salina, use within 24 hours, eligible every 6 months); Diapers (income guidelines for children 3 and younger, one box of diapers and a package of wipes per month), Clothing (typically two tops and two bottoms per household member at their Thrift Store).
- Counseling Services
- Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services
- Thrift Store in Salina & Hays

United Way

Ellis County Resources App

Appears to be managed by United Way; however, it may not be maintained any longer (several errors/broken links encountered)

- Childcare Services
- Communications Specialists
- Community Programs
- Counseling
- Disability & Developmental Services
- Drug & Alcohol Services
- Education (PK-12)
- Education (Secondary)
- Educations Resources & Institutions
- Elderly Resources
- Employment Resources
- Family Planning & Support
- Financial Resources
- Food Programs
- Health Services
- Housing Authorities
- Housing Resources
- Low-Income Housing Options

- Mental Health
- Parenting Resources
- Senior Housing Options
- Veterans Resources
- Volunteer Services
- Youth Programs

Community Assistance Center

The mission of the Community Assistance Center is to assist Ellis County families and individuals of low or no income, transients, the homeless, those who are disabled, the elderly, and disaster victims with the following: Food, Clothing, Household goods, and Furniture. To qualify for assistance recipients must meet the low-income guidelines established by the State of Kansas and provide proof of Ellis County residence: rental contract/payment check stub or utility (water or electricity) payment showing the address; statement of income: social security, employment paystub, WIC, Disability; the number and ages of persons residing in the household; and school enrollment records for children of school age and immunization records for children under 5.

Kansas Department for Children and Families

The Successful Families Program offers employment services and support services to low-income families. That support may include cash assistance. The family is defined as including a child who may be living with a parent, relative, or person named by a court to take care of the child, such as a guardian, conservator, or custodian. Certain eligibility requirements for participation are identified: families must have at least one child in the home under the age of 18 (including an unborn baby); families must meet income requirements; and families must meet limited resource requirements. Cash assistance is also known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and it ranges between \$224 to \$497. Families can only get TANF for 24 months in a lifetime.

Child Care Assistance, also known as the Child Care Subsidy Program, helps pay for child care costs. It helps many types of families. Families must not have more than \$10,000 of countable resources. Your worker will review what assets you have. It does not appear to cover after-school programming.

The Food Assistance Program is a nutrition assistance program which provides a Kansas Benefit card (plastic debit card) to eligible persons to purchase food. Monthly benefits are provided on a Kansas Benefit card, which looks and functions like a debit card. When food is purchased the cost is electronically subtracted from the individual's Kansas Benefit card. Simply present the card to the store clerk when purchasing food. Persons who work,

but have a low income and those who are unemployed may be eligible. Persons who live together and buy food together may be eligible. Household members do not have to be related to be considered part of the household. [F-2_FA_Standards10-23.pdf](#) All households may have up to \$3,000 worth of resources until they are ineligible for the program.

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will get a **one-time benefit of \$120 per year for each eligible child** to help buy groceries during the summer months. Children who get SUN Bucks can still participate in other summer meal programs. SUN Bucks serves students who qualify for free and reduced-price school meals or whose household income meets the eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals. Some families will get benefits automatically without applying, while some eligible families need to apply to receive benefits. SUN Bucks is a one-time benefit of \$120 per year for each eligible child to help purchase groceries during the summer months. SUN Bucks benefits are issued as a single **lump sum payment** each year. SUN Bucks benefits will not be issued until after April 2025.

Ellis County Health Department/KDHE

WIC is a temporary nutrition education and supplemental food program that provides assistance for women, infants and children based on income eligibility.