



FRS Training and Communication Sub-committee meeting NOTES September 29, 2021; 10:00am-11:00am

Via zoom - Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85763803213?pwd=NGVvaG52ODZKZ21zMzVSNXUvWGdjdz09>

Password: 1e1QSt

In attendance:

Heidi Margulis – Chair	Hilary Writt – KDLA – WF Coordinator
Jason Dunn – DCBS / CHFS	Matt Berry – KY Stats
Kris Stevens – KY Stats	Shauna King-Simms - KCTCS
Madisen Webb – DWI	Sherry Johnson – Lincoln Trail
Myra Wilson –Cumberlands	Kevin Middleton –United Way
John Mountjoy –KY HeadStart	Todd Trapp - CHFS
Scott Secamiglio – KY Stats	Anna Larson – OAE /Skills U
Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley – KWIB	Jacob McAndrews - KWIB
Sara Jagers –KWIB	Debbie Dennison - KWIB

10:00am **Heidi Margulis, Chair**, welcomed everyone and walked through the agenda.

She asked **Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley, Executive Director**, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) to discuss the purpose, remind the membership of who, and why this initiative is important and what we plan on doing with the simulator created by the Kentucky Center for Statics (KY Stats).

The [Family Resource Simulator](#) illustrates the impact of "work supports"—such as earned income tax credits and child care assistance—on the budget of a hypothetical family. It helps families identify where 'cliff effects' occur as their income increases.

The tool will be marketed to workforce partners, employees, employers, and could also be used when advocating policy changes around benefits.

There are updated benefits (like the Child tax credit) since COVID, and KY Stats is reviewing the information required, per **Kris Stevens, KY Stats**. He asked if the committee could provide some examples of a “typical family” so they might create pre-populated scenarios for ease of instruction.

The roll out is going to happen in a couple of phases. We can begin to roll out as is to workforce partners. Kris Stevens and Jason Dunn are going to work together on creating these scenarios and that phase will most likely take 6-9 months to create.

KWIB can facilitate working with Communications team for next steps.

Heidi Margulis asked folks to include suggested other resources in chat or send to KWIB staff.

Information from the chat feature as to feedback and additional membership as follows:

- John Mountjoy: We've shared it widely with Head Starts across Kentucky and staff find it very useful when working with parents and families.
- Shauna King-Simms: I'm thinking nonprofits and community action agencies.
- Anna Larson KY:Adult Education has College and Career Navigators for all of our students which the calculator could help them assist students to make career and post-secondary choices.
- Shauna King-Simms: Andrea Miller at KCADV amiller@kcadv.org
- John Mountjoy: We heard from KYStats several times when this was first launched. There are some parts of the simulator that are overly complicated for the lay user, but for staff working with parents and families they find it to be a fairly intuitive and easy to use system. We can definitely come up with family-based scenarios, but the challenge is that if you've met one Head Start family, you've met one Head Start family.
- Kevin Middleton: Williams, Tracy (CHFS) <tracy.williams@ky.gov

Kevin Middleton also suggested using KYNECT.ky.gov , which goes live again in November 2021 as a place to share a marketing piece around this work.

KWIB staff is to include minutes from 2020 and send out to the full committee upon approval of draft minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.

Agenda:

- Define GOAL of this sub-committee (tied to Workforce Participation and Sustainability)
- KY Stats walk through of the FRS Tools including Benefit Cliff Calculator
- Below are the names currently tapped to be a part of this committee; please share any others that you feel should be a part of this sub-committee.

Committee Member Name	Company/Business	Email
Heidi Margulis - CHAIR	Humana	hsmargulis@gmail.com
Amy Luttrell	Goodwill Industries	amy.luttrell@goodwillky.org
Jessica Cunningham	KY Stats	Jessica.Cunningham@ky.gov
Jon Davidson	KY Housing Corporation	jdavidson@kyhousing.org
Madisen Webb	Dept of Education and Workforce Investment	madisen.webb@ky.gov
Anna Larson	KY Skills U - Offc of Adult Ed	Alarson@ky.gov
Kevin Middleton	United Way	kevin.middleton@uwky.org
Holly Neal	EWDC Communication	holly.neal@ky.gov
Carrie Banahan	CHFS - Deputy Secretary	carrie.banahan@ky.gov
Dena Burton	DJJ - Juvenile Justice	denag.burton@ky.gov
Dr. Renee Fister	Murray State University	kfister@murraystate.edu
Amanda Flanary	Early Childhood Education	amanda.flanary@ky.gov
Shauna King-Simms	KCTCS - Executive Director for Transitions and Pathways	shauna.king-simms@kctcs.edu
Sherry Johnson	LWDA Director (representing the 10t)	sherry@ltadd.org

Committee members present: Heidi Margulis - Chair; Dena Burton - DJJ, Dr. Renee Fister – MSU, Amanda Flanary - Head Start – Off of the Governor, Shauna King-Simms - KCTCS, Todd Trapp – CHFS DCBS, Anna Larson (OAE), Holly Neal, Madisen Webb, Sherry Johnson, Kevin Middleton - United Way, Jessica Cunningham – KY Stats, Kris Stevens – KY Stats

Staff members present: Heather Seward – Deloitte (KWIB), John Lyons - KWIB, Debbie Dennison - KWIB

Heidi Margulis opened the meeting with **a brief overview of our goal** – to educate/inform as many cabinets, community agencies, local interested participants and others about the Benefit Cliffs Calculator and its tools, as well as to seek feedback as to uses and where policy barriers exist that prevent individuals from seeking/accepting employment opportunities due to such cliffs.

Heidi requested four (4) items requiring feedback with the goal in mind as follows:

1. She asked for a list of agencies or individuals that needed to be involved in this effort
2. She asked for a list of groups that should be included and trained to use the tool (what offices, agencies, end users benefit?)
3. She asked that a feedback form be created to identify the biggest “problem areas” or policy barriers (e.g. which benefits keep people from entering/reentering the work force?)
4. Based on the feedback from Item 3, what current policies should be reviewed /considered for changes to enable greater workforce participation?

Questions / comments from members:

- **Dr. Fister** suggested that Resource Centers be included, if they haven't ; asked if there were a video (tutorial) that could be directed to whoever could use / train others; asked about filters on the site and Kris provided an option to click on
- **Jessica / Kris** said they are working on a walk through tutorial and hope to have something in the next week or so (Holly suggested a flyer for this) - <http://frs.nccp.org/tools/frs/> and they will be emailing out to the committee members
- **Amanda Flanary** suggested Head Start as a conduit and will provide information on John Mountjoy who could assist; she also offered to facilitate a presentation with the Head Start Directors; also suggested local childcare centers across KY; Rehabilitation Centers; “Save the Children” foundation; also mentioned conferences (when they resume) like EC Institute, substance abuse programs, etc.
- **Shauna King-Simms** suggested reaching out to the Prichard committee and provided Brigitte Blom Ramsey admin@prichardcommittee.org; suggested KY Coalition Against Domestic Violence – amiller@kcadv.org; Wilbur, Lorraine (CHFS DCBS DPP) Lorraine.Wilbur@ky.gov with DCBS Foster Youth. Suggested reaching out to Voc Rehab, Pre-employment at KCTCS, and DCBS Independent Living Specialists Offered to set up a session with Ready to Work coordinators to view the tools.
- **Todd Trapp** – CHFS DCBS said we could reach out to 23 Community Action Agency locations and LIHEAP
- **Sherry Johnson** suggested to reach out to the following: Public transportation agencies within the Commonwealth; KY Chamber of Commerce; business organizations (employers)
- **Anna Larson** suggested reaching out to Libraries (laptop kits and hot spots) add on ; John Lyons to follow up this week; Job Corps (Anna mtg with Thurs), rehab centers
- **Kevin Middleton** – 21 local United Way locations across the Commonwealth. Also offered to set up time for a viewing session of the tools

Heidi asked members to reach out initially to those they feel would add value to the team and if they agree, to let Debbie know to add them to the list. Reach out to Debbie if assistance is needed.

KY Stats/ Meetings to set up

Debbie to work with KY Stats and to arrange meetings with folks who would like a tutorial; include **individuals** who requests, **Ready to Work coordinators**; Kevin Middleton with United Way and Directors, Amanda Flanary with ECE, Madison Webb, and the **LWDA Director's**.

Will look to get form and tutorial from KY Stats in the next week or two.

Debbie will schedule next sub-committee meeting in 30 days or so.

ACTION ITEMS

- Tutorial video –KY Stats to create , provide to Heidi
- Feedback form – KY Stats to create, provide to Heidi

- Additional team members /Reach out –each member above to reach out to the agencies, contacts and either make introductions to Heidi and Debbie or provide contact information to Debbie
- Next meeting –Debbie to poll and set up meeting in next 30 days or so



Family Resource Simulator

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the Family Resource Simulator?

A. The family resource simulator was created to inform policymakers, the public, and program administrators on how the different work supports interact with each other for individual families in the state of Kentucky.

Q. How do I use the Family Resource Simulator?

A. We have created a video showing users how to use this tool. The video can be found [here](#).

Q. What is a cliff effect?

A. A cliff effect is where an increase in income leads to a loss in resources available to a family.

Q. Are ABAWD's included in the FRS?

A. ABAWD stands for Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents and they are included in the simulator.

Q. What Programs are included in the simulator?

A. CCAP, SNAP, KTAP, Medicaid, LIHEAP, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, Lifeline, WIC, Supplemental Security Income, National School Lunch, National School Breakfast, Free Summer Meals, EITC, Child Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, Premium Tax Credit, Kentucky Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, Kentucky Family Size Tax Credit. A short description of each program can be found at the end of this document.

Q. What if I have more than 5 Children?

A. Unfortunately, the family resource simulator is currently limited to 5 children.

Q. What if there are more than 2 adults in the household?

A. The programs do not account for more than 2 adults in households. As programs adapt we hope to adapt the tool to the program's requirements.

Q. What is the effective date of the data in this tool?

A. Everything in this tool is up to date as of May 1st, 2020. As policies change we are able to update the tool.

Q. Is this available for my county?

A. Yes, all 120 counties are modeled in this tool.

Q. Where did you get the data used in this tool?

A. We utilized federal and state program guidelines as well as estimates of expenses conducted by federal and state government entities. Many of these programs interact with each other and we have done our best to correctly model the full picture of these programs.

Q. What are the 4 different types of Child Care Providers?

A. The 4 types of Child Care Providers are Licensed Child Care Centers Type I and Type II, Certified Family Child Care, and Registered Early Childhood Professional. Below are definitions for each and additional information can be found [here](#).

Licensed Child Care Centers Type I and Type II - A licensed type I child care facility is a facility that regularly provides child care services for four or more children in a non-residential setting; or 13 or more children in a residential setting. A licensed type II child care facility is the primary residence where child care is regularly provided for at least seven, but no more than 12 children, including no more than 12 children related to the licensee.

Certified Family Child Care - Care provided in a caregiver's own home for no more than six unrelated and no more than four related children at any time (total of 10 children).

Registered Early Childhood Professional - Typically a family member, friend or neighbor who cares for children in his or her own home or the child's home. A registered early childhood provider may not care for more than three children unrelated to the caregiver or more than six children if they are a sibling group.

Program Information

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) - provides support to help families pay for child care. The Division of Child Care is responsible for all child care provider support and The Division of Family Support helps clients apply for the program.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - formerly known as food stamps, helps low-income people buy food for healthy meals at participating stores. SNAP benefits increase household food buying power when added to the household's income.

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) - is the monetary assistance program established using federal funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant. KTAP provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children in Kentucky and the parents or relatives with whom the children live. KTAP also helps families find jobs or get training that leads to a job.

Medicaid - provides health care benefits for people with disabilities who meet the programs' financial requirements.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - is a federally-funded program to help eligible low-income households meet their home heating and/or cooling needs.

Section 8 Housing Vouchers - The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

Lifeline - The Lifeline program was designed to preserve and promote telephone services to qualified low-income households. The program provides a monthly discount on local service, which can be either LANDLINE or WIRELESS service. The combined federal and state discount in Kentucky is up to \$12.75 per month.

WIC - provides nutrition education and services, breastfeeding promotion and education, monthly food prescription of nutritious foods and access to health-care services. WIC saves lives and improves the health of nutritionally at-risk women, infants and children.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - provides monetary and medical benefits to adults and children who are blind or disabled and who have also met the non-disability income and resources requirements.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) - is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools as well as residential child care institutions. The program provides nutritionally balanced, low cost or no cost lunches to children each school day.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) - provides nutritious meals to Kentucky students. Whether it is breakfast in the cafeteria, breakfast in the classroom, or grab and go, school breakfast is an important start in every student's day. Schools that participate in the School Breakfast Program received funding assistance similar to the National School Lunch Program. Schools providing the School Breakfast Program meet specific "meal pattern" requirements to ensure all meals are nutritionally sound.

Free Summer Meals - makes it possible for schools to feed children during the traditional summer vacation periods and for year round schools, long school vacation periods.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) - a tax credit for low- and moderate-income working families.

Child Tax Credit - tax credit given to American taxpayers for each qualifying dependent child who is under the age of 17 at the end of the tax year.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit - a non-refundable tax credit offered to taxpayers who pay out-of-pocket expenses for childcare.

Premium Tax Credit (PTC) - a refundable credit that helps eligible individuals and families cover the premiums for their health insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Kentucky Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit - a non-refundable tax credit offered to taxpayers who pay out-of-pocket expenses for childcare.

Kentucky Family Size Tax Credit - The family size tax credit is based on modified gross income and the size of the family.