

Contact:

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Johnson County Utility Assistance Program

Established in 1979, the Johnson County Utility Assistance Program (UAP) serves as a critical safety net for residents experiencing financial hardship due to income changes, family disruptions, or unexpected crises. The program also provides essential support to individuals and households living on fixed incomes.

The primary goal of UAP is to prevent utility service disconnections, helping residents maintain safe, stable, and healthy living conditions while reducing the risk of eviction. Assistance is paid directly to utility providers and may be used for past-due balances, established payment plans, or budget billing. Households do not need to be disconnected to receive assistance. Support is available for electric, gas, water, and wastewater utility bills.

In 2024, UAP served 1,758 households, providing more than \$950,000 in utility assistance. Households may include one to ten or more family members, and approximately 30% of those served are fixed-income households. Fixed income refers to individuals whose household income remains stable or changes minimally, such as those receiving Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

UAP is funded through a partnership between Johnson County Government, 15 cities, and five utility companies. Residents access services by calling the Human Services Utility Assistance line (913-715-6653), Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All services are provided by appointment only to ensure confidentiality.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for utility assistance, applicants must:

- Be a Johnson County resident. To utilize City of Westwood funding, applicants must reside in Westwood, Kansas.
- Have a household income at or below [200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) and provide income verification from the previous 30 days.
- Provide a valid photo ID for all household members age 18 and older.
- Have a utility bill that does not exceed the maximum funding amount. Current assistance is available up to \$500 per qualifying household (\$300 county-funded and \$200 city-funded).

To learn more about the Johnson County Utility Assistance Program, visit www.jocogov.org/utilityassistance.