



Sequestration – The Impact on Low-Income Johnson County Families

A series of automatic federal budget cuts - called the sequester – took effect on March 1. At this early date, it's not possible to know the entire scope of the national or local impact. Due to budget cycles, many programs will not experience budget reductions until July or October 2013, and in some cases later.

Leaders of human service programs are in the process of gathering information, analyzing the numbers and making the difficult decisions about how to reduce budgets. While every entity is committed to maintaining quality programs and reducing the impact on client services, the reality is that in the end, **hundreds of Johnson County residents will not receive vital human services.**

Departments of County Government and several nonprofit agencies provided UCS with preliminary estimates of how the people they serve will be affected. Budget reductions mean that staff positions will be eliminated, services eliminated or reduced, and waiting times increased.

The following is not an exhaustive list, rather a snapshot of local programs that are affected by sequestration. Thank you to those who provided data for this fact sheet, which is based upon information they received from their funding sources and/or calculations based on federal grants and funds currently being received.

Head Start

Head Start will be cut 5% for fiscal year 2013-14. For Olathe Head Start, the budgetary impact is \$50,000. For Head Start of Shawnee Mission that translates to nearly \$65,000. The funding cuts could result in fewer children served, fewer service days to children and families, and/or a reduced workforce.

Johnson County Health and Environment

- Maternal and Child Health: 3,673 fewer clients
- HIV testing: 482 fewer clients
- Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening: 134 fewer clients
- Childhood Immunizations: 368 fewer children
- Women, Infants and Children: \$52,654 reduction leading to 407 fewer clients

Health Partnership Clinic

Health Partnership will have to cut \$25,350 from its budget. That equates to roughly 200 individual patient visits.

Workforce Investment Partnership

Workforce Partnership estimates that 1,017 fewer Johnson County participants would be served in 2013. Additionally, cuts in resources to train persons for specific industry jobs would reduce the numbers trained in Johnson County by 40% or 28 participants.

Johnson County Mental Health Center

\$50,000 reduction from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, translating into loss of an outpatient therapist and service to 60 people.

Homelessness Programs

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness expects that \$23,400 in cuts to grants for housing and supportive services will result in the elimination of at least one program. This equates to 6 fewer homeless families with children being rapidly re-housed and stabilized in 2013.



Johnson County Human Services

- \$195,000 from Older Americans Act for the Area Agency on Aging
- \$67,000 reduction to Meals on Wheels, which translates to 11,631 fewer meals served
- Possible closure of Congregate Meal sites
- \$55,000 reduction to In-Home Services and Caregiver Programs
- 82 fewer Housing Choice Vouchers would be issued each month in 2013.
- Reduction in the number of homes to be weatherized and rehabilitated.

SAFEHOME

SAFEHOME expects a reduction of \$32,500 from various federal grants. The funding cuts could result in longer waiting time for a domestic violence victim to see a counselor or shelter advocate.

State of Kansas

Many essential services are provided by the State of Kansas, such as child welfare, vocational rehabilitation, and child care assistance. Estimates of the impact on local communities are not yet available.

About Sequestration: Sequestration cuts \$85 billion in a single year, mainly from discretionary programs — which includes most defense spending as well as medical research, education, food and water safety, law enforcement, **help for low-income families**, and others. Sequestration comes on top of the large cuts in discretionary funding that are already in place under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). Taken together, the BCA cuts and sequestration cut discretionary spending 14 percent below the 2010 level in inflation-adjusted terms.

Learn More:

Sequestration's Impact: It's Real. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.offthechartsblog.org/sequestrations-impact-its-real/>

Sequestration's Threat to America's Most Vulnerable. Brookings

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/jobs/posts/2013/03/08-jobs-greenstone-looney>

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