

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, July 24, 2023**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 5:46 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioners Bynum, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, McKiernan. Commissioner Angela Markley, Chair was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Terrie Garrison, Deputy Director for Clinical Services at the Health Department; Christina VanCleave, Program Supervisor; Jennifer Allen, Social Worker for the Health Department; Ernestine Holmes, Administrative Supervisor and Vendor Manager; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Brittnie MacDonald, Clerk's Office; and Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk.

Acting Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order, I would announce that some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely by Zoom, as well as on site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise and during the meeting, make sure that you announce yourself by name and title when you speak, so the public observing knows who is speaking. Be sure and also speak directly into the microphone so that your comments are heard and the record of the meeting is accurate. This is critical, given the number of remote participants, it's also current guidance from our Kansas Attorney General.

Our public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting, and those are included in the record of the meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the meeting and also have an opportunity to provide comments, either by phone or Zoom or here in person in the fifth floor conference room.

Acting Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Acting Chairman Bynum said by the way, are you our Health Department friends? Yay. I was going to say, my choice was to move Item 2 to Item 1 and let you go first so you don't have to sit through the ordinance. So yes, we are moving Item 2 to Item 1, which means that we are having a presentation on Maternal Child Health and Women Infants Children Programs.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

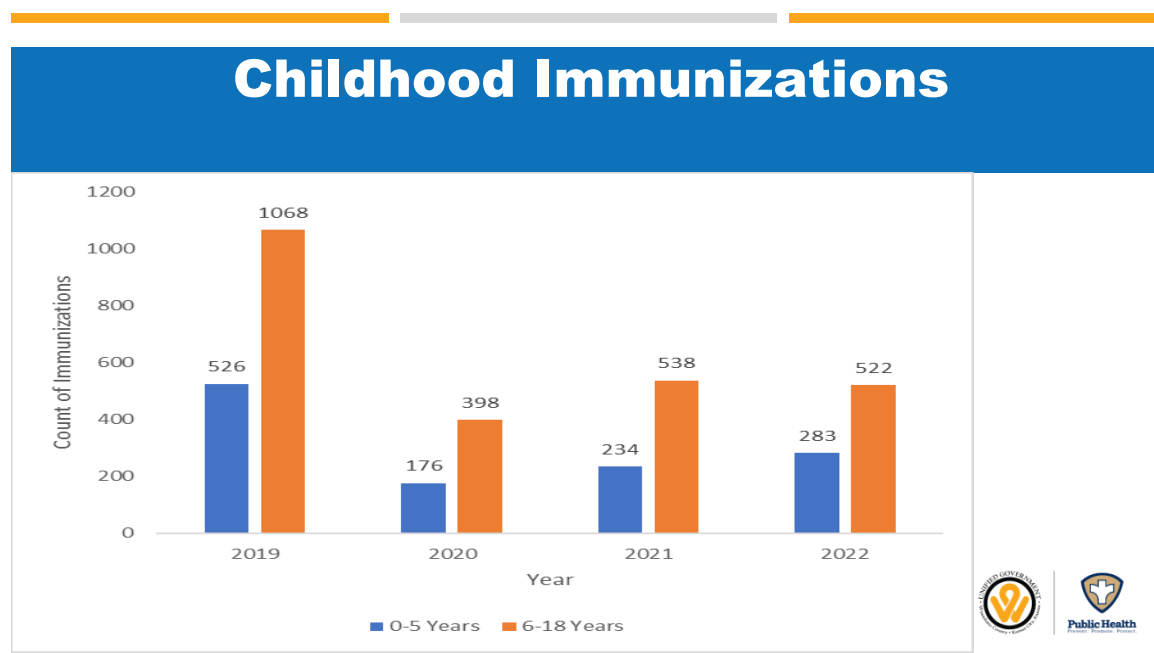
Item No. 2 – 212591...PRESENTATION: MATERIAL CHILD HEALTH AND WOMEN INFANTS CHILDREN PROGRAM

Synopsis: A presentation on the Maternal Child Health program and the Women, Infants, and Children program that are managed by the Health Department, submitted by Ambur Banner, Acting Health Department Director.

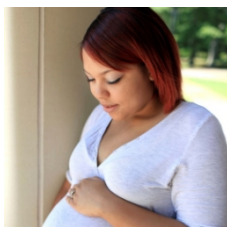
Terrie Garrison, Deputy Director for Clinical Services at the Health Department, said I'd like to introduce our team here. It's Christina VanCleave, she's our Program Supervisor, and Jennifer Allen, she's our Social Worker, and Ashley Lause, she is our Women Infant Children Supplemental Nutrition, WIC for another word, Manager, and Ernestine Holmes, who is our Administrative Supervisor for the Women Infant Children division.

Christina VanCleave, Program Supervisor, said I manage the Maternal Child Health Grant and Jennifer is our MCH Clinic Social Worker as well. First, I really just want to say thank you for having us this evening to really brag about the programs we provide under the MCH Grant here at the Wyandotte County Public Health Department.

Before I get started, I just thought it would be interesting to give you some background about MCH. It was enacted in 1935 as part of the Social Security Act. The Title Five MCH program is one of the nation's oldest federal state partnerships. It's also one of the Health Department's larger grants funded through KDHE and a piece of the aid to the local grant. We have been receiving this grant since 1972, so I was one. There is a large umbrella of work that we can provide to improve the health of pregnant women, mothers, and children in Wyandotte County. I could sit here for hours tonight and really tell you a lot about what we do on a day-to-day basis, but this evening I just really want to kind of highlight programs that we're offering now under the MCH grant.



The first program is our Childhood Immunizations. As you can see, the childhood immunizations we have provided have dropped since 2019. I'm sure we all can guess why, COVID. COVID also impacted vaccine hesitation for childhood immunizations and the schools not enforcing the requirement. The childhood vaccines can prevent common diseases that used to seriously harm or even kill infants, children, and adults. We provide childhood vaccines daily in our immunization clinic. The Immunizations Nurse also works closely with all four school districts in Wyandotte County to assure students are vaccinated. On July 15th, they had an immunization clinic at a local church in Argentine. We have upcoming events at the Turner High School on August 1st, and then on August 5th at the KCK Back-to-School event at the district. Typically, the nurses immunize over 100 children at those events.



The Prenatal Care Collaborative

- Safety net for pregnant women who do not qualify for either Kansas Medicaid or Private Health Insurance.
- Partnership between Providence Medical Center and University of Kansas Medical Center
- Case Management provided by Public Health Nurse

The Wyandotte County Health Department offers prenatal care through their Prenatal Care Collaborative. The Prenatal Care Collaborative is for women who live in Wyandotte County and do not qualify either for Kansas Medicaid or private health insurance. The Health Department has contracted with KU and Providence Medical Center OBGYN departments to provide prenatal care at a discounted rate. Part of the Prenatal Care Collaborative is that the women are required to attend Becoming A Mom classes at the Health Department, which coincide with their visit with the nurse to have laboratory testing and case management services. The total cost for this program is \$725 for the client, but of this amount the Health Department only receives \$125 just to cover the basic laboratory services.

Becoming a Mom

A March of Dimes Evidence-Based Curriculum for pregnant women.

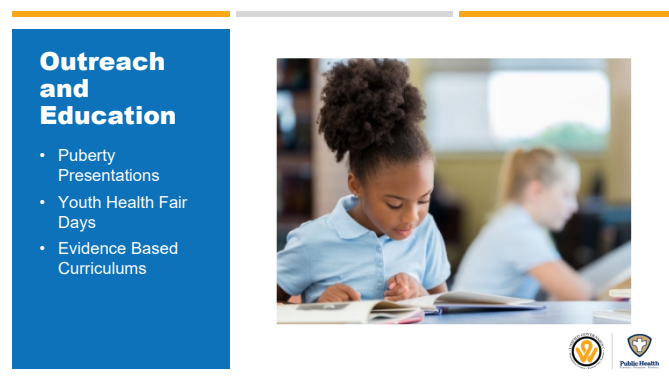
Classes are either in person, virtual or hybrid model.

Developed in partnership with the following State Partners:



The next slide, the Becoming A Mom is a March of Dimes Evidence-Based Curriculum for pregnant women developed in partnerships with the following state partners shown on the PowerPoint here this evening. I'm really excited to say that we have recently hired a full time BAM Program Coordinator to offer classes to all pregnant women in Wyandotte County. The classes are

offered on site or in the community, either in person, virtual, or a hybrid model, like tonight's meeting. The curriculum is made up of six classes, but are provided in four sessions. Each class the moms attend they receive a little gift for the baby and if they attend four of the six classes, they will receive a large incentive like a pack 'n play, and now we're able to offer infant car seats. But, more importantly, they're receiving education to help them have a healthy pregnancy and delivery. This curriculum is for everyone regardless if this is their first or sixth pregnancy, their socioeconomic, or even their education. Just think about it. In 2021 there were 2,310 births, our goal is for all 2,310 moms to be given the opportunity to attend the BAM classes.



We have health educators who provide Outreach and Education in the community. We provide puberty presentations to all fifth graders in all four school districts. We work closely with the USD 500 School District and offer Evidence Based Curriculum in the eighth and ninth grade PE classes, and we put on Youth Health Fair Days in the middle and high schools. We serve over 2,000 students in the 2023 grant year, which goes from July 1st through June 30th.

We then have an at-risk teen health educator who goes into the community and provides evidence based curriculum or presentations. The health educator provides education weekly to girls at the Kaw Valley Center Residential Treatment facility, which is well received. The girls love having her there and she provides information from A to Z, and she's a true asset to KVC. She also works with the youth through the juvenile system in Wyandotte County. Some of the girls come take a tour and learn about services that we can provide.

Universal Home Visiting

The purpose is to educate, initiate referrals, and assist mothers and families in accessing community systems of care.



Finally, in January of this year, we were able to hire a universal home visitor to work with moms, pregnant women, and children. She goes to Providence Medical Center twice a week to meet with the new moms and goes to Vibrant Health to meet with new clients. The universal home visitor referrals go through Iris, which is a community referral platform that assists organizations to connect families to the correct resources. A few partners include WIC Safety Net Clinics, Project Eagle, and Wyandotte Center just to name a few. Now, I would like to introduce you to Jennifer, who is going to inform you about her work in the fetal infant mortality review.

Wyandotte County Fetal Infant Mortality Review



Jennifer Allen, Social Worker for the Health Department, said I am the Maternal Interviewer for the FIMR project or Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, and I also coordinate the Case Review team, which I'm going to talk a little bit about tonight too.

Wyandotte County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review began in 2012 when the Health Department applied for funding for counties that had high infant mortality rates. This funding came

from many partners. Over the last 11 years, we have reviewed hundreds of fetal and infant deaths in Wyandotte County. To be eligible for FIMR, the mother has to be a resident of the county. Reviews happen in deaths that are 20 weeks or greater and before a baby's first birthday.

Homicide, child abuse, and other involved cases, litigation cases, are not reviewed. Those are not the kind of cases that we review. What happens is, a death occurs, I receive the birth and the death certificate information from KDHE, and then that data gathering starts. We get data from hospitals, OBGYNs, EMS, the Coroner's Office. All moms are offered a maternal interview, so I reach out to them with a grief packet. I send them information in the mail about what FIMR is and offer them the opportunity to tell their side of the story about what happened during their pregnancy, their birth, after the baby was born. What we do is we take all of that information, we put that into a national FIMR database, and it creates a report. We have a chart abstractor, which I'm very excited. We just were able to hire somebody that is solely working on FIMR, which we've never had before. They've always had to split their time between different job opportunities at the Health Department. So this person is specifically working with me on FIMR. When we get that case fully done and completed, we take it to a case review team, which is made up of doctors, OBGYNs, someone from the Coroner's Office, social service agencies, WIC, and we review each case. From that case recommendations are made to what's called the Community Action Team, and that Community Action Team takes those recommendations, hopefully, to make change in the community.

WYCO FIMR	
<u>Case Review Team</u>	<u>Community Action Team</u>
• Reviews cases • Identifies Issues • Makes recommendations to the Community Action Team	• Develops an action plan based on case recommendations and implements the actions • The goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of families in Wyandotte



In August, we have a full time—we've never had a full-time community action team coordinator at the Health Department, and in August we do have a full-time Community Action Team Coordinator beginning. So that person will be able to take those recommendations and apply for

different grants and opportunities in the community to really affect change and, hopefully, improve the lives of mothers, babies, and families in Wyandotte County

For 2021, there has definitely always been a racial disparity. We always see a racial disparity when we talk about FIMR. For 2021, 44% of the mothers who had a stillbirth or infant death were black, 27% were white, 22% were Hispanic, and then 5% were other races. In 2021, 66104 was the zip code that a majority of the deaths occurred in.

Then for—I said, the team makes recommendations. I'll give you a little bit of information about what some of those recommendations can look like. Safe sleep is almost always a recommendation. Accidents that happen when babies sleep in adult beds, suffocation, overlays, things like that. Some other things are persons not accessing prenatal care. There are many reasons that people don't access prenatal care. It could be they don't have a payer source. There are financial concerns. The health of the mother is something that we often see, that moms have preexisting conditions that are not managed before pregnancy and once a woman gets pregnant, issues like blood pressure, diabetes, things like that, can be detrimental not only to the mother's health, but a fetus or an infant. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said we need you to, I'm sorry, pull that microphone on in so that we can get you accurately recorded. Just move it on closer to you. There you go. **Ms. Allen** said those are the kind of things that we work on, or the team works on. I think that's it.

Ms. VanCleave said as you can see, we're wanting to prevent this. So the work that we do in the beginning to help prevent that, it all goes together.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I do have a question about FIMR. 2021 saw 2,310 births, and then how many deaths in that range that you deal in? **Ms. Allen** said typically, we have about, yearly, 21 to 23 deaths. It's usually more stillbirths. We have more stillbirth deaths than we have infant deaths. Typically, there's five or six infant deaths. Many of them are, like I said, unsafe sleep. But, babies have genetic things that happen. You know, not everything is preventable. So, the point of the review is to find the things that are preventable and try to make change. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said do you know if some of those are low birth weight? **Ms. Allen** said many of them are preterm, low birth weight. They spend—some of them spend months in the NICU, and we have stacks of records that come in from different hospitals that our Chart Abstractor reviews. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said so on those we're probably trying to work with mom to make sure we

have a good, safe, 40-week pregnancy. **Ms. Allen** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said and that would be the difference we might be able to make down the road, in that kind of outcome.

Ms. Allen said sometimes what happens is mom may have a stillbirth or a death that she didn't know that she had an issue, so maybe an incompetent cervix or something is going on that, unfortunately, she loses a pregnancy, but in future pregnancies, they know how to manage that. So, she can get a cerclage or she can go to a high-risk OB clinic, but you have to access prenatal care and be able to know those things. So we really, really encourage through programs, maternal child health programs, like the ones that Christina talked about that, when you identify a pregnancy, you need to seek that care. Then, we really hope no matter what your payer source is, even private insurance, if you find out you're pregnant at home, come to the Health Department and get a pregnancy test. You're going to get so much information that you're not going to get at your OBs office and all of these programs, they don't have an income. I mean, if you need classes, if you need help because you don't have insurance or you make too much for Medicaid and you don't have private insurance, you can still access those programs at the Health Department.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'm going to go back to the Becoming A Mom curriculum. What percent—so you said this was available to any woman who's pregnant in Wyandotte County? **Ms. VanCleave** said it is available to any woman in the county, but during COVID we really had to put it on pause. We paused our prenatal care. So recently, just in the beginning of this year, we've hired someone full time to really grow this program into the community. As Jennifer was saying earlier, some of our FIMR work that was being done, we had one individual doing the chart abstracts part time, 50% of the time, and then the other 50% of the time was BAM. So now we have one person that is really going into the community, meeting with OBGYNs, meeting with other agencies that work with pregnant women. Our goal is to get this into every provider in Wyandotte County where they can refer to us. Those are our goals, but every woman should receive this education.

Commissioner McKiernan said so recognizing that COVID may have damped the numbers down, roughly what percentage of moms who were pregnant in the most recent year took advantage of this program, went through the curriculum? **Ms. VanCleave** said it was with our pregnant women through our prenatal care collaborative at the Health Department. We probably

had 10% women outside of our Health Department, and that might be a high number, but in the next year or two that will grow. I know it will. That is our goal.

Commissioner McKiernan said what's the biggest barrier to getting this program out to more pregnant moms in the community? **Ms. VanCleave** said it was staffing, and now we're refocused and we're changing how we're going into the community and getting this done. One of the biggest hindrances that we had, we thought this had to be done by a nurse, the curriculum. Then we were informed late last year that someone that can provide education and is comfortable in teaching this curriculum, but also has a nurse for backup to ask questions. We were kind of piecemealing how we were doing this, and they're like, that's how you're supposed to do it. We recruit people that are experts that can teach part of the curriculum. There's dietitian component of how to eat when you're pregnant, to have a healthy delivery, and so a dietitian can come in and provide that education. It's kind of like when you're in school, you don't want to hear the same person talking. If you have experts that come in and talk about that curriculum, safe sleep, just basic things on how to bathe your baby correctly. So really recruiting it so it's not just one person doing all of the work. **Commissioner McKiernan** said perfect, thank you.

Acting Chairman Bynum said okay, any more questions on that before we move on?

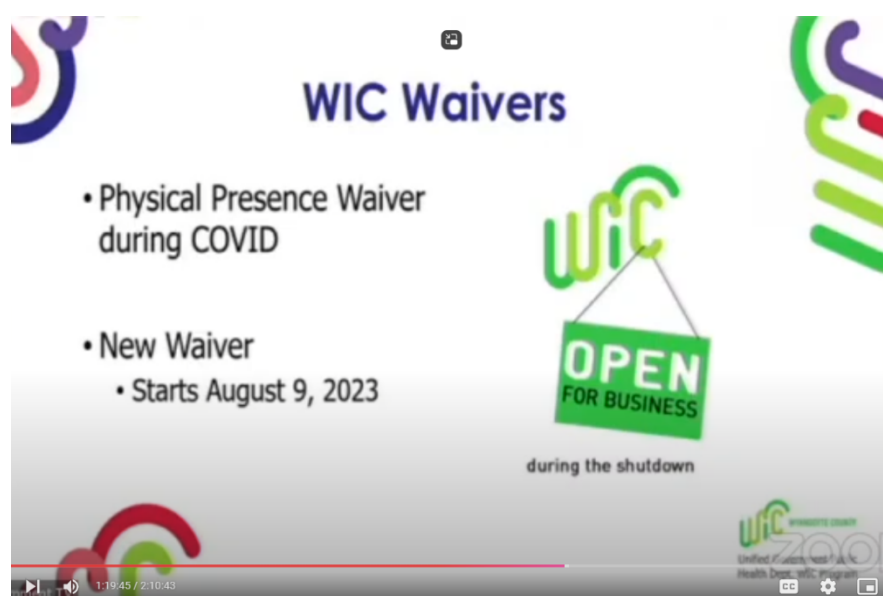
Ashley Lause, WIC Program Manager for Wyandotte County, said tonight I'm going to talk about a waiver that we had during COVID and then also some planning statistics.

So a little bit of background on WIC. WIC stands for Women, Infants, and Children. So that means women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, are on our program, infants, and then children up to the age of five. So when they turn five, they're no longer eligible. These are low-income families, so they do have to provide income to us in order to qualify for the program.

Before COVID, the way WIC worked was you had to get on the program through a certification. At that certification, families had to come into the WIC office and provide their proofs, and then they had measurements taken, so they had height, weight, and we also check iron status because that's a nutritional status. Then the dietitian would have a conversation with the family, educate on anything that mom really wanted to talk about, and then she'd make referrals and then she'd also provide food to these parents by way of a card. We have an electronic card, EBT card. On this card, we call it a food package. So it's like healthy food. So whenever you go

to the grocery store, you see on the shelves the labels say WIC, those are WIC approved foods. So mom could go to the store, she has an app that she downloads, and she can keep track of all the foods that she's been getting, and she can pay for those foods with her WIC card. That's just kind of the gist.

Then during their certification, which was usually a year, they would come into the office, probably three or four more times they would have to come in, and if they forgot something like a proof or something, they'd have to physically bring it in. When COVID hit, that really changed a lot of how we did things.



The USDA enacted a Physical Presence Waiver that was contingent on the National State of Emergency, so that National State of Emergency has ended. What that waiver gave us was the ability to do remote appointments, so we would just call moms and do the appointments over the phone. We would ask for measurements. They would tell us what they recollected from their doctor, and we would put that in our system. For two and a half years, we basically did not see clients in our WIC office unless they came up for a random thing. We knew that—I knew that not having measurements is important, like we need to have these measurements because that really gives us data on how these families are doing. So last August, we did reopen our WIC clinic and we have created a hybrid model. We see clients in for their certification, but all other appointments are able to do remotely. They don't have to come in, they can submit documents electronically in

a safe, HIPAA compliant way. That waiver gave us that flexibility to kind of work that out and make that happen.

So now this waiver is ending on August 9th, and a new waiver USDA has implemented will start on August 9th. This waiver the state had to opt into. They had to choose to do it in our state, Kansas, did. This waiver will still continue to give us flexibility in seeing clients remotely, we will have to require measurements within 60 days, and those measurements have to be from the doctor. They can't be a verbal anymore. So we are still going to keep our doors open. I don't foresee our services changing a whole lot, but that does give us some flexibility for those that really can't get into the WIC office.

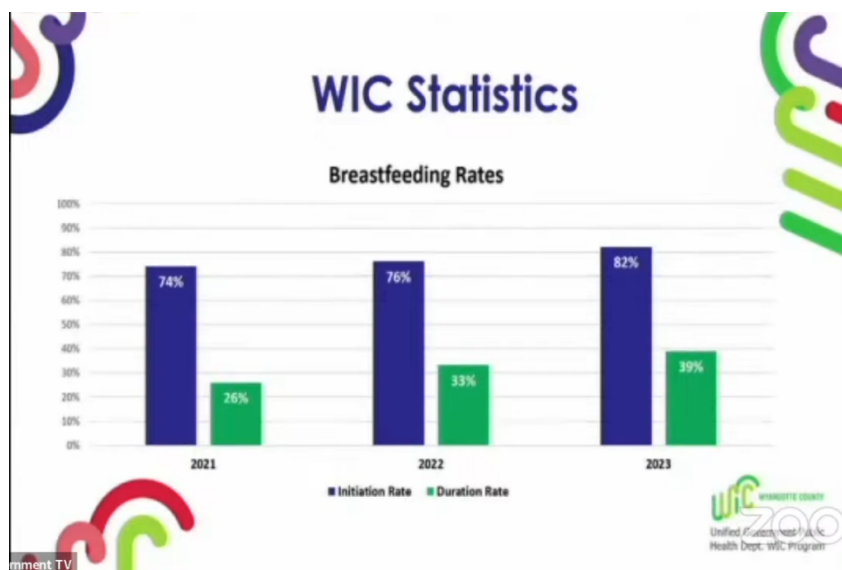


Because of these waivers, we have really seen an increase in the utilization of our program. This is our WIC caseload from 2019 to current. Our caseload number is the number benefits we've issued to clients over the month. So starting in 2019 we were around 5,075 clients. That was an average. We had been dropping for a number of years. So when COVID hit, we started to see an uptick in our utilization. In 2022, we had the highest caseload we've had in quite a number of years with 5,377, and that's the average. Some months we had more, we had like 5,600 some months, and some months we had a little less. Then this year we're still trending pretty high. We still have

two more months in our fiscal year, so that number could change a little bit, but I anticipate it being pretty steady.



The other thing that we track on our program is enrolled and not participating. These are families that are active, they have completed their certification, but they aren't keeping their appointments. They forget, they forget to reschedule, or they choose not to continue. In 2019, we were up to 18% of our clients not actually keeping appointments and not coming back. Last year that percentage went to 8%, so we are seeing more families coming in, making sure they keep their appointments, and probably because we're offering more flexibility in a lot of their appointments.



Another thing we've seen increase are breastfeeding rates. Breastfeeding is definitely a public health issue and we definitely want to promote that because there's so many benefits for both mom

and baby. We track initiation rate and duration rate. Initiation rate means that these moms have started to breastfeed right after they have the baby, so any breastfeeding. Then duration rate is the percentage of moms that are still breastfeeding when baby is six months old. So that is a good indicator that mom's probably going to continue to breastfeed because once she makes it to six months she usually can make it to a year. In 2021, our initiation rate was 74% and our duration rate was 26%. It had been about the same for the last probably three or four years. Then in 2022 we started to see a real increase in our duration rate. Then 2023, we saw an increase in both our initiation and duration, so we have a lot more moms on WIC breastfeeding. This could be for a couple of reasons. One could be that we have two breastfeeding peer counselors on staff. Their whole job is to call our moms and discuss breastfeeding. They help mom with any issues that she has, and they are a peer to the families that we serve. The other thing is, we have a designated breastfeeding expert on staff. In the last year, she has been going through a lot of training and she can deal with more of the complicated issues. Then another thing that I would say probably impacted these numbers is the formula shortage. With the formula shortage, I think we saw a lot of moms, prenatal moms, choose to go ahead and breastfeed because they were worried that they couldn't find the formula. So I think that has impacted our numbers as well. Ernestine Holmes is going to talk about our WIC stores in Wyandotte County.



Ernestine Holmes, Administrative Supervisor and Vendor Manager, said what I want to talk a little bit about tonight is the vendor stores. We have 16 WIC approved stores in Wyandotte

County. When I go and visit these stores, I go every year. I visit two stores per year and I do all the stores every three years. When I go to the stores I look for great customer service, make sure our clients are not getting treated in any differently than anyone else. I make sure the shelves are labeled with the WIC signs. I also make sure the cashiers have the right materials available and also make sure the shelves are stocked with minimum requirements by the state of Kansas.

As you can see on the WIC stats, in 2019 we had almost \$3.7 million use with the WIC benefits. It went up and then it went down, and in 2022 you can see we almost hit \$4 million. Congress had passed a fruits and vegetable—called Fruits and Vegetable Benefit Bump. What this did was bump up the fruits and vegetables for our clients. Originally, Mom was receiving \$22 worth of fruits and vegetables and they bumped it to \$44. The child was receiving \$11 and they bumped it up to \$25. This really helped our clients with using the WIC benefits. I also like to share that the #1 store in Wyandotte County that's getting clients to use their WIC benefits is Sunfresh on 18th Street. That's one of my favorite stores, the customer service is good, I have a good relationship with all the managers, but that's one of the stores that I really enjoy going to see and monitoring their store.



Acting Chairman Bynum said can I ask you a question? On the slide before this one, what you're saying here with your bar graph is that through the WIC benefit, in 2019 it pumped \$3.6 million into our local economy. **Ms. Holmes** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said in 2022, almost \$4 million. **Ms. Holmes** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I just think that's really important

for people to understand. It's putting dollars into our local economy. Can I ask on the next slide after, the benefit bump?



Tell me again that what the number—the dollar figures mean, is that in total? **Ms. Holmes** said yes, in May of 2021 it was \$29,000 worth of fruits and vegetable that was actually cashed using their WIC benefit card. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said and then by 2022 it more than tripled. **Ms. Holmes** said yes, it just went up and up and we're at \$94,000 already, just in 2023. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said that's on average, per month? **Ms. Holmes** said yes, ma'am, yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said is there a possibility that this translates to better outcomes for moms and maternal health, maybe, we hope? **Ms. Holmes** said yes, and we work very hard with Christina and her department, as far as making sure the clients know about the WIC program and we do a lot of health fairs to promote WIC. So yes, we try to get out there to let them know, because some of the, especially our young girls, really don't know what WIC is. Once they come to our program, we introduce the program to them and let them know and we also explain how to use the benefits when they get to the store.

Acting Chairman Bynum said so I see the next slide is questions, so I'll stop and let you finish. **Ms. Holmes** said well, I'm really done, I mean, I finished all the important stuff that I wanted you all to know about the vendor. I really enjoy doing this, and I'm really, really big on when I go to

the stores on customer service. Because when I go visit the stores, they don't know I'm coming, so I just walk in and ask for a manager, and they're looking at me like, oh, who are you? I want to just see how I'm being treated to make sure our clients are getting the same service as anybody else that's not using WIC. Do we have any more questions?

Commissioner Johnson said great presentation. Did you say how many stores we actually have WIC in? **Ms. Holmes** said 16. At this point, like I said, Sunfresh is my highest store, and Target at the Legends is the lowest. **Commissioner Johnson** said I was just getting ready to say, do we have 16 grocery stores in Wyandotte County? **Ms. Holmes** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said but there might be places where it's WIC—you tell me if I'm wrong, but it might be places where it's WIC approved that we may not consider like a full-service grocery store. **Ms. Holmes** said oh no, all these stores are full service. I know them off the top of my head. You have Sunfresh on 18th, Rio Bravo on 10th Street. You have the Merc store. You have—so I might go a little around the world. You also have the Sunfresh over in Turner, a lot of people don't know about that store. Then you come back on State, we have Price Chopper. We have Save-A-Lots on 29th Street, Save-A-Lot on 82nd. We have Hen House, Target, I have the Price Chopper in Bonner Springs. I think that's it. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said Walmart. **Ms. Holmes** said we have the Walmarts. The Walmart at the Legends, the Walmart at Bonner Springs. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said what about the Neighborhood Market in Argentine? **Ms. Holmes** said yes, we have two there. We have the Walmart at Metropolitan and the Save-A-Lot next—well it's not Save-A-Lot anymore. That's called—**Someone** was inaudible. **Ms. Holmes** said yes, thank you. We also have Happy Foods on Leavenworth Road and that we have the Happy Foods on Kaw Drive, which is no longer called Happy Foods, it's called Fresh now.

Commissioner Johnson said do you have anything in the Dollar stores? Do we do Dollar stores? **Ms. Holmes** said no, Dollar stores and Aldi opted out to do that because they didn't want to fool with all the restrictions you have to have. You have to have certain registers, certain machines. They just didn't want to do all of that. **Commissioner Johnson** said interesting.

Acting Chairman Bynum said I am curious. I really love the presentation and really appreciate that you are able to bring it. On WIC, so the new waiver starts August 9 and let me make sure I understand, is that going to be back to—are we going to still be able to do that over the phone or

online? **Ms. Lause** said yes, we will be able—we are currently doing certification appointments in the office, three days a week, and then the other appointments we do two days a week over the phone. But if we have a family who really can't get in or something, we can definitely offer a remote appointment for them. The only difference now is they're going to have to provide measurements within 60 days of their certification. So we're going to have to track that. We chose to not let everyone have this ability, because for 5,000 clients it would be really difficult to track down measurements.

Acting Chairman Bynum said that kind of leads into my next question, on the bar graph with the caseload so that's 5,000 participants. **Ms. Lause** said yes, a month. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said monthly, and some may drop off and some may add. Now, how do I keep my ability month to month. Is that what I'm checking in on, that I still qualify? **Ms. Lause** said yes. Every time they have a WIC appointment, we make their next appointment, so they don't ever finish—we always have a future appointment for them, and we contact them, remind them, all those kinds of things.

Acting Chairman Bynum said it's income based? **Ms. Lause** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said is it household or individual? **Ms. Lause** said it is household. The technical term is 185% of the poverty level. So I believe this year a family of four can make 51—**Ms. Holmes** said like \$51,000 or \$52,000—**Ms. Lause** said a year and qualify. So it's beyond Medicaid and food stamps. If they have Medicaid and food stamps, we automatically qualify them for WIC. They do not have to prove income, because they already meet that income requirement. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said okay, so if they can show you, I'm Medicaid, then I'm also WIC eligible. **Ms. Lause** said yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said does my child age me out? **Ms. Lause** said yes, when a child turns five, they are no longer eligible for the program. **Acting Chairman Bynum** ah, it's zero to five. **Ms. Lause** said yes, yes. Moms will drop off after they have the baby, depending on how much breastfeeding they're doing. If they're doing more breastfeeding, they stay on till the baby is a year old, and they can continue to get benefits during the whole time if they're exclusively breastfeeding or mostly breastfeeding. If they choose not to breastfeed, they will drop off when the baby turns six months old.

Acting Chairman Bynum said sorry to keep asking questions. Do we think we have an awareness of how many families have a zero to five aged child that we didn't capture that are eligible or do we know? **Ms. Lause** said I don't know that information, that would be good

information to know, though, yes. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I just was curious. Like, that's a lot of cases per month for zero to five. **Ms. Lause** said and that includes moms too and pregnant moms. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said pregnant moms and then zero to five. **Ms. Lause** said about half of our caseload our children, and the other half are moms and infants. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I think that's all the questions I had.

Commissioner Ramirez said for the WIC, when they go to the register are taxes, like the sales tax, applied to that as well or are those tax exempt? **Ms. Holmes** said no, there's no taxes on it. **Commissioner Ramirez** said because my line of thinking was, because I know the governor is working on doing away with the sales tax, so I didn't know if that would be an incentive for people to use more of the WIC if taxes were applied to the benefit, but if they're not, then I guess it doesn't matter. But overall, I hope more people will start doing more healthy foods now that, slowly, throughout the next couple years that will reduce the sales tax on our food.

Just for last comments, this is for our Public Health Department, thank you for all that you do, especially these programs. I know that Public Health Department is a department that's not very well talked about, or very much talked about. They're kind of just behind the scenes, the back burner, but as I keep saying, during COVID you guys were the voice and face of our government for two, three years working, protecting, and serving our community. I thank you for what you do and for the programs that you provide, and I try to do my part to make sure that the community, my district, knows what programs are out there, especially with our Public Health Department. There's so many programs and services that you guys provide, and sometimes our community doesn't know what they have. They don't know that if they're not eligible for private insurance or Medicaid, that they can still come down to the Public Health Department and ask for resources and services. So it's important that we do our part as the governing body, as advocates for our community, to make sure the community knows that those programs are there. Again, thank you for all that you do and what you continue to do.

Acting Chairman Bynum said other comments, anyone online with their hand raised? **Brittnie MacDonald, Clerk's Office**, said no, ma'am. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said anyone present in the fifth floor that would like to add any comments?

Ms. Garrison said I just also want to thank the ladies for their presentation tonight, but also remind folks that we also have a medical transit that folks can actually access all of these services at the Health Department through—have transportation from wherever they are to our Health Department to receive whether WIC services or BAM classes, or our Prenatal Care Collaborative, they can access transit as well for that. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said that's a really good reminder, and we need to do anything we can to help our community know of the services.

Commissioner Kane said boy, you're right. I think we need to put it on our Facebook. We need to publicize it when we put out The Citizen, we need to put it on The Citizen, because there are some numbers that are almost unbelievable and they're fantastic at the same time. So we need to get the word out as best we could.

Acting Chairman Bynum said alright, if there are no other comments, we certainly appreciate again what you've done, what you're doing, and the time you took to bring us the presentation.

Action: **For information only.**

Item No. 1 – 212590...ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION: SALES TAX & UTILITY REBATE PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of an ordinance/resolution modifying the Utility Rebate and Sales Tax Rebate Programs, submitted by Commissioner Bynum.

Acting Chairman Bynum said just very quickly to refresh your memories, in May the special PILOT subcommittee—and Reggie, please—thank you—brought forward the presentation to you all. **Someone** was inaudible. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said yeah, we are going to have questions for you, so go ahead. In May, the Commission heard the special presentation about the PILOT Reduction Committee's recommendations. Again, to thank Mr. Thomas Gordon, Dr. Evelyn Hill, and BPU Board Chair Rose Mulvaney Henry for doing the bulk of the community side of the work. Then we had Mike Grimm, Reggie, Monica, and Jeff with Legal and they just kind of stayed with us the whole way through. We had a lot of questions all the way through. One of the things that we brought you in that presentation was also the notion that we could modify these ordinances,

not just around the PILOT, but around the sales tax and utility tax rebates. So those are different ordinances, they're long overdue for update which was part of the reason why we wanted to update them, and that's what we're bringing you tonight. I'm going to start with, I think, Monica with a presentation again to go through briefly the ordinance changes that we're bringing and then, of course, any questions we have, and for that matter, any discussion we need to have.

Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk, said the Clerk's Office administers two programs yearly, the Utility and Sales Tax Rebate Program, which we want to talk about tonight, and then the Homestead, Safe Senior, and Disabled Veterans program. You'll find that there are some similarities there, so I wanted to highlight that to you, but I also wanted to bring you a little bit of history and a little bit of what we did this year differently to try and increase the participation in this program because we saw over the years that it was starting to lose participation and it's such a value to our community that we wanted to do everything we could to promote it.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Tax Rebate Programs

- Clerk's Office currently administers two programs
 - Utility/Sales Tax Rebates
 - Homestead/Safe Senior/Disabled Veterans Property Tax Rebates

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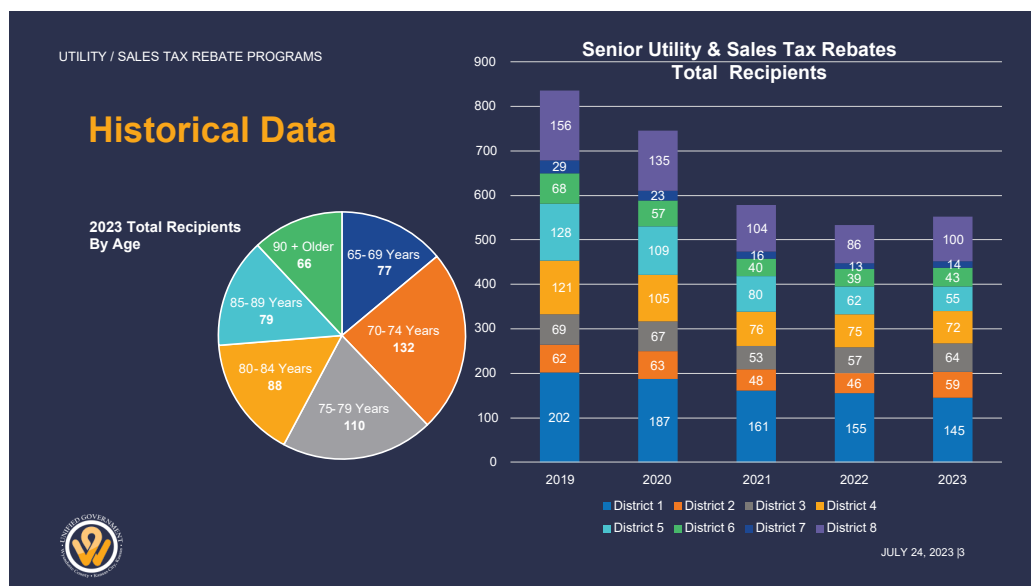
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We had a different kind of flyer this year. We tried to make it a little more appealing to the eye, so to speak, and we also translated it into Spanish. This is the first year that we've translated it into Spanish. We went out into the community, truly, this year was a collaboration with several UG departments that were involved. With Communications, who helped us with the flyers and helped us get it translated, Parks, who helped us go out into the community at the different community centers and made sure that we had access to the community centers. IT helped us to make sure that we had internet access and everything that we needed there. Area Agency on Aging who we provided the flyers to, they put them at congregate meal sites where we knew that our seniors went

for a meal. They also put them in the Meals on Wheels delivery program, so that the word was getting out there. Our Health Department was huge to us. They worked—Wes McKain at the Health Department worked with us extensively on what we could do to reach the population that these programs applied for, and also to reach out to our community health partners to be able to distribute the information through them. They're the people that are on the ground every day, so we knew that that was one access that we could have. Then, Transportation worked with us to make sure that we could provide free rides for our seniors from their home to whatever site they chose to be able to get their applications taken care of. I feel like everybody in the UG kind of helped with this program. We did flyers, we did mailings, we sent postcards, we reached out to Churches United through the Mayor's Office, we tried to get the word out as much as we could.

This is the first year that we have kind of gone to specific community centers to meet our citizens where they were because we are trying to break down all those barriers that we were recognizing, transportation, language, access to City Hall. You don't know how many of our seniors said they hated coming to City Hall. It is not easily accessible, so being out into the community, our staff here, Terri and Brittnie both went out on site. We had volunteers from the Commission Office, the staff there went out on site and helped us with this program. We also had volunteers from the Treasurer's Office that went out and helped man sites with us. The stories we got back from our seniors were fantastic. I mean, I had people coming back that have been out on these sites in tears saying, what else can we do? How else can we help these people? Because our seniors were so appreciative that we were actually going out into the community. We felt like that that was truly a UG wide effort and something that was very beneficial.

We do have—and I wanted to recognize because she couldn't be here tonight, but we have one staff member in our office who has been with this program basically since inception, and that was Donna Teasley. She does everything she can every year to make sure that the applications are correct and to make sure that our seniors are paid as quickly as she can get them processed. She truly, truly does do a lot of work in this program and she is our resident expert, so we look to her for everything on it.



Some historical data just to kind of set the scene and give you a background as to why we're looking at changes and what those changes will be. Our goal this year in doing all the outreach that we did was to increase the participation in each commission district by 10%. Now initially, I heard, wow, pretty low number. I think you can do better. Well, we didn't quite make it. We have District One, Four, and Five that we fell short of that goal. Unfortunately, we were close. We still fell short. So we learned a lot of lessons, we know that we need to communicate a little better, we know we need to get the communication out sooner in the year. Based on what you all do as commissioners, that's going to impact how this program goes forward. Once we know that, we can immediately start communicating with our seniors and with the community to get the word out, but we did fall a little bit short in those three districts. This graph kind of gives you by age, and then you can see in your own district kind of how many participants we had.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Program Rebates by Amount

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Less than \$50	4	9	4	3	2
\$50- 149	31	50	26	17	26
\$150- 199	124	118	102	66	53
\$200- 249	236	188	134	140	139
\$250- 299	415	360	297	293	319
\$301-32	25	21	15	14	13
Total	835	746	578	533	552
Average Rebate	\$235	\$230	\$233	\$240	\$239

Program Rebates by Income

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
\$0 to \$5,000	4	3	0	1	3
\$5,001 - \$10,000	103	101	75	51	37
\$10,001- \$15,000	226	190	137	130	148
\$15,001- \$20,000	300	263	233	198	197
\$20,001 - \$25,000	202	189	133	153	167
Total	835	746	578	533	552
Median Income	\$16,344	\$16,524	\$16,941	\$16,940	\$17,021

Utility and Sales Tax Rebate Programs
Amount Paid out for both programs

Program Year	Year Paid Out	Amount
2018	2019	\$196,800
2019	2020	\$171,418
2020	2021	\$134,240
2021	2022	\$127,732
2022	2023	\$133,297
5-Year Total		\$763,487

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Our next historical piece of data for you is the program rebate by amount. That is important for everyone to understand. What's the average rebate that we're processing every year, and how many of those are we processing? The first graph shows you the number and what that rebate is. So you'll see on that first line, that in 2019 four people received less than \$50 and you can kind of follow that on across. The second graph gives you by income, how many applicants there were by the income level. Our highest income level was the \$15-20,000 range, 197 individuals in 2023. You can also see how our numbers, those totals, they were kind of high in 2019 and they have consistently gone down from 835, we're down to 552. That, to me, is significant and we're trying to do everything we can. The chart that you see on the bottom gives you all the five-year total that has been paid out. Mike Grimm was fantastic in gathering this information. I just love the fact that he likes to do this because it's not fun work to me. I appreciate everything he does to get this done. And you can see that the five-year total was about \$763,000 over five years.

So what can we do? Because this program hasn't been updated since 2009, it's kind of significant, the world has changed a little bit since then. Where we're at, I want to give you kind of an overview of where we're at currently and then highlight for you what those proposed changes are. Currently, we do a rebate on a percentage of BPU water and electric charges, wastewater charges, Kansas and Atmos Energy franchise fees, and AT&T landline franchise fee only. I don't know how many people still have an AT&T landline, but some do. Commissioner, there you go.

How can we improve the program? This is what we're proposing. We'll still do the BPU water and electric charges, wastewater charges, gas service franchise fees, that's any gas service company that services Kansas City, Kansas, Wyandotte County, for gas service franchise fees, and then we added telecommunications instead of just AT&T. That would encompass any telecommunications company that pays a franchise fee to the city. I'm sure that Reggie would know more about how many of those there are than what I do.

I think we just passed, last commission meeting, a franchise fee for Google. So I do know about Google, but I'm not sure about any of the others. Then a proposed change on the way that the sales tax rebate is calculated. It used to be a sliding scale based on income, and in the discussions that we had, there was a lot of discussion about you may make more money than I do, but when we go to the grocery store, we have to pay the same amount of sales tax. So why are we discriminating, charging, or allowing a different rebate when we're all paying the same amount of sales tax? So the proposed solution is that there would now just be a flat rate of \$200 as a rebate if you qualify.

Commissioner Ramirez said going to what our Deputy Clerk was talking about for the two franchise fees for the gas service and telecommunications. Do we know, Reggie, how many companies pay either of those fees? **Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director**, said I do know with the natural gas, there's Atmos and ONE Gas. I don't know as far as telecommunication, I don't know right off—and AT&T would be one. I don't know right off how many. **Commissioner Ramirez** said and then now Google, as we passed that franchise fee. Okay, I was just curious to know how many telecommunications companies we have paying that franchise fee.

Commissioner Kane said is this time to vote on this? **Acting Chairman Bynum** said almost. We still have a couple of changes to walk through in the ordinance.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Recommendations

CURRENT QUALIFICATIONS	PROPOSED QUALIFICATIONS
• KCK Resident only	• Resident of the City of KCK or nonresidents of the City that are BPU Account holders for Utility ONLY- • Sales Tax will remain residents of KCK
• Age 66 at the time of application	• Age 65 on January 1 of the year of application <u>or disabled</u>

 JULY 24, 2023 B

Ms. Sparks said the next change that we want to highlight is kind of a big one. The current program is for Kansas City, Kansas residents only. We did verify through BPU that there are some BPU account holders in Edwardsville and they pay some of these fees. So we have changed the language to reflect resident of the city of Kansas City, Kansas or non-residents of the city that are BPU account holders. This would apply to the utility portion of the rebate only because any sales tax would be paid to each individual city. So that would encompass and take care of anyone outside the city limits, but still pays BPU fees.

Then, we also looked at the age. It was very confusing the way that the ordinance was written, because it said you had to be 65 for an entire year, which meant you didn't qualify then until you were at least 66 and we were confused with it, so I know that our seniors were very confused about, am I 65, am I 66, I turned 65 why can't I get it? So we change the language to reflect age 65 on January 1 of the application year. So on January 1 of next year, if this program goes as proposed, you will qualify, it's that simple, or if you are disabled because we had not included our disabled population. Again, we're trying to look and mirror some of the qualifications that also apply for Homestead and Homestead has a disability portion in it.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Recommendations

CURRENT QUALIFICATIONS	PROPOSED QUALIFICATIONS
Income of \$25,000 or less for husband and wife	- Income of Applicant only - Align income eligibility to the Homestead program. The current combined household income is \$37,750. This amount increases every year. "Excluded" income as defined by the Homestead program will be treated as excluded income - Adjust deadline to match state income tax filing date (January 2 – April date)
Available January 3 – March 31	

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Other qualifications are the income level. The ordinance states you have an income of \$25,000 or less for husband and wife, households have changed. We could have a lot of multigenerational families now. So we looked at, what does that really mean? We're looking at the income of the applicant only, not the entire household, just the applicant, and we're aligning the amount of the income so that it matches the Homestead program. Last year, the Homestead program was \$37,750 for a year, that was your gross income. That does go up every year and I do have the historical, if anybody's interested in knowing how it's gone up. We also wanted to include, or to define, the excluded income because also under the state Homestead program, disability income does not count. If you are 100% disabled and you receive Social Security Disability, you have zero income as far as the state is concerned, and that's what we're trying to align in this program. Then, we changed the application deadline. It expired on March 31st of every year. Again, that's awkward, because people still had to file their taxes or they knew the tax season, so we changed it to match whatever the filing deadline is for tax.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Recommendations

CURRENT REBATES	PROPOSED REBATES
• Utility Tax Rebate Maximums • Individual: \$150 • Couple: \$150 • Sale Tax Maximum Rebate (Previously based on income) • Individual: \$124.08 • Couple: \$151.32 • Total Combined Rebates • Individual: \$274.08 • Couple: \$301.32 • Average: \$233.00	• Utility Tax Rebate Maximum • \$200 • Sales Tax Rebate Maximum (Will be a flat fee for every applicant) • \$200 • Total Maximum Rebate • \$400 2024 Budget Impact \$219,600 - \$2.4M* *Assumes 100% of eligible residents apply for rebate.

 JULY 24, 2023 B

So, what does that mean as far as budget, what's the budget impact to that? Previously, under the current program, a couple or an individual didn't matter. Your utility rebate is capped at \$150. Doesn't matter how much you've incurred in service, it's \$150. The sales tax maximum depending on if you're an individual or a couple, that amount was based on that. So your combined income, you could receive anywhere from \$274, basically, up to \$300 depending on an individual or couple, our average payout is \$233. So if you look at the proposed changes that we've made, utility tax rebate maximum would now be \$200, utility services have gone up. Sales tax rebate would be that flat \$200. So an applicant—and it would be an applicant only, one applicant, obviously, per household because that's whose name the utility bills are in, would be \$400.

So that budget impact, if you look at the \$500 and something that we did this year, comes to about \$219,600. Mike Grimm was able to estimate that there are approximately 6,000 individuals in Kansas City, Kansas that could qualify under this program based on current census. If every one of them applied and were 100% eligible, it could be an impact of \$2.4 million, as you can see from the historical data, which is why we wanted to bring that to you, that has never happened and I don't anticipate that happening in the next two to three, four, five years.

UTILITY / SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS

Questions?

Thank you.

 JULY 24, 2023 B

Okay, that's where we are.

Commissioner Ramirez said I have several questions—or three questions spanning, well, two or three spanning throughout the presentation. My first one goes to, you talked about the historical decline of applicants and is there, do we—let's say we had an applicant that has applied for, let's say, the last four years, but then these last two years they haven't applied. Is there any way—do we have a way where we've been able to track that and maybe reach out to them and ask them why they have dropped off? I'm sure it's a lot more work that needs to be done, but I think it's a good idea to think about if there's a way we can track those ones who have an historical background of applying for several years, but then just automatic, just out of nowhere, they've stopped applying and maybe reaching out and seeing what were the reasons. **Ms. Sparks** said the ones that we can point to—and no, we don't track that in that form, but what we can point to is COVID. COVID caused a lot of it. Then, prior to COVID, the Area Agency on Aging were processing these applications as well. So people, again, had that familiarity with Area Agency, they felt comfortable going there, and it was convenient. They stopped processing and I think that that had an impact on, again, the availability of people trying to get to City Hall. I mean, we heard that repeatedly, that it is such a barrier to get here and it's so difficult that people just weren't doing it, but I think the outreach has helped. If we got the word out a little sooner, it would have helped a little more.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay, and I appreciate and thank you for doing that extra outreach and going out to the community because accessibility is a big issue, not just with this program, but with a lot of all of our services and programs that are out there in the UG that are housed within this building. It's something that we need to work on. Two Administrators ago, when Administrator Bach was still here, one of the things towards the end of his tenure we had a discussion about, I found an idea of other cities having mobile City Halls every once in a while throughout the year they would have a truck that was just a mobile City Hall that would go out into the community and they would have different departments and provide these types of services that a lot of our constituents aren't able to access. Now that was something we didn't get to continue to have more conversation on, but there's definitely something I want to continue—I'm going to have a conversation with our new Administrator about because this is a program that a lot of people, again, just like our Health Department, don't know about. **Ms. Sparks** said exactly.

Commissioner Ramirez said or aren't unaware and/or just don't have the resources, don't have the means to get here, to provide that.

Is it a paper application? **Ms. Sparks** said it is. **Commissioner Ramirez** said is it required to be a paper application, or could we somehow maybe turn it into an online—I don't know if that would complicate the process more. **Ms. Sparks** said we don't have—for the applicant to submit it online, we don't because we have to verify the information and we have to be able for an audit to show you know where what the information was. We actually get the entire utility bill because there's different levels that we have to look at, but they can mail them in. We tried fax, and we tried email, and that was just very difficult, again, with the population, they don't have access to a lot of that ability, but they can mail. They do not have to come in person. They can have a family member come for them, so that also helps.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay, that's good. That's really good. My last question, it's based off the scenario you gave of how if this is passed, we're including disabled and disabled benefits, that Social Security benefit is not considered income. Say we have someone who is disabled and they have zero income. Are they still eligible for this? **Ms. Sparks** said yes, this year as an example of that, and Commissioner Bynum and I talked about this. As an example, you have, say a husband and wife, wife works outside the home, husband is 100% disabled. The husband is the applicant, utilities are in his name, he is the applicant. So if all he receives is Social Security disability, it would be based on his income, which would be zero.

Commissioner Ramirez said well, thank you, and thank you for the work that you did with staff and the committee and with Commissioner Bynum. This is a small drop in the bucket that we can do, but it's still a drop that we're still providing. It's still some relief that we're providing to our community and it's something that, along with the PILOT I know that they're still working on, it's these small changes that we can make, and then as the new program goes on, we can monitor and see if we need to make any more changes. I thank you for doing the hard work and really going with it and providing these changes.

Acting Chairman Bynum said thank you, Commissioner. Other questions? Okay, we took two ordinances and rolled them into one. You saw the other ways that we are trying to streamline the program. We are saying that we're modeling after the Kansas Homestead Tax Rebate Program, which we believe helps the applicant have an awareness of basically, if I qualify for this, then I

also qualify for this and this, and just try to make everything easier to deal with and easier to understand. Any other comments from you all?

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.**

Acting Chairman Bynum said is there any hands raised online? **Brittnie MacDonald, Clerk's Office**, said no hands are raised.

Commissioner Johnson said I just had a question, are we going to talk about the PILOT piece of this? **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I hope we can bring the PILOT changes at least by next month because we have budget work to do, this and the PILOT has budget implications. As we do our budget work, we have to at least be mindful of what those PILOT implications are, even if we haven't done the technical work of adopting those changes and thanks for asking. I was just going to comment really quickly that the last presentation we heard with WIC was 185% of the federal poverty, that's who qualified. That's a different age spectrum, but if you take that and apply it here for a household of one, 185% of the federal poverty guideline is \$40,800 and we're coming in at 37,750 so we're very closely mirroring it. And I only bring that up because it's a fair comparison as far as qualifying for a program, so I just thought that was interesting.

Commissioner Johnson said one follow up to the PILOT conversation that you're going to be having. We understand that there will be a windfall of money coming as BPU bill fees increase, correct? One of the things that Board Member Groneman and I had, just very briefly, was that maybe we could create a utility relief fund that could be a benefit to persons, not—that's just something I want to put into your head and to those that are on the committee. I don't know to what degree it will make a difference, but it is something that like for—I just want to kind of spread that seed, plant that seed, and something to be considered.

Acting Chairman Bynum said Reggie, I haven't done the math. First of all, I don't know when the BPU rate increase takes effect. I don't honestly know the answer. Do you know Angela? **Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel**, said it will be moved back, so I believe it will take effect in August. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said oh, soon. Okay, so that impacts the balance of 2023,

let alone 2024. Have we done any math—**Mr. Lindsey** said we have estimates for 2024 for—**Acting Chairman Bynum** said like what it would bring in additional? **Mr. Lindsey** said it would be a half million dollars to \$700,000. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said I think you told us that when we had the joint meeting. Okay, so one, and this is off our work tonight, but one option was that we somehow hold that revenue neutral or somehow find a way to offset whatever the increased PILOT that would come to the Unified Government is, but when you look at that, it also could help pay for the programs, right?

Commissioner Kane said we need to come up with a different language than revenue neutral. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said yeah, that's true. I agree, I agree. **Commissioner Kane** said we can name it whatever we want to name it and anything other than that. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said we can do better than that. Okay, but yeah, there's a lot to me—that's why we don't have that here tonight, because we're just not ready, but we're hoping to bring it. Again, to remind you that's a change of charter ordinance. You know, there's like three steps involved so, but it's for, hopefully, next month. Tonight, we're going to adopt these ordinances to be effective, I believe January 1. But again, this way staff knows what has to be put in place in order to make this work. So anything else from the fifth floor conference room or any staff member that's been engaged in this? By the way, thank you again a million times for all the work you did.

Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator, said you had a motion and a second, but you didn't vote on it. **Acting Chairman Bynum** said okay, so we're ready to vote. Alright, we'll take roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” McKiernan, Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Public Agenda

No items of business.

Adjourn

Action: **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” McKiernan, Kane, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

RM