

MAHA-KY task force reviews state food and nutrition programs, with focus on SNAP

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

The second Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force meeting focused on food access, nutrition and the impact of the food and beverage industry on business.

Allison Adams, president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, opened the discussion with an overview of the state of health in Kentucky, noting that according to America’s Health Rankings, Kentucky ranks 41st among states for the determinants that influence health and 44th among states for health outcomes. She also gave a broad overview of how Kentucky fares when it comes to chronic health conditions, diabetes, life expectancy, kindergarten immunizations, health care access and senior health — all of which, she said, are concerning.

“I’m not going to share any new data with you that does not reflect the fact that Kentucky’s health has been poor, and is poor, and has been poor consistently,” she said.

Officials from Kentucky’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, in their overview of the



Photo submitted

program, said data from June shows that SNAP, formerly called food stamps, supported more than half a million Kentuckians in more than 280,000 households, with most of them children.

Roger McCann, director of the Division of Family Support, Department for Community-Based Services, said the June cost for the program was \$96 million, which is currently federally funded.

However, he added, “As the commissioner mentioned, with

the passing of the HR1, there could be for states some cost sharing that will come into play.”

McCann also noted that HR1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, eliminates the SNAP Education program, which amounts to about \$11 million annually for a program that teaches Kentuckians about nutrition and how to cook on a budget.

Jordan Olije, advocacy coordinator for Feeding America, told the task force that one in five

Kentucky children is food insecure and that Kentucky has the second highest rate of hunger nationwide for people who are between the ages of 50 and 59. Further, he said, four Kentucky counties rank nationally for food insecurity: Breathitt, Owsley, Knox and Magoffin.

Olije made some recommendations to the task force, including the expansion of the state’s Double Dollars program for SNAP recipients, which offers incentives

for buying locally grown food.

“What I would encourage is, if we can find a way to make way in the Kentucky budget for an expanded nutrition incentive program, we could see benefits like this scaled up in a way that doesn’t just translate to nutrition outcomes, but also to health outcomes,” Olije said.

Representatives from the soft drink and grocery industries detailed information about how the food and beverage industry impacts business. For example, the soft drink companies said they provide more than 4,000 Kentucky jobs and more than \$552 million in wages and benefits.

In an op-ed for the Lexington Herald-Leader, Linda Blackford digs into the many complications the task force will face as they consider food and nutrition policies to improve the health of Kentuckians, writing, “for every policy push, there’s a pull.” Further, she expands on the challenges of creating policy to support improved health when the federal government is cutting programs that support nutrition and health.

NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17 and 807 KAR 5:007, Section 3, of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, notice is hereby given to the member consumers of Blue Grass Energy Co-operative Corporation (“Blue Grass Energy”) of a proposed rate adjustment. Blue Grass Energy intends to propose an adjustment of its existing rates to reflect the wholesale rate adjustment of its wholesale supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., pursuant to KRS 278.455(2), by filing an application with the Commission on or after August 1, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00220. The application will request that the proposed rates become effective on or after September 1, 2025.

The present and proposed rates for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply are set forth below: ¹

Rate	Item	Present	Proposed
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm		
	Customer Charge	\$ 17.10	\$ 18.07
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.09598	\$ 0.10142
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block		
	Customer Charge	\$ 14.36	\$ 15.17
	Energy Charge - First 200 per kWh	\$ 0.08824	\$ 0.09324
	Energy Charge - Next 300 per kWh	\$ 0.10379	\$ 0.10967
	Energy Charge - Over 500 per kWh	\$ 0.11415	\$ 0.12062
GS-3	Residential Time of Day		
	Customer Charge	\$ 25.91	\$ 27.38
	Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.11357	\$ 0.12001
	Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.06598	\$ 0.06972
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 33.69	\$ 35.60
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.09644	\$ 0.10190
	Demand Charge over 10 KW per kW	\$ 8.06	\$ 8.52
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate		
	Customer Charge	\$ 41.46	\$ 43.81
	Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.14184	\$ 0.14988
	Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.08012	\$ 0.08466
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 57.60	\$ 60.86
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.06569	\$ 0.06941
	Demand Charge per kW	\$ 8.64	\$ 9.13
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW) (Time of Day)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 57.82	\$ 61.10
	Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.10703	\$ 0.11309
	Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.07519	\$ 0.07945
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 115.20	\$ 121.73
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05932	\$ 0.06268
	Demand Charge per kW	\$ 8.64	\$ 9.13
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 1,150.86	\$ 1,249.11
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05986	\$ 0.06497
	Demand Charge Contract per kW	\$ 7.42	\$ 8.05
	Demand Charge Excess per kW	\$ 10.33	\$ 11.21
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW)		
	Customer Charge	\$ 2,301.71	\$ 2,498.20
	Demand Charge Contract per kW	\$ 7.42	\$ 8.05
	Demand Charge Excess per kW	\$ 10.33	\$ 11.21
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05422	\$ 0.05885
	Interruptible Service Rider		
	Interruptible Credit per kW	\$ (5.60)	\$ (5.60)
L	Lighting		
	Open Bottom Light- 6000-9500 Lumens	\$ 12.23	\$ 12.92
	Open Bottom Light- 25,000 Lumens	\$ 19.02	\$ 20.10
	Directional Flood Light	\$ 19.45	\$ 20.55
	Shoebox Fixture	\$ 21.35	\$ 22.56
	Acorn Fixture	\$ 20.60	\$ 21.77
	Colonial Fixture	\$ 17.45	\$ 18.44
	Cobra Head- 5 0,000 Lumens	\$ 26.55	\$ 28.05
	Ornamental Light 6000-9500 Lumens	\$ 12.07	\$ 12.75
	Ornamental light- approx 25000 Lumens	\$ 17.27	\$ 18.25
	Colonial Fixture-		

	15ft Mounting height	\$	10.61	\$	11.21
	Cobra Head- 25000 Lumens	\$	18.83	\$	19.90
	Cobra Head- 6000-9500 Lumens	\$	12.72	\$	13.44
Special	Special - EKPC Rate G				
	Customer Charge	\$	5,726.70	\$	6,127.60
	Demand Charge per kW	\$	7.30	\$	9.14
	Interruptible Credit per kW	\$	(5.60)	\$	(5.60)
	Energy Charge per kWh	\$	0.05146	\$	0.05478

The effect of the change requested, in both dollar amounts and as a percentage, for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply is set forth below:

		Increase	
Rate		Dollars	Percent
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm	\$ 5,019,764	5.01%
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block	\$ 1,913	5.01%
GS-3	Residential Time of Day	\$ 1,299	5.01%
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW)	\$ 569,455	5.04%
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate	\$ 9,641	5.01%
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW)	\$ 193,445	5.02%
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW)	\$ 499,160	5.00%
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW)	\$ 334,892	7.83%
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW)	\$ 801,806	7.62%
L	Lighting	\$ 139,093	5.47%
Special	Special - EKPC Rate G	\$ 640,575	10.40%
Total		\$ 8,211,042	5.51%

The amount of the average usage and the effect upon the average bill for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply is set forth below:

Rate	Average Usage (kWh)	Dollars	Increase	Percent
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm 1,118	\$7.05		5.01%
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block 91	\$1.30		5.01%
GS-3	Residential Time of Day 941	\$5.57		5.01%
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW) 2,188	\$15.98		5.04%
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate 2,272	\$16.86		5.01%
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW) 49,269	\$260.01		5.02%
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW) 325,327	\$1,459.53		5.00%
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW) 1,732,321	\$11,960.42		7.83%
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW) 3,755,634	\$22,272.38		7.62%
L.	Lghting NA	NA		5.47%
Special	Special - EKPC Rate G 7,271,261	\$53,381.26		10.40%

A person may examine the application and any related documents Blue Grass Energy has filed with the PSC at the utility’s principal office, located at 1201 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40356. (859) 885-4191.

A person may also examine the application: (i) at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or (ii) through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Commission through its Web site or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602,

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Blue Grass Energy, but the Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Commission at Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of initial publication or mailing of the notice, the Commission may take final action on the application.

¹ The present and proposed rate in this notice reflect Blue Grass’ approved rates at the time of this notice and not the rate Blue Grass has proposed in Case No. 2025-00103, *Electronic Application of an Alternative Rate Adjustment for Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:0708*. Therefore, the present and proposed rates in this proceeding could differ based up the Commission’s decision, and timing of decision, in Case No. 2025-00103.