

Welcome to K-TAP Unit Eight: When a Kentucky WORKS Program Participant Goes to Work.  
Learning Objective: in this unit, we will learn how to Understand what happens when a Kentucky WORKS Program participant goes to work.

A family can receive K-TAP benefits for 60 months, or five years, in a lifetime. For example, a family may receive KTAP benefits for 24 months, stop, and later receive 36 more months of benefits. The K-TAP check does not always stop when the recipient finds employment. Earnings may not be counted for two months! When earnings are counted, certain deductions are allowed.

A family member may receive additional assistance to enable the recipient to continue working. The family still may qualify for programs such as Medicaid and food stamps (SNAP). The family may get work incentive reimbursements for up to nine months. Child care assistance may be provided as long as the family meets the guidelines for the Child Care Assistance Program.

Let's look at an example. Anath "A.C." Carter, left, and Brooke Spurrell, right, were once on K-TAP, a federal transitional assistance program, and are now employed by Habitat for Humanity working at Lexington's ReStore outlet. Spurrell, 25 and the mother of a 4-year-old son, received K-TAP benefits while volunteering 20 hours a week at the Habitat ReStore and studying for an associates degree in accounting. Spurrell, now the ReStore donor coordinator, left K-TAP because she earns enough now from her job.

A.C. Carter's story is a bit different from Spurrell's. Carter, 37, is the single father of 9-year-old twins he has reared alone since they were 3 months old. A knee injury and multiple surgeries convinced him to give up his job as a state corrections officer and try his hand at nursing or business management. As he was signing up for financial aid, he was told about K-TAP. He began volunteering at the ReStore in May 2011, and was hired on as a part-time worker about three months later. In January, he was promoted to shift manager at the store.

While a lot of the programs for single parents are geared toward women, Carter said more and more men are stepping into that role.

"I encourage men to at least look into it," he said.

And when they do, when they choose to become a K-TAP volunteer and receive a helping hand to regain their financial footing, the rest of us should be supportive and not judgmental.

"Not everybody who is on welfare is a bad person," Spurrell said. "Some are struggling to get by and just need a little extra push."

Learning Stop

Number One: True or False? When a Kentucky WORKS Program participant successfully enters the work force and no longer qualifies for K-TAP support, they may still qualify for food stamps or other forms of assistance.

The correct is true.

Number Two: True or False? A successful Kentucky WORKS Program graduate may still qualify for childcare assistance.

The correct answer is true.

Number Three: Families may continue to receive work assistance reimbursements for up to 9 months after obtaining paid employment.

The correct answer is True.

Number Four: True or False? Families may stop and start K-TAP Kentucky WORKS Program participation if they are laid off or lose their job and need to re-enter the program, for up to 60 total months (5 years) of support payments.

The correct answer is true.

This concludes K-TAP Unit Eight: When a Kentucky WORKS Program Participant Goes to Work.