

Enhancing Individual and Family Financial Security

Extension helps to reduce financial stress through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Finance related stress is a common experience in our community. The financial strain on residents has effects ranging from depression to social isolation to sleep disorders. 33% of adults experienced emotional symptoms due to finances, and 18% of adults experienced physical symptoms due to finances.

Finances are a cause of stress for people across the socio-economic spectrum in our community. When stress becomes chronic, lifetime health can be impacted.

A tax refund is often the biggest check that clients seeking assistance through VITA will receive during the year.

VITA is a free service that helps low to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers file their taxes each year. The VITA Volunteer team prepares income tax returns for qualifying individuals and families. The volunteers ensure tax returns are accurate and everyone receives their full refund, avoids unclaimed tax credits, tax preparation service fees, and refund anticipation loans.



2022 VITA Volunteers

VITA's Impact In 2022

PARTNERSHIPS

**El Centro &
NextStep KC**

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF RETURNS**

1,022

**DOLLAR AMOUNT
SAVED**

\$281,050

**AVERAGE GROSS
INCOME**

\$29,553

**TOTAL FEDERAL
REFUNDS:**

\$1,283,629

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK)

1 in 4 Johnson County citizens are worried or stressed about medical bills. Although residents can geographically access health care, they are stressed about paying for it.

Each year, 7,000 Johnson County residents will be eligible for Medicare benefits in addition to the 90,000 current Medicare beneficiaries. SHICK services help residents reduce confusion by increasing health insurance literacy, confidence, and capacity to make the informed insurance choices for them.

In partnership with East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, **Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK)** is a free program offering Kansans an opportunity to talk with trained, community volunteers and get answers to questions about Medicare and other insurance issues. SHICK certified volunteers offer:

- Free, Confidential Counseling
- Screening and application assistance for Extra Help and Medicare Savings Program
- Education Programs
- Employment and Medicare Information
- Disability and Medicare Information
- Supplemental Rate Comparisons via the Kansas Insurance Department Website
- Assistance with Medicare Part D-Prescription Drug and Medicare Part C-Advantage Plan Coverage

Partnerships
East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging

Medicare Plan Comparisons
79

Average Savings for Residents
\$1,709.20

Largest Amount Saved
\$69,348

Total Savings for Johnson County Residents
\$135,117

Healthy Homes Radon Program

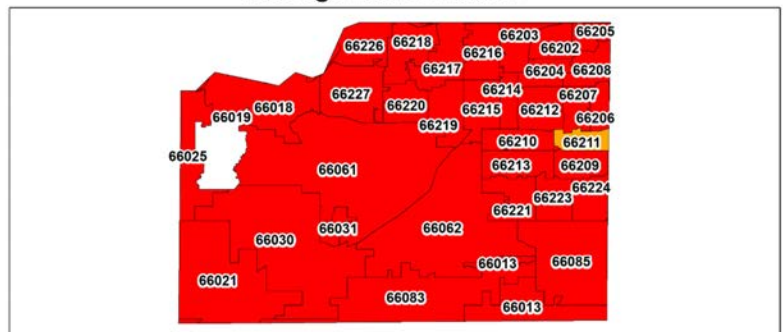
Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon comes from the natural radioactive decay of radium and uranium found in the soil beneath the house. Radon varies from one house to the next. Those who are exposed to radon levels over 4 pCi/L have increased health risks.

High Risk Populations:

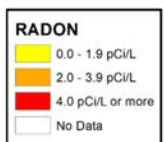
- Smokers
- Young children with long term exposure
- Families with hereditary predisposition of cancer

Johnson County radon tests on average are 5 pCi/L. Johnson County Extension has sold over 253 Radon Test Kits and an available person to answer testing questions.

2019 Johnson County Average Radon Values



Average Radon Level = 5
Maximum Reported Radon Level = 309
Total Number of Measurements = 52,647
Total Measurements 4 pCi/L or greater = 22,558
Total Measurements 20 pCi/L or greater = 1,339



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