

**April Food Stamp Participation Down Slightly**

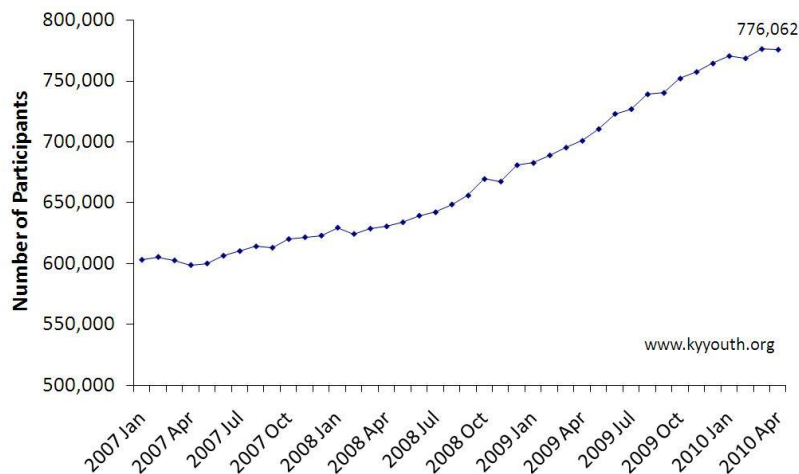
Continued High Participation Highlights Need for Balanced Approach

Only slightly decreased food stamp participation in April indicates the beginning of a slow recovery – suggesting that working Kentuckians are still relying on this important support during the recession. Kentucky’s Food Stamp Program, part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), helps people buy food who have little or no money. It is a good indicator of the level of need for government assistance.

At the same time that the needs of Kentuckians are increasing, the state has fewer resources to meet that need. For this reason, policymakers need to adopt a [balanced approach](#) to the state budget that includes responsible spending decisions and new revenues to meet current need and set us up for future growth.

The number of people receiving food stamps in April decreased by about 480. Participation is still significantly higher than it was at the start of the recession, with just under 150,000 more people using food stamps to supplement their income compared to January 2008. The slight decrease is good news, but the need in Kentucky remains high.

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Source: Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Division of Family Support.

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[http://www.kyouth.org/Issue\\_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html](http://www.kyouth.org/Issue_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html).

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