

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Don Jordan, Secretary

2010 Commission

07/30/2007

Early Childhood Programs

Integrated Service Delivery

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Early Childhood Programs

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you today about early childhood programs within the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. My name is Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary of Integrated Service Delivery.

Funding for early childhood services in SRS occurs primarily from two federal funding sources, the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

CCDF (\$44,117,667)

- Funds child care subsidy assistance, Early Head Start and other programs based on federal mandates concerning funding of infrastructure and quality initiatives.
- Consists of both federal block grant funding as well as state funding through Maintenance of Effort requirements.
- Funds additional aspects such as child care licensing, Resource and Referral Services, support for infant toddler care and school age care, professional development for practitioners, and apprenticeship programs.
- Programs must meet CCDF requirements, federal Child Care Bureau priorities and require an approved state plan.
- Entails administrative spending limits and state expenditure requirements which must be met.
- Falls shy in annual award of funding for Child Care Assistance and Early Head Start programs.

TANF (\$22,532,102)

- Transfers additional funds to child care which become a part of the CCDF funding
- Provides direct spending on child care subsidy assistance.
- Used for the same purposes as described for CCDF.

Child Care Subsidy Assistance is primarily a work support program and provides benefits to working families and families accessing work services in the State's TANF program for purchase of child care services for their children up to age 13. It

is an important support service to those families developing work skills and seeking employment as a part of their TANF participation. Without such support, many of these families would likely not be successful in transitioning off of the cash program as well as severely hamper State efforts in meeting more stringent federal work participation requirements. Approximately 20% of the Child Care Assistance population is comprised of TANF participants with the remaining participants being low income working families. Families with incomes at or below 185% (\$38,208 annually for household of 4) of the federal poverty level can qualify for the program and benefits are provided statewide.

Early Head Start (EHS) is a comprehensive program serving prenatal women and families with children ages birth to 4 whose income is at or below 100% (\$20,622 annually for HH 4 or \$13, 690 for HH2) of the federal poverty level. The program is a state/federal partnership and must follow federal Head Start standards that require a full array of education, health, and social service activities. Services include weekly home visits, parent education/involvement, child development activities, job skills coaching and assistance with finding employment, health oversight, transportation, and case management. Families enrolled in EHS are eligible for child care if they are working, attending school or in a job training program. Child care is available through existing community child care sites that partner with EHS. The program is only available currently in 48 counties.

Funding was provided by the Kansas Legislature in 2001 to expand or enhance Community Based Mental Health services for very young children (birth to age 5) who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, a serious emotional disturbance (SED). This funding was targeted to infants, toddlers, and young children who are considered at risk for abuse, neglect, and/or future emotional, social, or behavioral disorders. This opportunity has created therapeutic learning environments in existing community based preschool Programs and now has expanded to serve more children and families, through the utilization of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation aims to prevent, identify, treat, and reduce the impact of mental health problems among children from birth through age five and has been implemented within a collaborative relationship between a professional consultant with mental health expertise and one or more individuals with other areas of expertise - primarily child care professionals, early education and child development professionals, and families. These partners have the capacity and, more importantly, multiple opportunities to directly impact the lives of infants, young children, and their families. These are the natural environment for children and families and are embedded into every culture.

There are currently 15 programs (6 Preschools and Nine Consultation) in Kansas that have received this funding to provide Therapeutic Services to Preschools and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

Overall SRS is committed to providing these critical support services to the State's children and their families and continues to coordinate and collaborate with other state agencies in a number of areas to ensure the best use of state and federal dollars and the best services to the children of Kansas.