

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON REDUCING CHILDHOOD POVERTY



CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

The Kansas Child Support Services (CSS) Program, operating under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, has two purposes:

- To promote long-term financial stability for households with children
- To ease the public assistance burden caused when children are not support by both parents



CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

- CSS Program consists of over 132,000 cases serving over a quarter million people
- In Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Kansas collected over \$206 million in child support
- Cases are received in 3 ways:
 - Referrals due to mandatory assistance being opened
 - TANF
 - Child care assistance
 - Children in Foster care/JJA
 - Applications for services from custodial parent, custodian or noncustodial parent (no eligibility requirement)
 - Referrals from other IVD-Agencies in other States or Tribes

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

- Services provided:
 - Establishment of paternity
 - Establishment of child support orders
 - Modification of child support orders
 - Enforcement of child support orders



CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

New Initiatives to reduce childhood poverty:

- Building Healthy Families high school curriculum in partnership with the Department of Education
- Child Savings Incentive Program in partnership with the State Treasurer



BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

- DCF and Department of Education entered into an Interagency Agreement in June, 2012 to develop teaching resource for high schools
- Designed to lay a foundation for understanding healthy relationships and marriages and promote an understanding of the responsibilities of parenthood, child support and providing for the needs of children
- Based on the p.a.p.a. program developed by the State of Texas, and used in other States.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

- Units covered by curriculum
 - Healthy relationships
 - Preventing relationship violence
 - Personal, family and relationship planning
 - Marriage
 - Healthy parenting
 - Family financial literacy
 - Parenting as a team
 - Kansas paternity law
 - Meeting children's needs
 - Creating Strong Families

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

- Curriculum to be posted in December, 2012 and pilot programs beginning this upcoming semester (January, 2013)
- Student survey will be conducted to capture learning perceived and projected habit changes



CHILD SAVINGS INCENTIVE

- Research has shown that a child with a savings account in his or her name is 7 times more likely to attend college and not drop out than a child with no savings.
- Costs for college are increasing at a rate of almost twice the inflation rate causing a hardship for many families.
- CSS has partnered with the Kansas State Treasurer to allow noncustodial parents to open a 529 college savings account for their children AND have their State assigned child support arrears reduced by double the amount deposited.

CHILD SAVINGS INCENTIVE

- CSS has 28,420 cases where the arrears are entirely owed to the State of Kansas and the child(ren) are still minors
- These 28,420 cases have \$123,803,940 in State assigned arrears
- Arrears are assigned to the State because the children were open TANF and/or the birth expenses were paid by Medicaid
- Even if only 2% participate that is at least 568 children from poverty with a savings account for college



**Let's give them the
chance to dream
about their future
rather than worry
about today.**