



**TITLE XX:
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG)**

**PROPOSED
State Plan for State Fiscal Year 2025**

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Prepared by:
Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Office of Financial Management

For review and public inspection
April 15 through May 15, 2024
All comments must be received by DCF in writing by May 20, 2024
See page 3 – Public Inspection section for details

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PUBLIC INSPECTION

This document is made available for public inspection and comment through a public notice in the Kansas Register and on the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) public website from April 15 through May 15, 2024. The notice (contained on page 12) provides contact information to obtain a copy of the plan and a deadline for the public to offer comment.

Contact Person: Comments and questions related to this plan may be directed to: Tammy Tompkins, DCF Office of Financial Management, 5th Floor, 555 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603-3444, email Tammy.Tompkins@ks.gov.

INTRODUCTION

Background: Each year, DCF develops a plan for the intended use of Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds. The plan includes information on the persons to be served, the types of activities to be funded and the actual and estimated expenditures for prior, current, and future state fiscal years (SFYs).

The SSBG program was established by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, P.L. 97-35, and amended by reporting requirement changes on Oct. 13, 1988. Each state's SSBG grant is determined by a statutory formula based on the state's population. States are fully responsible, within the limitations of the law, for determining the use of their funds. The following plan speaks only to SSBG funds. Other federal funds are not discussed in this plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY

Designated Agency: DCF is the agency designated to administer the SSBG program in the State of Kansas. DCF partners with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to carry out the goals related to serving Kansas older adults and persons with disabilities.

Mission of the Agencies: The mission of DCF is to protect children, strengthen families and promote adult self-sufficiency. KDADS mission is to protect Kansans, promote recovery and support self-sufficiency.

Geographic Area: State of Kansas

Agency Responsibilities: DCF's primary responsibilities are to follow our mission which is to protect children, strengthen families and promote adult self-sufficiency. Kansas law mandates that DCF perform certain duties—investigate abuse and neglect, and care for children whom the courts place in the Secretary's custody. Beyond those statutory responsibilities, DCF provides vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, child support services, and economic supports to low-income Kansans. Economic supports include cash, food, energy, child-care assistance, and employment support services. All these programs work to protect children from harm and to help families in crisis.

The goals of KDADS are to continue to deliver quality services; to keep older adults and persons with disabilities at home and independent as long as possible; to keep them safe by ensuring that those who provide their care are qualified and tested; to support an integrated and coordinated Medicaid system to help those the agency serves; and to provide Kansans who need behavioral health services with appropriate care so they can live productive and fulfilling lives.

DCF and KDADS serve Kansans by providing services in the following areas:

Services provided by DCF

Prevention and Protection Services (PPS)

- Adoption
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Child Protective Services
- Foster Care
- Adult Protective Services

Child Support Services (CSS)

Economic and Employment Services (EES)

- Cash Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Work Programs

Rehabilitation Services (RS)

- Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Disability Determination Services
- Employment Services
- Independent Living

Services provided by KDADS

Aging Services

- Older Americans Act
- Senior Care Act

- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
- Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas
- Senior Medicare Patrol
- Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act

Community Supports and Services

- Autism
- Frail Elderly
- Intellectual /Developmentally Disabled
- Physical Disability
- Technology Assisted
- Brain Injury
- Institutional Transitions
- Serious Emotional Disturbance

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Behavioral Health Services

- Client Assessment, Referral and Evaluation

Agency Goals and Objectives:

The following are specific goals of DCF and KDADS which support the SSBG statutory goals:

Goal 1: Assist low-income families and individuals in obtaining training and education to encourage personal responsibility.

Objective: 72 percent of TANF recipients will retain employment in the quarter following initial employment.

Goal 2: Provide appropriate support services to assist clients in gaining or retaining employment and becoming self-sufficient.

Objective 1: 77 percent of families losing TANF due to employment will continue to receive food assistance, transitional assistance, and child-care.

Objective 2: 72 percent of employed families receiving Child Care Assistance will have increased earnings at the next review.

Goal 3: Secure permanency for children in care by reuniting them with their families or finding permanent families for children who cannot safely return home.

Objective 1: 40.5 percent of children will reach permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.

Objective 2: 83.3 percent of children in out-of-home placements less than 12 months will have two or fewer placements.

Goal 4: Perform accurate and timely service assessments.

Objective: 95.6 percent of initial child welfare assessment decisions are completed within the timeframe established in policy.

Objective: 85 percent of adult protective service investigations will be completed timely.

Goal 5: KDADS will work in conjunction with the eleven Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to offer Senior Care Act services to help maintain health and independence of older Kansans, as well as prevent hospitalizations and premature institutionalization.

Objective 1: Encourage older adults to self-direct services, which allows them to control their own care.

Objective 2: Provide services that empower older adults to age with dignity while remaining in their homes.

Objective 3: Actively work with the AAAs to provide older Kansans with beneficial information and resources.

State Offices/Departments

SSBG funds are allocated within DCF to Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) and Economic and Employment Services (EES) for programs related to promoting the welfare of children and providing adult protective services.

SSBG funds are allocated to KDADS to deliver in-home services for older adults who need assistance with independent living.

FISCAL OPERATIONS

Criteria for Distribution:

In allocating funds to various programs, DCF considers funds available through SSBG, TANF, and other State and federal sources. These funds are allocated, as needed, to reflect the changing needs of Kansans who meet SSBG eligibility requirements. These adjustments further ensure that the demonstrated needs of both urban and rural residents are being met.

Planning Process for Use and Distribution of Funds:

Criteria for estimating expenditures and allocating funds within DCF is primarily based on historical expenditure patterns and determined needs. DCF sets program and budget priorities by reviewing the program and budget plans from each division. DCF publishes an annual notice in the Kansas Register and on its public website, which makes the SSBG State Plan available to the public and invites public comment.

Actual Expenditures for FY 2023			
Estimated Expenditure Projections for FY 2024 and FY 2025			
Services	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
	Actual	Estimated	Estimated
Child Care - Children	188,877	188,877	188,877
Foster Care Services - Children	15,049,000	15,049,000	15,049,000
Home-based Services	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
Protective Services - Adults	640,316	687,113	761,136
Protective Services - Children	3,838,564	3,863,299	3,789,276
Total	\$24,216,757	\$24,288,289	\$24,288,289

TANF transfer for SFY 2023 was \$10,147,768. The planned transfer for SFY 2024 is \$10,147,768 and the estimated transfer for SFY 2025 is \$10,147,768.

Financial Operations System:

Kansas uses a cost allocation plan to assign costs. The plan is submitted quarterly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Division of Cost Allocation. Cost allocation methods include a random moment-in-time method, time studies, case counts, penetration rates, full-time equivalents, funding-mix ratios, and mainframe usage.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

SSBG Statutory Goals for the State Plan to Achieve

Social services in Kansas are developed and implemented based on these missions and the goals of Title XX of the Social Security Act. The broad-based goals are:

- A. Achieve or maintain economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency;
- B. Achieve or maintain self-reliance, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- C. Prevent or remedy neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests or preserve, rehabilitate, or reunite families;
- D. Prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care or other forms of less intensive care; or
- E. Secure referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or provide services to individuals in institutions.

Characteristics of Individuals to be Served

Basic definitions are listed below; however, specific characteristics of the “individual” vary by program (see section Types of Activities to be Supported and Eligibility Criteria).

- Child: A person who is less than 18 years of age
- Adult: A person who is age 18 or older
- Family: A family group is defined as the client and all individuals living together in which there is a legal and/or caretaker relationship.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Criteria: Eligibility for the SSBG is based upon two factors: (1) the personal need for the service(s), and (2) the person’s financial need.

Personal Need Factor: Persons are not necessarily eligible to receive a service listed in this plan just because they are financially eligible. There must be an identifiable personal need for the service(s), which is based upon one of the five national goals listed above.

Financial Need Factor: Senior Care Act does not require a financial need factor for eligibility. However, a sliding fee scale is applied to offer services for a co-pay ranging from donation to 100%, for which SSBG and State funding supports the remaining cost.

A person's financial need for service is based upon his/her income status. Persons residing in the state are financially eligible for social services if they are recipients of public assistance through one of the following programs:

- TANF
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act
- Medical Assistance through Title XIX

Eligibility Schedule for Child Care Services: The chart below indicates the maximum income levels to be eligible for SSBG benefits for child-care services. An income eligibility schedule, the monthly family income, and share schedule for child-care services are used to determine Child Care assistance. A sliding fee schedule is a component of assistance amounts.

Families may apply for DCF child care subsidy. This subsidy is based on the gross monthly income and size of the family. A Family Share Deduction (FSD) may be assigned to the family and is determined by using the Monthly Family Income and Family Share Deduction Schedule for Child Care Services. This deduction is used to reduce the total benefit and the family then receives the net amount. This net benefit amount may not fully cover the cost of care. The provider charges the family according to their set rates, and any charges not covered by the DCF subsidy are the responsibility of the family to pay.

1. There is only one deduction schedule for all families.
2. The family's income must be equal to or under the "Income Limit" amount.

These amounts are 85% of the State Median Income (SMI), and CCDF requirements do not allow eligibility for families with incomes above 85% of the SMI.

Maximum Income Levels to be Eligible for SSBG Funding for Child Care Effective 4-1-2024

Number of Family Members	Gross Monthly Income at 85% of the State Medium Income - 4/1/2024	Family Share Deduction
2	\$ 4,737	\$ 95
3	\$ 5,851	\$ 119
4	\$ 6,966	\$ 144
5	\$ 8,081	\$ 169
6	\$ 9,195	\$ 194

Eligibility for Foster Care Services - Children

Foster care services are provided to children and families when the court has found the child in need of care and the parents unable to meet the safety and care needs of the child. Most children who require foster care have been abused or neglected and have significant developmental, physical, and emotional needs that require an array of services and care options. However, some children who are not abused or neglected may be placed in foster care for reasons such as out-of-control behavior, truancy, overwhelmed parents, and running away from home. Needs range from placement with a relative to inpatient psychiatric care. Family foster homes are the most frequently used placement resources, but some children require more structured settings, such as a group home or a residential center.

DCF relies on the Medicaid eligibility of children in foster care to determine SSBG eligibility. 97.47% of the children in foster care during SFY2022 were Medicaid eligible. SSBG is used to fund foster care case management salaries and benefits costs of case management workers employed by case management grantees. The eligible SSBG salaries and benefits are net of any amounts funded by other State and Federal grants such as IV-E Foster Care, IV-E Adoption, IV-E Chafee IL, and IV-B.

Eligibility for Protective Services - Adults

Adult Protective Services (APS) provides intervention activities directed toward safeguarding the well-being and general welfare of vulnerable adults in need of protection. APS intervention is available to vulnerable adults who are unable to protect themselves or who need assistance in dealing with abusive, neglectful, or exploitative situations. The intent is to protect the most vulnerable adults from harm while safeguarding their civil liberties.

Eligibility for Protective Services - Children

Child protective services are interventions and activities directed toward ensuring the safety of a child alleged or suspected of having been abused or neglected, as provided by the Kansas Code for Care of Children (K.S.A. 38-2202(d)).

Senior Care Act Program Eligibility Guidelines:

Eligibility Guidelines - Each customer must be a resident of Kansas and must be 60 years of age or older. A functional assessment is completed which renders a functional threshold score and is used to develop a plan of care outlining the services needed. Senior Care Act services are offered on a sliding fee scale based on income and assets for customers who functionally qualify. Customers pay between donation and 100% of the cost of the service.

TYPES OF SERVICES

Terminology Exchange: The following terms may be used interchangeably.

<u>SSBG Service Category</u>	<u>Kansas Service Category</u>
Day Care - Children	Child Care Services
Foster Care Services - Children	Child Welfare Services
<u>SSBG Service Category</u>	<u>Kansas Service Category</u>
Home-based Services	Senior Care Act (SCA)
Protective Services - Adults	Adult Protective Services (APS)
	Field Operations APS
Protective Services - Children	Field Operations Child Protective Services

Child Care - Children

Child-care services provide children supervision, guidance, and developmentally appropriate activities for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Child-care providers include:

- Licensed or approved relative/family homes outside of the child’s home;
- Licensed child-care centers;
- DCF-approved providers in the child's home; or
- Certain unregulated legally exempt facilities.

Child-care services will:

- Facilitate employment or education of parent/caretaker
- Optimize social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development of the child
- Ensure the safety and welfare of the child
- Enhance the availability, affordability, and quality of child-care services

SSBG statutory goal A

Method of provision: private

Geographic area: statewide

Foster Care Services - Children

Foster care services are provided to children and families when the court has found the child in need of care and the parents are unable to meet the safety and care needs of the child. Most children who require foster care have been abused or neglected and have significant developmental, physical, and emotional needs that require an array of services and care options. However, some children who are not abused or neglected may be placed in foster care for reasons such as out-of-control behavior, truancy, overwhelmed parents, and running away from home. Needs range from placement with a relative to inpatient psychiatric care. Family foster homes are the most frequently used placement resources, but some children require more structured settings, such as a group home or a residential center. Our partners in service delivery are child welfare community-based service providers who are responsible for providing foster care services, including case planning, placement, life skills and foster parent recruitment and training. DCF case managers are responsible for monitoring the safety of the children and monitoring the progress made toward permanency.

SSBG statutory goal C

Method of provision: private

Geographic area: statewide

Home-Based Services**Senior Care Act Program – KDADS**

The Senior Care Act program was established by the Kansas Legislature to assist older Kansans who have functional limitations in self-care and independent living, but who can reside in a community-based residence if some services are provided. The program provides in-home services to persons who contribute to the cost of services based on their ability to pay. The program is for Kansas residents, age 60 or older. Senior Care Act services vary by county, but may include case management, attendant care, homemaker services, respite care, chore services, and emergency response monitoring. The SCA program is unique because it allows the customer to self-direct personal care or homemaker services. The customer can choose their caregiver who, in some cases, could be a family member or a friend who they feel more comfortable with providing the services.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services administers the program through the Area Agencies on Aging.

SSBG statutory goal D

Method of provision: public and private

Geographic area: statewide

Protective Services - Adults

Adult Protective Services (APS) provides intervention activities directed toward safeguarding the well-being and general welfare of vulnerable adults in need of protection. APS intervention is available to vulnerable adults who are unable to protect themselves or who need assistance in dealing with abusive, neglectful, or exploitative situations. The intent is to protect the most vulnerable adults from harm while safeguarding their civil liberties. The individual's need for protection and resolution of the presenting problem is the core of APS work. The individual exercises freedom of choice and the right to refuse services if he/she has the capacity to understand the consequences of his/her actions. The individual actively participates to define the problem and to decide the appropriate course of action to resolve it.

Examples of adult protection specialist functions related to the above-mentioned services include assessing risk; assessing client needs; periodic case reviews; formulating service plans; providing or arranging for direct services; informing clients and providers of respective responsibilities; explaining purposes and benefits of service; preparing client, family, and facility for placement; compiling social history information, etc.

SSBG statutory goal C
 Method of provision: public
 Geographic area: statewide

Protective Services - Children

Child protective services are interventions and activities directed toward ensuring the safety of a child alleged or suspected of having been abused or neglected, as provided by the Kansas Code for Care of Children. Child protective services include receiving reports from mandated reporters and the general public; determining whether the report alleges maltreatment as provided by the Kansas Code for Care of Children; investigating reports that appear to meet the code definitions; assessing the safety and risk of the child and any other child under the same care; and taking protective action if indicated. Protective actions include developing family safety plans; arranging for voluntary placement of the child or removal of the alleged perpetrator; and requesting a law enforcement officer or court order to cause the removal of the child and arrange temporary shelter.

SSBG statutory goal C
 Method of provision: public
 Geographic area: statewide

Estimated Expenditures and Recipients for State Fiscal Year 2025

Service: Child Care Children	Estimated number to be served: 11,494
Provision method: Private	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 188,877
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$90,567,853</u>
Total estimated expenditures:	\$90,756,730

Service: Foster Care Services Children	Estimated number to be served: 9,800
Provision method: Private	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 4,901,232
TANF funds used in SSBG:	\$ 10,147,768
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$283,951,000</u>
Total estimated expenditures:	\$299,000,000

Service: Home-based Services	Estimated number to be served: 4,000
Provision method: Private and public	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 4,500,000
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$ 5,515,000</u>
Total estimated expenditures:	\$10,015,000

Service: Protective Services Adults	Estimated number to be served: Total = 10,069
	Age 59 and younger 3,250
	Age 60 and older 6,709
	Unknown age 110

Provision method: Public	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 761,136
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$ 7,947,092</u>
Total estimated expenditures:	\$ 8,708,228

Service: Protective Services Children	Estimated number to be served: 50,128
Provision method: Public	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 3,789,276
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$ 39,564,190</u>
Total estimated expenditures:	\$ 43,353,466

Total estimated expenditures:	
SSBG estimated expenditures:	\$ 14,140,521
TANF funds used in SSBG:	\$ 10,147,768
All other federal, state, and local funds:	<u>\$427,545,135</u>
Total	<u>\$451,833,424</u>

Total estimated recipients:	
Children	71,113
Adults	<u>14,069</u>
Total	<u>85,182</u>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice for publication in the Kansas Register
 April 11, 2024
 April 18, 2024

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) will accept public comments on the State Fiscal 2025 Social Services Block Grant. A copy of the plan, paper or electronic, may be obtained by contacting Kim Holter by telephone at 785-368-8109, by email at Kimberly.Holter@ks.gov, or under the Quick Links, Newsroom section of the DCF website: www.dcf.ks.gov/Newsroom.

Comments must be submitted in writing and received by DCF by May 20, 2024.