Economic Opportunity for Kansas Children & Families

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The Context: Childhood Poverty



Creating Economic Opportunity

Two-Generation Approach:

- Identify pathways to financial security
- Provide income supports
- Facilitate healthy development
- Provide access to high-quality early education

Pathways to Financial Security

- Provide job training and facilitate access to higher education
- Ensure access to high-quality, reliable, flexible and affordable child care
- Provide financial coaching for parents to plan now and for the future

Income Supports

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families provides financial resources to families with children experiencing great economic hardship. It is designed to help them meet their most basic needs. A family of three receives approximately \$400/month.
- Earned Income Tax Credit is the single most effective way to lift families with children out of poverty. The EITC helps more than 200,000 working Kansans, primarily those with children.

TANF Enrollment



Kansas' Earned Income Tax Credit Helps over 282,000 Kansas Kids

How does Kansas' EITC help families?

- Promotes employment & reduces public assistance
- Money received pays bills & puts food on the table
- Keeps thousands of Kansas kids from falling into poverty

The EITC helps **end generational poverty.** Kids from families receiving the EITC have better school performance, college enrollment, and lifetime earnings.

Healthy Development

- Access to good nutrition and regular health care mitigates the impact of poverty on children and maximizes the return of other investments.
- Approximately 1 in 3 Kansas children relies on KanCare.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program reduces hunger and improves the nutrition of children growing up in poverty.

SNAP



High-Quality Early Education

- Young children at the highest risk of educational failure those growing up in poverty – benefit the most from highquality early education.
- Children who have access to high-quality early education:
 - Require less remediation and special education,
 - Complete more school,
 - Are better prepared for a job,
 - Have higher lifetime earnings, and
 - Incur lower criminal justice costs and welfare costs to the state.

Early Head Start

Number of Early Head Start Available per 100 Children

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