

CHILD SUPPORT AND TANF COLLABORATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP FAMILIES



Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

WHY COLLABORATE

We are here to help families!

We overlap services;

- CSS serves over 140,000 families
- EES serves 5,187 TANF families and 112,571 SNAP families

On average, child support represents 45% of family income, for poor custodial families receiving child support. Therefore, increasing child support collections will improve the financial stability of Kansas' custodial parents, improving children's lives and potentially reducing the rate of children requiring foster care and other services. (Kansas Government Efficiencies

Review by Alvarez & Marsal)

WHAT COLLABORATION LOOKS LIKE IN KANSAS

- DCF Structure
- DCF Vision
- Training
- Communication
- Referrals – Mandatory SNAP Cases
- GOALS Program
- Fatherhood/Work Programs in Kansas
- Joint Projects

DCF STRUCTURE

- Under same management and reporting structure
- Use same computer system
- Online (CSS all contractors on DCF email)
- CSS privatization and sharing some offices

DCF VISION

Kansas DCF is an Agency of Opportunity

Mission: To protect children, promote healthy families and encourage personal responsibility.

Motto: Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

Strategic Objectives:

- Strengthen families
- Safely reduce the number of children in care
- Promote employment
- Exercise responsible stewardship of public resources
- Build public and private partnerships

TRAINING

CSS trains EES

- Overall what is needed and what we do in child support
- Specific screens (especially referrals)
- Non-coop
- Provides opportunity to ask questions

COMMUNICATION

CSS and TANF Communication at all Levels

- Phone
- Meetings
- Sharing offices (Admin), field offices, and office visits
- Email box to answer questions (all on same DCF email)

REFERRALS – MANDATORY SNAP CASES

SNAP Referrals to Child Support Services

- Voluntary referrals already in place for SNAP households
- Mandatory referrals for TANF households
- HOPE Bill passed in Kansas legislature
- Mandatory referrals for SNAP Households implemented July 1, 2015
- USDA state option

REFERRALS – MANDATORY SNAP CASES (CONTINUED)

Process for EES (Economic and Employment Services)
SNAP Referrals to CSS (Child Support Services)

- Referrals made using EES and CSS system interface
- CSS notifies EES if individual does not cooperate with CSS
- EES applies non-coop penalties and individual is ineligible for benefits

REFERRALS – MANDATORY SNAP CASES (CONTINUED)

1st Year Referral Data from July 2015 to June 2016

- 50,295 SNAP referrals were sent to CSS
- CSS overall caseload increased by less than 10,000 cases as we already had many of these cases
- 2,165 SNAP participants received non-coop penalties

GOALS PROGRAM

Grant to Assist SNAP Clients

- CSS to help clients reduce IWO for current and arrears payments
- CSS arrears forgiveness opportunities
- CSS answering questions
- Goal to help clients we both serve

FATHERHOOD/WORK PROGRAMS IN KANSAS

Work for Success Project

- Started off 5 years ago with CSS working with and providing incentive to fathers working with the Connections to Success Federal grant
- Provides both fatherhood and work readiness guidance
- Then DCF wanted to replicate Connections to Success projects through out the state in 2013 – further extended in 2016
- TANF funded and CSS managed

JOINT PROJECTS

CSS and TANF program work on projects together

- Fingerprint Background Checks (CSS needs for IRS and Child Care needs for licensing)
- Department of Revenue Information Access
- Fatherhood – Work for Success
- GOALS

QUESTIONS?

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