# STRONG FAMILIES MAKE A STRONG KANSAS

REGION V & VII TANF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Kansas
Department for Children
and Families

*Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas*

# AGENCY MISSION

To protect children, promote healthy families and encourage personal responsibility



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# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



- Strengthen Families
- Safely Reduce the Number of Children in Care
- Promote Employment
- Responsible Stewardship of Public Resources
- Build Public and Private Partnerships

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# EMPLOYMENT

- Competitive employment is highly valued in our society.

- It provides meaningful activity, personal resources and social interaction.

- For many, it is fundamental to quality of life and self-worth.

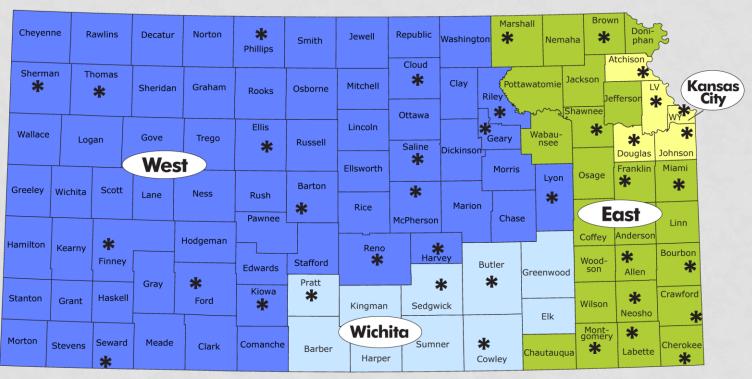- It is also key for a strong, stable family.

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# IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

- Attitudes of un-employability

- Lack of Transportation

- Cost of Child Care
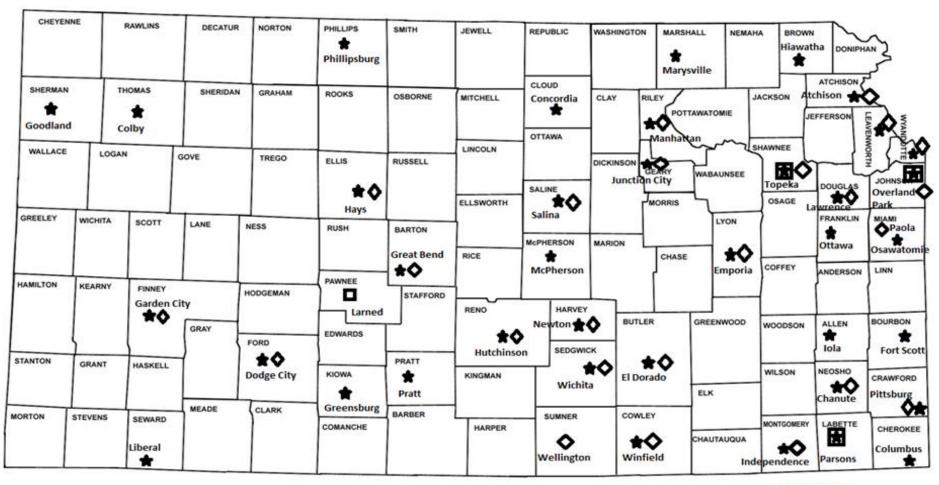
- Generational Poverty

- Criminal Background



![Kansas Department for Children and Families logo]

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# DCF REGIONS



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# Kansas Department for Children and Families and

# Kansas Department of Commerce Workforce Center Map



Legend:
- ★ DCF Service Center
- ▢ State Hospital
- ◇ Kansas Workforce Centers

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# OUR FOCUS ON DCF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- To Promote Employment

- Build Public and Private Partnerships



- Strengthen Families

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# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES

- KHPOP discussions with the Department of Commerce on their impact study

- AO-K discussions with Kansas Board of Regents/Department of Commerce

- Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) implementation (Judy Kennedy)

- Policy review and revisions

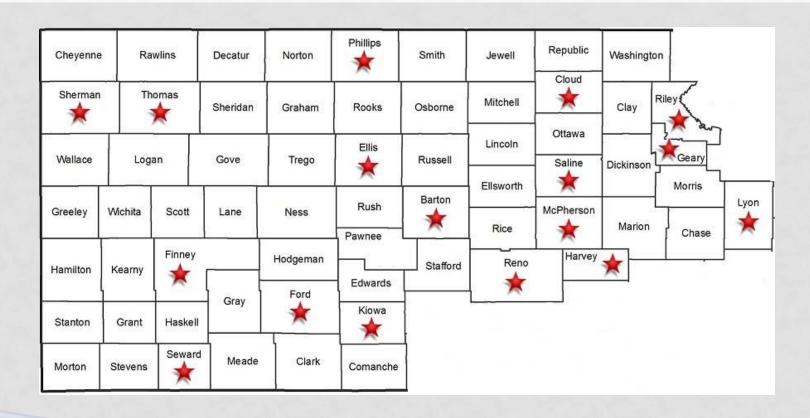- Working with the Department of Commerce to standardize WorkKeys testing and certification statewide

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# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES

- Have one staff member per region take the Kansas Department of Corrections Basic Skills Training course

- Partnering with Commerce, Regents and Labor on re-applying for a Workforce Initiative Grant

- At the table regarding KanCare employment pilots with KDHE, RS

- Workforce training for EES staff and cross-agency systems sharing

- Partnering with SOAR advocates to provide timely SS benefits to those who qualify

# WEST REGION

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# WEST REGION

- Organized a community partner roundtable with DCF (EES and RS), Department of Corrections, Department of Commerce, and Workforce Center Area I
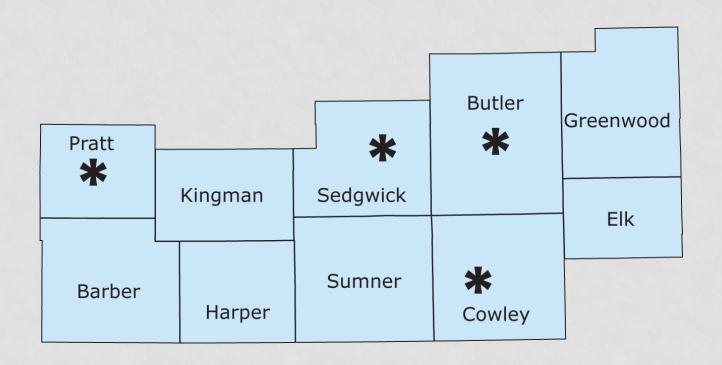
- Developing a "buddy program" between EES work program staff and workforce center staff

- Has worked with K-State Extension in the past, utilizing their financial workshops on budgeting, home and family resources, etc.

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# WICHITA REGION

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- Local contact to work with United Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation on computer training courses they offer in Wichita

- Arranged for a trainer from the Department of Corrections to come present to EES work specialist staff on motivational interviewing

- Connected El Dorado work program staff with the Butler County Taskforce for Children and Families

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# EAST REGION

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- Re-engaging with the Partners in Change program through Neosho County Community College

- Met with Washburn Technical School and toured their facility at Forbes Field, regarding their certification programs for production workers. Expanding group to include Let's Help and the Kansas Workforce Center

- Moving forward with Foley-Caterpillar

# KANSAS CITY REGION



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# KANSAS CITY REGION

- Developing a closer working relationship with Connections to Success

- Met with Director of Facilities at Sprint campus about our exposure to Aramark Food Services, Woodley Building Maintenance, Securitas Security Services, & Pitney Bowes

- Spoke with Donnelly College in Wyandotte County about a new curriculum "Intro to Engineering", based on feedback from Burns McDonald about shortage of engineers

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# NEW INITIATIVES

- Limited Work Experiences

- Statewide Spending Guidelines

- Tracking Requests for Exceptions

- Implementing Subsidized Employment

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# BUILDING BLOCKS TO A SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

- **ASSESS**

- **BUILD**

- **COMMUNICATE**

- **DELIVER**

- **EVALUATE**

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# QUESTIONS?