



K A N S A S

GARY J. DANIELS, ACTING SECRETARY

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

August 2005

Re: An Open Letter to Parents Affected by the Legislatively Established Parent Fee Program

Dear Parents:

SRS introduced a new initiative in 2002 referred to as the Parent Fee Program. If your child recently started HCBS Waiver services, you just now may be hearing about the Parent Fee Program. This letter and other information available to you, will explain this initiative and its importance.

In May 2002 the Kansas Legislature passed a Proviso that authorized the SRS Secretary to collect fees from parents to pay for a portion of the services provided to their children. Affected by this Proviso are parents of children whose eligibility for the Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS) was determined without considering parental resources or income.

In the Parent Fee Program, parents share in the financial responsibility of providing HCBS services for their child by paying a portion of the cost. A Sliding Fee Scale was developed by SRS in conjunction with a working group that included representatives of stakeholder agencies and family members. Parents pay a set fee each month based on their family size and income, although families with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level pay nothing. While SRS will take steps to collect delinquent fees, SRS will not deny services to a child whose parents fail to pay their fee.

Since the Fall of 2002 when the Parent Fee Program began, hundreds of parents have been promptly paying their monthly Parent Fees, and SRS thanks these parents sincerely. These payments are needed to help other children and families like your own obtain services that may not have been available otherwise.

I encourage you to review the information about the Parent Fee Program, including the Proviso, a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the Sliding Fee Scale. Information is available on the SRS website at www.srskansas.org/hcp/mo/MOParentalFeeInfo.htm or you can contact SRS Management Operations staff at (785) 296-3536. I trust that you will find the HCBS services beneficial for your child and family and I thank you in advance for sharing in the cost for these services through the Parent Fee Program.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Daniels
Acting Secretary