

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO RELATIVE CAREGIVERS**

March 31, 2004

A relative caregiver who cares for a child in the custody of SRS has the choice of applying for Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) or becoming a foster care provider. While the Foster Care benefit is larger than the TAF benefit, the caregiver must fulfill additional requirements. If the child is not in the custody of SRS, the relative would only be able to apply for TAF. The chart below compares the eligibility criteria of these programs to allow a relative caregiver to make an informed choice:

Eligibility Criteria	Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF)	Relative Foster Care (cares only for relatives)	Licensed Foster Care (cares for both relatives and non-relatives)
Child's Status	Must live with a relative or legal guardian/custodian. Relative is not required to have legal custody.	Must be in the custody of the Secretary of SRS and placed with a relative	Must be in the custody of the Secretary of SRS
Income Limit*	Child's monthly unearned income must be less than \$175	None	None
Resource/Asset Limit*	Child's assets (savings, checking account, property in child's name) must be less than \$2,000	None	None
Must cooperate with SRS Child Support Enforcement (CSE)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Must pass home inspection	No	Yes, but does not require licensing.	Yes
Must pass KBI check	No, unless child is in custody	Yes	Yes
Must pass check of Child Abuse/Neglect Registry	No, unless child is in custody	Yes	Yes
Must complete training	No	No	Yes
Typical cash payment for one child	\$175	Varies regionally, between \$150 and \$540	\$570
Medical Assistance provided for child	Yes	Yes	Yes
Child Care Assistance provided (if caregiver is employed)*	If income is under 185% poverty level. Only child's income is considered. Must cooperate with CSE.	If income under 185% poverty level. Both adult's and child's income. Must cooperate with CSE.	Child care assistance available through the foster care program
Food Assistance provided	If household's income under 130% of poverty and assets less than \$2,000.	If household's income under 130% of poverty and assets less than \$2,000	If household's income under 130% of poverty and assets under \$2,000

*If caregivers also request TAF cash assistance for themselves, the adult's finances must also be considered in determining eligibility for the family.

** If minor child's parent is in the home, parent income and resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

Poverty Guidelines

Selected SRS Services	Percent of 2004 Federal Poverty Level	Annual Income Guidelines for 1-5 Member Households				
		HH1	HH2	HH3	HH4	HH5
TAF and GA-Cash & Medical*		\$2,892	\$3,912	\$4,836	\$5,632	\$6,384
Elderly/Disabled Persons on SSI-Medical*		6,948	10,428	13,776	N/A	N/A
HCBS Waivers*		8,592	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medically Needy/Spenddown*		5,700	5,700	5,760	5,964	6,696
Children Age 6-18-Medicaid/Waivers	100%	9,310	12,490	15,670	18,850	22,030
	105%	9,776	13,115	16,454	19,793	23,132
	110%	10,241	13,739	17,237	20,735	24,233
	115%	10,707	14,364	18,021	21,678	25,335
	120%	11,172	14,988	18,804	22,620	26,436
	125%	11,638	15,613	19,588	23,563	27,538
Food Assistance/ Energy Assistance	130%	12,103	16,237	20,371	24,505	28,639
Children Age 1-5-Medicaid	133%	12,382	16,612	20,841	25,071	29,300
	135%	12,569	16,862	21,155	25,448	29,741
	140%	13,034	17,486	21,938	26,390	30,842
	145%	13,500	18,111	22,722	27,333	31,944
Pregnant Women & Infants-Medicaid	150%	13,965	18,735	23,505	28,275	33,045
	155%	14,431	19,360	24,289	29,218	34,147
	160%	14,896	19,984	25,072	30,160	35,248
	165%	15,362	20,609	25,856	31,103	36,350
	170%	15,827	21,233	26,639	32,045	37,451
	175%	16,293	21,858	27,423	32,988	38,553
Child Care Subsidy	180%	16,758	22,482	28,206	33,930	39,654
	185%	17,224	23,107	28,990	34,873	40,756
	190%	17,689	23,731	29,773	35,815	41,857
	195%	18,155	24,356	30,557	36,758	42,959
	200%	18,620	24,980	31,340	37,700	44,060
	Children's Health Insurance Program					

Information contained in this chart is intended to be general and is subject to change. For specific eligibility requirements, please check with your Regional SRS Office.

* These levels are based on income standards and are not attached to the poverty level