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# Promising Practice Fact Sheet – Kinship Care/Child-Only TANF Grandparents as Caregivers Cash Assistance Program - Kansas

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## Program

**Description:** The Grandparents as Caregivers Program provided cash benefits to relatives raising children, as an alternative to child-only TANF. The program was implemented in January 2007 as a recommendation from the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature (a body composed of elected representatives 60 years and older which makes proposals to the Legislature and Governor). Due to budget constraints, funding for this program was eliminated as of July 1, 2009, for the foreseeable future.

**Target Population:** Low-income relative caregivers who are 50 or older and the children in their care.

**Goals:** To help these families with benefits and services that will enhance their stability and provide an alternative to child-only TANF.

**Caseload Data:** No more than 170 families received benefits under this program during any given month.

**Cost:** The program was administered by Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services with state general funds.

**Evidence:** This program was not independently evaluated.

## Eligibility:

- Family must have had at least one child in the home under 18, who was not in state custody.
- Caregiver must have been age 50 or older, related to the child, and have had court-ordered legal custody of the child..
- Caregiver was not required to cooperate with child support enforcement.
- Caregiver's income must have been at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level but resources were not considered.
- The child's income and resources must have been within TANF eligibility standards.
- The parent(s) of the child must not have lived in the home.

## Services overview:

- Provided monthly, per-child cash benefits (\$200 per child up to a maximum of \$600) at a rate higher than the regular child-only TANF grant in Kansas, which is incremental rather than per-child and varies with the cost of living in different counties. The regular child-only grant in Kansas ranges from \$168 to \$186 for a single child, from \$263 to \$284 for two children, etc. (see attachment).
- The program also provided an array of support services, including respite care, child care, and transportation assistance.

**Findings:** None

## Implications for Policymakers and Program Developers to Consider:

- With this program, Kansas recognized older relative caregivers' need for additional financial resources beyond those offered by the TANF child-only grant.

- This program offered caregivers a trade-off between a means-test (meeting the 130% of the Federal Poverty Level eligibility threshold) and higher monthly benefits and reprieve from child support enforcement.

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**Attachment:**

<b>TABLE II TAF SHARED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS</b>				
<b>Persons in Plan</b>	<b>I &amp; II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
1	168	170	175	186
2	263	265	271	284
3	349	352	359	375
4	421	425	432	449
5	487	490	499	517
6	557	561	571	592
7	618	622	632	653
8	679	683	693	714

For each additional person, add \$61 to the 100% column.

Table II - This table represents 100% of the basic allowance plus a percentage reduction of the shelter allowance of 60% for one, 50% for two, 40% for three, 35% for four, 30% for five, and 20% for six or more persons in the assistance plan. This table shall be used in all TAF cases when there is a shared living arrangement with one or more persons residing in the home and not included in the budget plan. For exceptions see Table I, items (2), (3), and (4)..