

Approved 2-14-85
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The meeting was called to order by Marvin L. Littlejohn at
Chairperson

(Old Supreme Court Room)

1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 13, 1985 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Williams, excused.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Research
Bill Wolff, Research
Norman Furse, Revisor
Sue Hill, Secy. to Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Robert Harder, Secy. of Department of Social Rehabilitation Services
James L. Olson, Community Resources Council

Visitor's register, (see Attachment No. 1.)

Chairman called meeting to order, and introduced visiting groups. Two groups, The Association of Retarded Citizens, and the Hospital Auxiliary of Kansas. Present with the Auxiliary group was immediate past president Kathryn Culberson, and the current president, Barbara Wunsch. Chair thanked both groups for their interest and their attendance.

Chair recognized Dr. Harder who spoke to HB 2078.

Dr. Harder gave hand-outs to committee as following numbered attachments. (See Attachments No. 2.3.4.5.6, for details). He used charts and graphs to explain the Ks. Job Program and how it works to help unemployed persons find jobs; gave statistics on General Assistance Cash and General Assistance Medical Only; General Assistance Characteristics, i.e., skill level, unemployment benefits, work history, etc. He continued with explanations of the General Assistance programs, saying it provides income assistance to persons who do not qualify for federally funded programs, and is composed of two subprograms, General Assistance Unrestricted, (GAU), and Transitional General Assistance (TGA). There were many questions from committee, i.e., the jobs sought in the Job Program are domestics, janitorial, etc.; when persons with medical cards have their medical care cut off, those persons are at the mercy of the communities in which they live for that service, and many other topics were discussed.

Mr. James L. Olson, Community Resources Council then spoke to HB 2078, and gave a hand-out to members, (see Attachment No. 7.) for details. He expressed their Council's opposition to the proposed elimination of the SRS-Transitional program, saying that the community agencies are already over-loaded with financial obligations that cannot be met, and these people are in need and cannot be turned away. Most all of these service groups have stretched their resources to the limit, in an attempt to meet the needs of the poor, and if this State funded program is cut, many many people will be hurt. He urged committee to protect these limited benefits for these people. Further, he acknowledged that SRS needs to cut budgets and are attempting to do this with the least vulnerable groups, and we agree with that he said, yet, they cannot get anymore funds from the community to help replace these cuts.

Hearings closed on HB 2078.

Chair announced that committee will meet in regular room (423-S) tomorrow, and that early next week action on some bills previously heard will take place. It was necessary to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. this date, due to a conflict in meetings, and many had to go to Education committee at 2:30.

Meeting adjourned.

Date: 2-13-85

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
John J. Thomas	St. Joseph Hospital	2318 Greenleaf Wichita, KS
Doreen Wedin	St. Joseph Hosp Supplying	Wichita Kansas
Anna Berginthal	St. Joseph Hosp. Assoc	Wichita, Kansas
Dorothy M. Furrow	" " "	" "
Bett Jones	" " "	" "
Grace M. Carr	St. Joseph Medical Center	Wichita, Kansas
Mildred Horner	" " "	" "
Ruth Welburn	Heil Seeds	Topeka
Martha Hodgesmith	KLS	Topeka
Culien Whitfill	SLS	Topeka
Robert C. Hader	SLS	Topeka
Margaret Reynolds	St. Joseph Hospital	Wichita, Ks.
Marian D. Felle	St. Joseph Med. Center Hospital	3600 E. Harry Wichita KS 67218

Attn. #1.
2-13-85

Attn. #2

2-13-85



**Kansas
Job Club Program
JUNE 1984**



OFFICE OF ANALYSIS, PLANNING AND EVALUATION
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

*Attn. #2
2-13-85*

THE KANSAS JOB CLUB PROGRAM - THE FIRST
NINE MONTHS OF OPERATION HAVE SHOWN
INCREASED JOB PLACEMENT SUCCESS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
Robert C. Harder, Secretary
Office of Analysis, Planning and Evaluation
June, 1984

The Office of Analysis, Planning and Evaluation is in the Office of the Secretary, and reports to the Executive Assistant to the Secretary, Aileen Whitfill. The Chief Analyst of the office is Mark Levy. The Management Analyst is Stephen Schiffelbein, and the Secretary is Mary Schoenfeld.

THE KANSAS JOB CLUB PROGRAM - EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS IS ENCOURAGING

The Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services directed the Office of Analysis, Planning and Evaluation to analyze the results to date of the Job Club program. The Office's staff interviewed Job Club managers, reviewed documents, and compared the program's job placement success to its predecessor. The result of that analysis is below.

History/Background

During the 1983 Legislative session several changes were made in the General Assistance program. One change was to limit General Assistance to a maximum of \$100 per month for most able-bodied adults under 51. In conjunction with this change a new jobs program called Job Club was created to help these Transitional General Assistance recipients get jobs and consequently off General Assistance as quickly as possible. The Job Club program began operating in Kansas City in September 1983, and in Topeka and Wichita in October 1983.

Job Club was initially funded through federal Emergency Jobs and Humanitarian Aid Bill funding. The federal funding has expired and only about \$90,000 of federal money from fiscal year 1984 will be left over for fiscal year 1985. In fiscal year 1985 approximately \$300,000 State General Fund will be used to fund the Job Club program. As of May 31, 1984, \$311,268 had been spent on the program. There are 19 SRS staff members working full-time on the Job Club program.

How Does The Job Club Program Work?

The Job Club program is a two-week program conducted by two staff members for 20 clients. In the first week staff members meet with clients every afternoon to train clients in the following areas:

- a self assessment of work skills
- the importance of manners, appearance, and a positive attitude
- setting job goals and finding job leads
- techniques for effective applications, resumes, and interviews
- methods of contacting potential employers by phone

In the second week, clients spend each morning using the phone book and other sources to contact 10 to 15 potential employers by phone. Many jobs are never advertized and this method has been used effectively in several programs nationwide as a way to locate jobs. Clients are encouraged to exchange ideas and support each others' efforts. Staff members supervise the phone calling process and counsel individual clients. Clients are expected to continue their job search and go to job interviews in the afternoons.

What Have Been The Results?

As of May 31, 1984, 2,147 clients had been enrolled in the Job Club program. Of those 1,587, or 73.9 percent, completed the two week program and 594, or 37.4 percent of the 1,587 clients had jobs within four weeks of completing the program.

There are several ways to gauge the success of this program.

- The percentage of clients finding jobs is nearly triple the rate before Job Club. Prior to Job Club, General Assistance recipients were required to register with the Department of Human Resource's Employment Service program. Department of Human Resource's reports show that in the year ending in September 1983 ten percent of the welfare clients registered with them got jobs. That compares with 27.6 percent (or 594 out of 2,147) of the clients who complete the Job Club program and find a job.
- The General Assistance payments saved as a result of clients getting jobs through Job Club is 48 percent greater than the cost of the program. The clients who find jobs as a result of the Job Club program are taken off General Assistance. Assuming 70 percent of the 594 who had found jobs by the end of May will keep their jobs for 12 months, \$460,479 will be saved. The \$460,479 saved is 48 percent more than the \$311,268 spent on the program by the end of May 1984.

The clients also who got jobs and no longer receive General Assistance are not entitled to the medical benefits of General Assistance which averaged \$23 per month for each client in the first 11 months of fiscal year 1984. Assuming again 70 percent of those 594 clients keep their jobs for 12 months, \$116,906 of medical benefits will be saved.

- Taking clients who fail to participate in the Job Club program off General Assistance increases the savings. In addition to the \$460,479 saved by clients finding jobs, another \$395,997 of General Assistance benefits has been saved because 1,442 clients who were enrolled in Job Club refused to participate and were disqualified from receiving General Assistance benefits for three months. The medical benefits saved while these clients are disqualified totals \$101,358.

The Job Club savings in terms of benefits not paid to clients who either found jobs or were disqualified totals \$1,074,740. Operating costs in the same period were \$311,268.

**Changes Made In The Program In Recent
Months Have Increased Job Placement Success.**

In February program managers reviewed the program and determined there were several modifications to the program that could increase the percentage of clients finding jobs. One possibility they identified was to screen potential Job Club participants to ensure they are capable of benefiting from the program. They had found many Job Club participants needed remedial reading, treatment for alcohol or drug abuse, or other services that would make it possible for them to succeed in the Job Club program. In the absence of that preliminary assistance, the Job Club program has little chance of resulting in a job for these clients. The areas have begun some screening of clients and referral to other programs as needed.

Other possibilities for changing the program involve increasing emphasis during Job Club sessions on several key factors in job hunting success. For example, the technique clients use in calling potential employers is critical to success in getting interviews. Supervision of clients' phone calling has been emphasized in recent months. Areas are also using volunteers to do mock interviews to help clients prepare for job interviews. In one area employers are being recruited into a program in which the Job Club staff pre-interviews clients before sending them to the employer for an interview. About 80 percent of those passing the Job Club staff interviews have been placed in jobs after the real interview. Another area is using video tapes of interviews and lectures from potential employers to increase clients' interviewing skills.

**Percentage of Job Club Participants
Placed In Jobs**

	<u>Percent of Clients Enrolled In Job Club Who Got Jobs</u>	<u>Percent of Clients Completing Job Club Who Got Jobs</u>
Sept. 83 thru Febr. 84	20.1%	28.2%
March 84	37.8%	49.7%
April 84	55.1%	66.9%
May 84	42.7%	52.6%
Sept. 83 thru May 84	27.6%	37.4%

As the chart shows, the percentage of clients enrolled in the Job Club program who get jobs has doubled from 20.1 percent for the first six months of the program to 42.7 percent in May. Similarly, the percentage of clients completing the Job Club program who got jobs increased from 28.2 percent to 52.6 percent. Recent changes in the program as well as increased staff experience has been effective in improving the program's effectiveness.

Title

AN ACT concerning social welfare; relating to the definition of general assistance; amending K.S.A. 1985 Supp. 39-702 and repealing the existing section.

Purpose

The proposed legislation amending the definition of the term general assistance authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, to limit general assistance, if fiscally required, to persons unable to engage in employment.

Background

Increasing expenditures in the cash and medical programs necessitate further budget constraints within the current fiscal year. In addition, there continues to be increased pressure on the agency for a substantial increase to the household need standards, especially for the Aid for Dependent Children (ADC) program. The agency cannot afford to continue funding programs at present levels, as well as to increase the Aid for Dependent Children (ADC) standards within current budget allocations, and must terminate the Transitional General Assistance program, at least for the present.

Currently, an Aid for Dependent Children family is existing on roughly 2/3 of the poverty level. This is even after consideration of food stamps and our goal is to raise the standard of living for these one parent or otherwise disadvantaged families who are more vulnerable than the employable individuals who are now covered by the Transitional General Assistance Program. Similarly this department now has custody of several thousand foster children. It has become increasingly difficult to adequately compensate the various group homes, foster parents and other service providers who deal with these children.

The General Assistance Program is a state program providing income assistance to persons who do not qualify for federally funded programs. It is composed of two subprograms: General Assistance Unrestricted (GAU); and Transitional General Assistance (TGA). GAU is designed to meet needs of persons who are unable to engage in employment for reasons such as age or physical or mental condition. TGA is designed to meet the needs of persons who are employable.

In the event that Transitional General Assistance is eliminated, General Assistance Unrestricted coverage will be extended to cover pregnant women and the chronically mentally ill, who are currently included in the Transitional General Assistance Program.

Alternatives which can be considered include:

1. Authorize the Secretary to limit general assistance to those persons unable to engage in employment, as proposed; or
2. Authorize the Secretary to eliminate the medically needy programs in whole or in part. If done in part, the blind and disabled programs could be eliminated while retaining assistance for the aged or vice versa. Selection of this alternative would mean elimination of the federally funded medicaid program now providing medical assistance coverage for the elderly, blind, disabled or ADC related individuals whose incomes are slightly above cash assistance eligibility levels.

Effects of Passage

Unless SRS receives additional funding it will be necessary to terminate the Transitional General Assistance Program. This will help ease fiscal pressures and provide a source of funding for the needed increase in Aid for Dependent Children payments while continuing to provide for those individuals who are unable to work but do not meet the requirements for federal assistance programs.

SRS Recommendations

It is recommended that the legislation necessary to grant the Secretary authority to limit General Assistance to those unable to engage in employment be enacted.

Fiscal Impact

Elimination of the Transitional General Assistance Program (TGA) will result in an estimated annual savings of \$5,487,317 to the State.

Robert C. Harder
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
296-3271
February 13, 1985

*Attn. # 4
2-13-85*

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
GENERAL ASSISTANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

		TGA		TGA	
		%		%	
SKILL LEVEL	Never Worked	8.3	KANSAS	Under 1 Month	.7
	Unskilled	64.1	RESIDENCY	1-5 Months	.7
	Skilled	22.1		6-12 Months	6.8
	Professional	5.5		1-2 Years	8.2
				2-5 Years	11.6
				5 Years +	71.9
UNEMPLOY- MENT BENEFITS	Never Received	51.0	MARITAL	Never Married	56.8
	Still Receives	2.1	STATUS	Divorced	20.5
	Under 1 Month	.7		Separated	4.1
	1-6 Months	10.3		Married Now	15.8
	7-12 Months	5.5		Widowed	2.7
	Over 1 Year	30.3			
TIME SINCE LAST JOB	Never Worked	9.0	FORMAL	None	0.7
	1-6 Months	11.0	EDUCATION	Grades 1-8	15.1
	6-12 Months	20.7		Grades 9-11	34.2
	1-2 Years	35.2		High School	37.0
	2 Years +	22.8		High School +	13.0
	Working Now	1.4			
WORK HISTORY	Never Worked	6.8	HOUSEHOLD	1	37.2
	Fulltime	62.3	SIZE	2	26.2
	Parttime	16.4		3	13.1
	Seasonal	4.8		4	9.0
	Odd Jobs	8.2		5	8.3
	Self-Employed	1.4		6 +	6.2

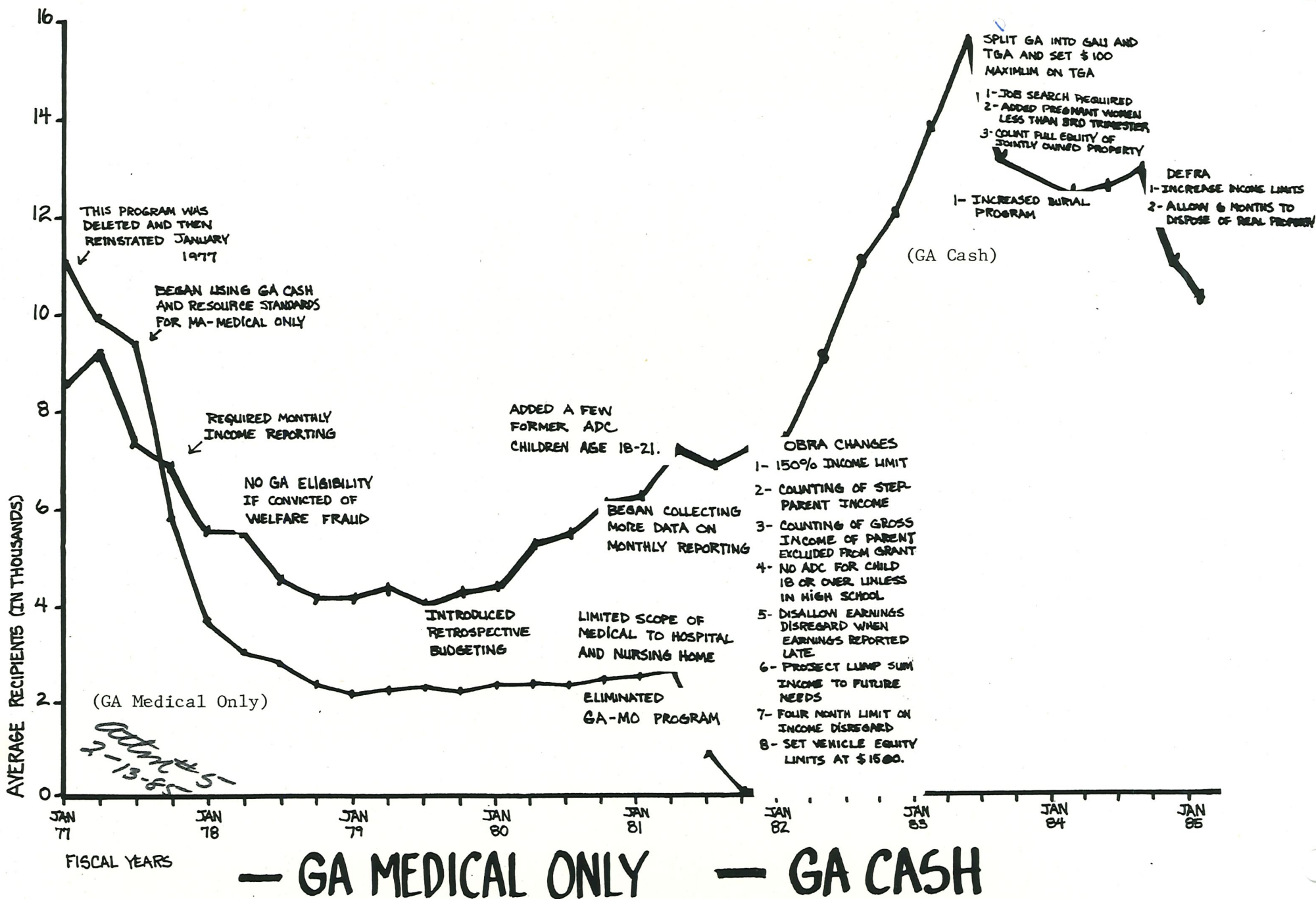
* Detail may not add to 100% due to rounding error.

Robert C. Harder
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
296-3271
February 13, 1985

*Attn. # 4
2-13-85*

GA CASH AND MEDICAL ONLY 1977 - 1984

*Attm. #5
2-13-85*



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
GA CASH AND MEDICAL ONLY
1977 - 1984

Attn. # 2-13-5

	GA CASH	GA MEDICAL ONLY
JANUARY 1977	8474	11,160
APRIL	8594	9,900
JULY	7466	9477
OCTOBER	6683	5917
JANUARY 1978	5591	3745
APRIL	5641	3080
JULY	4627	2826
OCTOBER	4225	2360
JANUARY 1979	4209	2204
APRIL	4442	2272
JULY	4125	2300
OCTOBER	4365	2259
JANUARY 1980	4498	2488
APRIL	5280	2492
JULY	5561	2394
OCTOBER	6254	2505
JANUARY 1981	6424	2573
APRIL	7343	2696
JULY	7106	832
OCTOBER	7408	87
JANUARY 1982	7717	16
APRIL	9303	3
JULY	11,304	
OCTOBER	12,414	
JANUARY 1983	14,073	
APRIL	15,998	
JULY	13,623	
OCTOBER	12,806	
JANUARY 1984	13,064	
APRIL	13,329	
JULY	11,478	
OCTOBER	10,594	

Robert C. Harder
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
296-3271
February 13, 1985

*Attn. # 6
2-13-85*



community resources council

121 EAST 6TH, SUITE 4, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 PHONE 913/233-1365



Member Agency

United Way
of Greater Topeka

TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY EMERGENCY AID DIRECTORS COUNCIL

February 6, 1985

Dear

I am writing on behalf of the Topeka-Shawnee County Emergency Aid Directors Council to express the Council's opposition to the Governor's proposed elimination of the SRS-Transitional General Assistance program, a change that would result in nearly 400 Topeka area residents trying to survive with no income.

The agencies represented on the Emergency Aid Directors Council include the Salvation Army, Doorstep, Inc., Let's Help and the Community Action Emergency Center--agencies that provide the lion's share of food and utility assistance to the community. Statistical data provided by these agencies, supplemented by personal assessments by agency directors and case workers, indicate that this community is ill-equipped to assume the burden of providing all of the food, clothing, housing and heating needs of hundreds of persons who will suddenly find themselves with no income if this proposal is enacted.

As pointed out in a recent report on emergency food assistance, the Topeka area has stretched its resources to the limit in attempting to meet the food needs of the poor. Local churches, individual donors, City and County governments and the United Way have all made extraordinary commitments in meeting this community need. It is doubtful that our local relief agencies can assume an even greater burden of providing food, shelter and heat to the poor who are to be denied cash from the State's Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The Emergency Aid Directors Council urges you to protect the limited benefits available to persons who must turn to the Transitional General Assistance program to meet their survival needs. Please do everything you can to assure that this program is continued.

Sincerely,

James L. Olson

On behalf of the Topeka-Shawnee County Emergency Aid Directors Council

Attn. #7
2-13-85

Attn. #7
2-13-85