

## **Governor Brownback's Budget related to Human Services, 1/23/12**

1. The State's Medical Assistance Program is to be reformed. Three managed care companies will operate the Medical Assistance Program. The Brownback administration reports there would be no reduction in provider fees or limiting access to medical assistance because of Medicaid Reform. However, the Budget document indicates the possibility of lowering provider fees as well as limiting access as a matter of last resort.
2. Governor Brownback indicated he is going to lower all income tax rates. Yet low-income families making less than \$20,000. will see an average tax **increase of \$242**. A family income between \$20,000.-\$35,000. will see an average tax **increase of \$247**. A family income of \$35,000.-\$57,000. will see an average tax **increase of \$146**. A family income of \$57,000.-\$90,000. will see an average **increase of \$14**. A family income of \$90,000.-\$165,000. will see an average tax **decrease of \$244**. A family income of \$165,000.-\$400,000 will see an average tax **decrease of \$2,054**. A family income over \$400,000 will see an average **decrease of \$16,933**.
3. One of the early federal work incentive programs for low income families was the Earned Income Tax Credit Program. This is a program which rewards work. It was an important part of President Reagan's administration. The same program has been adopted in Kansas. In 2010 there were 255,000 persons who made use of this program getting an average payment of \$357. Governor Brownback recommends eliminating this \$91.M program. The savings are allegedly spread to other programs, but the "saved" money is not showing in the various social service budgets.
4. Where are the "savings" being spent? The Home and Community-Based Services for physically disabled persons has dropped from \$134.8M in Fiscal Year 2011 to \$118.6M in Fiscal Year 2013. And there are over 3,300 persons on the waiting list. The funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families was \$57.8M in Fiscal Year 2011; in Fiscal Year 2013 the funding is \$37.9M. The cash grants have not had an increase in their base since the early 1990's. Child care assistance was funded at \$71M. in Fiscal Year 2011. The funding for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$54.1 M.
5. For the last 38 years, SRS has functioned as an umbrella agency. It was the single agency where human needs could be determined and services provided. Unless there are legislative changes, SRS will no longer exist after July 1, 2012. In its place will be an agency called Children and Family Services. For a family needing cash assistance, medical assistance, childcare assistance and Home and Community-Based Services, there is the potential for the family to be interacting with at least three different state agencies to get the full range of needed services.
6. Funding for K-12 in Fiscal Year 2011 was \$3.8M. The expected funding for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$3.7M. Per pupil aid for the next school year remains unchanged, \$3,780. The per pupil aid for school year 2013-14 is projected to be \$4,492 and it will remain fixed at that amount. Enhanced funding to meet the special needs of children in poverty and English language learners is eliminated.
7. Certain select itemized deductions under Governor Brownback's plan will be eliminated at a cost to Kansas tax payers of--- real estate taxes \$68.6M, mortgage interest \$162.6M, charitable contributions \$100.9M.
8. After Governor Brownback had presented his budget; Legislative Research determined there was a \$89.9m. State General Funds shortfall in the computations.

**If you are concerned about these issues; contact the Governor and your local legislator. I will include websites. Once you get to the website you will need to scroll through the various menus to find information which will be helpful.**

## INTERNET CONTACTS

[www.Kslegislature.org](http://www.Kslegislature.org)

Useful in finding names, addresses, and phone number of individual legislators. Also, helpful in finding House and Senate bills and calendars.

[www.kansas.gov](http://www.kansas.gov)

Useful in finding information related to the office of the Governor and state agencies.

[www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org) click on news

The best source for keeping current on legislative and general happenings related to health and social services.

## MAIL CONTACTS

Mail to Governor, legislators, by name and sent to the State House, Topeka, KS 66612.

## PHONE CONTACTS

Telephones: **Senate** - 785/296-6785 **House**-785/296-0785

**Governor Brownback** : 785/296-3232

**Legislative bill information:** 785/296-2149 or 1-800-432-3924

Questions? Bob Harder – rharder6@cox.net