



TANF and Core Areas

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant provides financial assistance to low-income families, primarily those with no other means to meet basic needs. The purpose of the program is to help low-income adults take care of their families and become self-sufficient. In addition to cash benefits, the TANF program has a variety of services that help people find and keep jobs.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) defines the core welfare reform areas as **Basic Assistance, Work Related-Activities** or **Work Support** and **Child Care**. A study¹ done by the Center indicates that a primary purpose of the welfare reform was to provide child care subsidies to enable low-income families to work.

Kansas Reading Roadmap Provides a Core TANF Service

High-Quality Child Care: The Kansas Reading Roadmap (KRR) is one of the largest quality child-care providers in the state. During the last school year, KRR funded over 945,000 hours of quality child care to more than 5,500 children and provided social work services to 700 families.

Serving Low-Income Children and Families: The KRR only partners with high-need schools, based upon federal free-and-reduced meal guidelines. Among Title 1 schools, the KRR partners with those with the highest need.

Nutrition Services: KRR programs bring healthy meals and snacks to low-income children and families year-round. The KRR supports partner schools and nonprofits to maximize federal meal assistance and nutrition programs. During the 2017-18 school year alone, KRR served over 60,000 meals and 340,000 healthy snacks to children and families in low-income communities.

Kansas Reading Roadmap Is High-Quality Child Care

The **Child Care Services Association** lists the following as the indicators of high quality child care: small child to teacher ratio and group size; staff education; staff with prior experience in education; low staff turnover; positive interaction between staff and children; age appropriate activities; and good health and safety practices.² KRR meets all these requirements.

The **US Department of Health and Human Services** cites *Caring for Our Children Standards*³ of 10:1 child to staff ratio for children between the ages of six and eight as a safety and quality measure. KRR afterschool and summer programs have a ratio between 8:1 and 10:1. The majority of staff in KRR programs has background and experience in education. Last school year, KRR provided over 13,900 hours of professional training to its staff.

KRR provides quality child-care services for low-income families



5,500+ CHILDREN

were served in afterschool and summer programs



945,000+ HOURS

free childcare for low-income families



60,000+ MEALS

and over 340,000 servings of healthy snacks



1,300 JOBS

part and full-time employment opportunities



13,900+ HOURS

of professional trainings provided

¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/how-states-use-funds-under-the-tanf-block-grant>

² <https://www.childcareservices.org/families/fs/finding/child-care-quality/>

³ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/13-indicators-quality-child-care-research-update>