

Kansas Department of  
Social and Rehabilitation Services  
Don Jordan, Secretary

Joint Committee on Economic Development  
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Cost Shifting between Workers' Compensation Insurance  
and State Assistance Programs

Integrated Services Delivery  
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# Cost Shifting between Workers Compensation Insurance and State Assistance Programs

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Chairwoman Brownlee and members of the Committee, I am Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary for Integrated Service Delivery at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide information about cost-shifting between Workers Compensation Insurance and State Assistance and Vocational programs.

Workers' Compensation Insurance payments are countable income for SRS means tested programs, such as Food Assistance (formally known as Food Stamps), Temporary Assistance to Families, Child Care Subsidy and General Assistance. We include the Workers' Compensation Insurance payments when determining eligibility for these programs.

For Cash Assistance, including Temporary Assistance to Families and General Assistance, individuals are required to take any necessary action to acquire potential resources. This would include benefits such as Worker's Compensation, unemployment benefits, and Social Security Insurance, to name a few. Failure to explore eligibility for these resources would result in ineligibility for assistance programs.

Individuals seeking services from Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) are required to identify other "payers" when working with a counselor to develop their individual plan for employment (IPE). When a person's plan identifies a needed service, e.g., re-training, therapy, medical services, etc., the counselor lists the estimated cost and responsible payer (KRS or other comparable benefit, such as Workers Compensation). Every attempt is made to utilize other funding before KRS resources are expended.

In SFY 2007, 83 KRS applicants self-reported participation in a Workers' Compensation case at the time of application, and 94 KRS applicants reported Workers Compensation benefits at time of application in SFY 2008.

SRS will continue to work with individuals to assure they receive the benefits best suited to meet their needs. This concludes my testimony. I will now stand for questions.