**PROPOSAL - SSI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PILOT**

1. **Description**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Employment Support Pilot will promote employment for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) and Physical Disability (PD) on the I/DD and PD Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver waiting lists by providing personal and employment support services for individuals who are employed. Pilot participants will be given a monthly allocation, capped at $1,500/month, to purchase the services they need to live and work in the community. Participants in the pilot will receive medical coverage through KanCare.

The SSI Employment Pilot was included in the original KanCare 1115 Waiver application, however still requires CMS approval. KDHE hopes to implement July 1, 2015.

1. **Target Population**

Up to 400 SSI recipients {SSI cash or 1619(b)}, age 16 and above, currently on the I/DD or PD waiver waiting lists, who are

1. **Services**

* **Benefits Planning -** The Kansas Medicaid Buy-In program, *Working Healthy,* has a robust benefits planning program*.* The Team Leader and six Benefits Specialists are located regionally and will be available to discuss the SSI Alternative Pilot and alternatives to this option, provide individual benefit plans, and explain the impact of employment on benefits.
* **Personal Care and Employment Support Services** - Funding for personal care and employment services will be made in the form of a monthly allocation, capped at $1,500 per month, allowing participants to directly manage their funds, as well as the flexibility to purchase services that best meets their needs in the most cost-effective and innovative manner. Utilizing a monthly cash allocation, participants may purchase personal services using human assistance or in alternative ways, e.g., a meal or laundry service.
* **Medicaid Coverage** - Participants will receive Medicaid services under the KanCare. If eligible for employer sponsored health insurance, Medicaid will continue to wrap-around the employer-based insurance as long as the participant continues to be eligible for Medicaid. Personal and employment-related assistance will continue to be available if needed. (Pilot participants whose income result in a loss of SSI benefits will be able to access the Kansas Medicaid Buy-In program, *Working Healthy*, and personal/employment support services through *WORK*).
* **Referral for Assistance to Obtain Employment –** Assistance in obtaining employment will be provided by Kansas Rehabilitation Services (Vocational Rehabilitation) and Kansas Workforce Centers.

1. **Employment Requirements**

A minimum of 40 hours per month in a competitive, integrated setting at the federal hourly minimum wage with FICA withheld, or earnings meeting the Social Security quarterly earnings standard, after actual business expenses are deducted, and SECA payments have been made for those claiming self-employment.