Welfare Reform Improves Lives

KANSANS ARE THRIVING UNDER NEWLY ENACTED WORK REQUIREMENTS

In 2013, Kansas restored work requirements for able-bodied, childless adults. Here’s what happened:

MORE WORKERS

Able-bodied adults on food stamps are now nearly three times as likely to be working at least 20 hours a week.

127%

MORE MONEY

Able-bodied adults saw their income rise by 127% within a year of leaving.

AVERAGE INCOME AMONG THOSE WORKING IS NOW ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE

Higher incomes more than offset benefit reductions, increasing economic activity.

ON AVERAGE, ADULTS WHO LEFT THE PROGRAM LOST JUST OVER $2,000 IN BENEFITS, BUT GAINED MORE THAN $3,000 IN NEW INCOME

FROM WELFARE TO HOPE

JASON

Stuck on food stamps for 4 years. Before work requirements: unemployed. After work requirements: working in the publishing industry, making $45,000 per year.

JENNIFER

Stuck on food stamps for 1+ years. Before work requirements: unemployed. After work requirements: working in a commercial bakery, making $53,000 per year.
Welfare Reform Preserves Resources

TAXPAYERS AND ADMINISTRATORS FIND RELIEF

SHARP ENROLLMENT DECLINE
Half of able-bodied adults cycled off of food stamps within three months. Able-bodied adult enrollment is now 75% lower.

LOWER COSTS
The amount of time able-bodied adults spend on food stamps has been cut in half. The average monthly benefit for able-bodied adults on food stamps has dropped by 16%.

REDUCED ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS
Kansas’ payment error rate declined, while the national error rate rose. Kansas’ administrative costs declined, while administrative costs in other states increased.

WELFARE REFORM IS POPULAR
SUPPORT WORK REQUIREMENTS 82%
13% OPPOSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

MORE STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE
Up to $89 million in NEW economic activity. $4.4 million in new state revenues. $1 million in new local revenues.

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