

## Topeka Women's Fund Report: Needs of Women and Children in Shawnee County

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### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to gain a better understanding of the greatest needs of women and children in Shawnee County. This report will be used to guide the funding initiatives of The Women's Fund of Topeka for the next few years. In order to begin the process of discovering these needs, focus groups with community organizations were held, in order to start a conversation about these needs. After some of these needs were determined, categories were developed based on these needs. Then data regarding these specific categories was sought after for the report.

The needs that will receive attention in this summary are the ones that indicated serious concerns for women and children in the community. Such needs include: transportation, childcare, education, educational attainment, and needs relating to the disability population.

### Transportation

Topeka Transportation	Total	Drove Alone	Carpool	Public Transportation
Workers 16 years and over	108,363	88,691	10,569	1,075
<b>SEX</b>				
Male	49.90%	50.30%	45.40%	68.70%
Female	50.10%	49.70%	54.60%	31.30%

2010 American Community Survey (ACS)

\*Sources used are listed at the end of the summary

Topeka EARNINGS IN PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2010 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	Total	Drove Alone	Carpool	Public Transportation
Workers 16 years and over with earnings	108,363	88,691	10,569	1,075
\$1 to \$9,999 or less	16.30%	13.40%	24.70%	36.70%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	9.50%	8.70%	11.00%	34.70%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	16.40%	16.60%	16.60%	25.30%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	16.20%	16.70%	17.10%	0.00%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17.80%	18.70%	16.00%	3.30%
\$50,000 to \$64,999	12.10%	13.20%	7.30%	0.00%
\$65,000 to \$74,999	4.00%	4.60%	3.10%	0.00%
\$75,000 or more	7.70%	8.20%	4.20%	0.00%
Median earnings (dollars)	30,518	31,528	23,039	13,386

2010 ACS

<b>TOPEKA TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Drove Alone</b>	<b>Carpool</b>	<b>Public Transportation</b>
Less than 10 minutes	19.90%	19.90%	10.60%	4.80%
10 to 14 minutes	17.20%	18.30%	11.20%	0.00%
15 to 19 minutes	23.00%	22.70%	29.20%	1.50%
20 to 24 minutes	15.80%	16.20%	18.00%	5.00%
25 to 29 minutes	5.80%	5.70%	6.10%	33.20%
30 to 34 minutes	7.90%	7.70%	10.30%	4.10%
35 to 44 minutes	3.20%	2.80%	6.40%	0.00%
45 to 59 minutes	3.20%	3.30%	4.00%	0.00%
60 or more minutes	3.80%	3.30%	4.20%	51.30%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.4	18.6	22.7	71.9

2010 ACS

Numerous women and children in the community have needs that are not being fulfilled at this time. One major issue is the transportation system. Very few women are using public transportation in comparison to men in Topeka. Also, those who do ride the bus are often those with lower income, suggesting that those with higher incomes have no desire to ride the bus. The public transportation system in Topeka is much slower than public transportation in the comparison areas. This may explain the decreased use among men and those with higher income. It takes over half of the riders more than one hour to get to work using public transportation. This indicates a need for improvement regarding the bus system.

### Childcare

<b>Childcare in Kansas-2010</b>	<b>Shawnee County</b>	<b>Sedgwick County</b>
Age 0 to 17 poverty	20%	18%

Childcare Aware of Kansas/Childcare Resource & Referrals Agency of Kansas, 2010 data

<b>Childcare Costs in Kansas-2011</b>	<b>Center Care</b>	<b>Family Care</b>
Annual cost for full-time infant care	\$9,973	\$6,269
Annual cost full-time 4 year old care	\$7,123	\$5,455

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA)

Median family income married couple with children under 18	\$73,495
Median income single mother household	\$24,152

NACCRRRA

Another issue for women is the cost of childcare in the community. Many children are living in poverty. Single mothers especially struggle to make ends meet because their median income is three times as low as the median income of a married couple family with children. With low incomes, it is also difficult for single mothers to afford health insurance, which is a serious threat to the health of these women and their children.

## Disability Population

Disability Population-Kansas	Total	With disability	% with disability
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	2,804,461	341,426	12.2%
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	1,379,541	165,359	12.0%
Female	1,424,920	176,067	12.4%

2010 ACS

Economic Characteristics for Disability Population-Kansas	Total	With disability	Without disability
Population Age 16 and Over	2,158,812	318,239	1,840,573
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>			
Employed	63.6%	28.6%	69.7%
Not in Labor Force	30.9%	66.6%	24.7%

2010 ACS

Median Earnings in past 12 months-Kansas		Median Earnings in past 12 months-Topeka	
Total:	26,975	Total:	26,534
With a disability:	18,720	With a disability:	17,795
Male	23,255	Male	20,186
Female	13,435	Female	11,839
No disability:	27,615	No disability:	27,656
Male	33,392	Male	31,665
Female	22,299	Female	24,681

2010 ACS

There are also needs for the disability population in the community. This population earns much less money on average than those without disabilities, especially women with disabilities. This indicates a need for more job opportunities (and higher paying job opportunities) for women with disabilities in Topeka.

## Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment-Topeka	Total	Male	Female
Population 18 to 24 years	19,524	9,542	9,982
Less than high school graduate	15.6%	14.6%	16.6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	32.7%	32.1%	33.3%
Some college or associate's degree	39.6%	40.0%	39.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	12.1%	13.3%	10.9%

<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	156,583	74,630	81,953
<b>Less than 9th grade</b>	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%
<b>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</b>	5.6%	6.4%	4.9%
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	33.8%	34.1%	33.6%
<b>Some college, no degree</b>	23.5%	22.3%	24.5%
<b>Associate's degree</b>	6.7%	7.4%	6.1%
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	17.3%	17.1%	17.5%
<b>Graduate or professional degree</b>	9.9%	9.7%	10.2%
<b>Percent high school graduate or higher</b>	91.3%	90.6%	91.9%
<b>Percent bachelor's degree or higher</b>	27.3%	26.8%	27.8%
<b>POVERTY RATE FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED</b>			
<b>Less than high school graduate</b>	20.7%	20.5%	21.0%
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	13.5%	10.0%	16.7%
<b>Some college or associate's degree</b>	10.7%	7.4%	13.6%
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher</b>	4.6%	3.6%	5.5%
<b>MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2010 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>			
<b>Population 25 years and over with earnings</b>	\$31,063	\$36,593	\$26,793
<b>Less than high school graduate</b>	\$17,962	\$20,468	\$12,022
<b>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</b>	\$25,294	\$30,743	\$18,769
<b>Some college or associate's degree</b>	\$29,023	\$33,765	\$24,740
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	\$40,788	\$49,713	\$35,006
<b>Graduate or professional degree</b>	\$50,499	\$51,149	\$49,947

2010 ACS

Unfortunately, women must work harder than men in terms of an education if they would like to earn the same amount of money as men. This indicates a need for women to be educated so that they can receive higher paying jobs, and afford to adequately support their families.

## Education

<b>Topeka Public Schools</b>	<b>School District</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Graduation rate</b>		
<b>Total</b>	67.3%	80.7%
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch</b>	60.3%	70.1%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	57.1%	68.7%
<b>English Language Learner Students</b>	55.6%	66.8%

Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) Report Cards, 2010-2011

<b>Topeka Public Schools-Adequate Yearly Progress</b>	<b>Reading (% Prof &amp; above goal 86%)</b>	<b>Math (% Prof &amp; above goal 82.3%)</b>
<b>All Students</b>	72.9%	71.8%
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch</b>	68.4%	67.7%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	50.9%	50.1%
<b>English Language Learner Students</b>	49%	53.5%

KSDE Report Cards, 2010-2011

Continuing with education, there are a few school districts that need attention regarding graduation rates and test scores in Topeka (Adequate Yearly Progress). The district in need of most attention in Shawnee County is Topeka Public Schools.

Besides concerns with public transportation and test scores/graduation rates, the overarching theme from this research is that there is a need for women to obtain an education in order to be eligible for higher paying jobs, so that they can afford childcare, health insurance, housing, and other needs. This means the community must focus on encouraging and supporting education and educational programs for women. There is also a need to financially support women, especially single mothers who do not have access to as much income as married couple households.

#### Sources

American Fact Finder: 2010 Census-American Community Survey.  
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

ERC/CRR&R (Childcare Aware of Kansas/Childcare Resource & Referrals Agency) 2010 Workforce Study County Child Care Profiles.  
[http://www.ks.childcareaware.org/community\\_countyprofiles.html](http://www.ks.childcareaware.org/community_countyprofiles.html)

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NACCRRRA (National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies). 2011 Child Care in the State of Kansas. <http://www.naccrra.org/randd/data/docs/KS.pdf>