The Kansas Welfare Act Established the State Board of Social Welfare
- This allowed the state to maximize federal funding by participating in programs created by the federal Social Security Act.

The State Department of Social Welfare was established
- The Department was comprised of social welfare and institutional management divisions. Counties retained primary administrative control over welfare.

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) was created
- SRS replaced the State Board and Department of Social Welfare;
- Governor Docking issued Kansas Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) No. 1;
- Dr. Robert Harder was appointed as the first Secretary of SRS;
- The new agency administered all social welfare programs in the state;
- By 1997, SRS had been organized into divisions, which included the Children, Youth, and Adults Division; and
- The system of county administration and state supervision resulted in a lack of a uniform welfare program.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 as passed by the U.S. Congress
- This provided financial incentives for states to minimize foster care placements and provide preventive services.

The Kansas Code for Care of Children was substantially revised
- Implementation Process:
  * July 1996 – Family Preservation service privatized;
  * October 1996 – Adoption service privatized; and
  * February 1997 – Foster care service privatized.

Kansas becomes the first state in the U.S. to fully privatize the foster care system
- SRS was renamed the Department for Children and Families (DCF); and
- The order also included reorganization within the agency and the transfer of several programs from DCF to the Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

The Legislature allowed for statewide expansion of family preservation services

The Family Preservation and Family Support Act was passed by U.S. Congress
- The Act provided funding to states to promote family strength and stability, enhance parental functioning, and protect children.

Kansas ERO No. 43
- Foster care licensing responsibilities were transferred from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to DCF.