

## Legislative Update

**THE BUDGET** - The Legislature passed a FY 2017 budget that delays state payments into the state employee retirement plan, sweeps money from the highway fund, and [leaves the Governor](#) to make additional budget cuts. A bill to reverse the [business tax cuts](#) did not pass.

**SAFETY NET** - The Legislature passed a bill that shortens the amount of time a family can receive cash assistance to two years in a lifetime. The conference committee report for Senate Bill 402 included the contents of the "HOPE Act," making it even more difficult for Kansas children in need to access the state safety net. A provision of the "HOPE Act" that would have eliminated maternity leave for new mothers who had already received 12 months of cash assistance was rejected. [Read more on the restrictions.](#)

## UCS Receives Grant to Advance Employment Project

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund recently awarded \$25,000 to UCS to support its new Employment Planning Project. The employment project's purpose is to develop a community-wide plan to improve employment opportunities for low-income households and stems from UCS' Framework for Reducing Poverty and Creating Opportunity. To learn more about the project, join UCS at the 2016 Human Service Summit on June 14. For more information about the Summit, [click here.](#)



## HUD Announces Final Awards to Address Homelessness

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced its final awards for the 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) grants. (To be expended in 2016 and 2017.) Johnson County's award was \$675,358, and included a new rapid re-housing grant for those experiencing both homelessness and domestic violence, a new HMIS

lead agency grant to support expanded data reporting requirements by the CoC, and a planning grant to build the CoC's governance capacity. This year's award was almost \$90,000 more than that of 2014, and in an extremely competitive grant year, this increase reflects the hard work and innovation of local organizations serving those who are experiencing homelessness in Johnson County. Congratulations to all! For more details on the awardees, [click here.](#)

### **"Coming and Going" Reception**

You are invited to join the UCS board to congratulate Karen Wulfkuhle on her retirement and welcome Julie Brewer as the new Executive Director.

Friday, May 6, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The Atrium at Regnier Center, Johnson County Community College

Program at 4:30 p.m.

No RSVP is necessary.

Our mission: Provide data analysis, lead collaborative planning and mobilize resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services.

Contact us at 913-438-4764 or [www.ucsjoco.org](http://www.ucsjoco.org)

*STAY CONNECTED*

