



“We want our children to grow up able to compete in a global workforce. We want children and families in Kansas to be the healthiest in the nation.”
~Amanda Adkins, Chair, Kansas Children's Cabinet

Children's Initiatives Fund

POSITION STATEMENT FROM
THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET & TRUST FUND

The Kansas Children's Cabinet is committed to maximizing positive outcomes for children and families.

The Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF) was created to give every Kansas child the chance to reach his or her full potential. As a Cabinet, it is our responsibility to ensure those funds are used wisely, not only through judicious allocations and thoughtful evaluative practices, but also by keeping up with the latest research on child development. In recent years, for example, we've learned that cognitive development begins much earlier than previously believed – prenatally and within the first months of a child's life. Because crucial skills like language are acquired sequentially, waiting until school starts to make sure our kids are ready to learn puts us way behind the curve. By investing early in a child's life, as a state, we save down the road with improved health, social, education, and economic outcomes.

WE BELIEVE...

When we help a young child, the results last a lifetime. Because the brain develops at a faster pace from the time of conception to the first day of kindergarten than it will at any other stage, the

Cabinet recognizes early childhood as a critical period of intervention to establish a foundation for success in school and life.

Investing in early childhood yields significant returns. Every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood programs for at-risk children yields a significant return on investment through improved health, social, education, and economic outcomes. CIF dollars attract public and private partnership resources that multiply the effectiveness of these investments.

It's all connected. The interplay of the developing brain with the environment is the driving force of all skill development—cognitive, social, and emotional. The Cabinet seeks to support the child's total environment, before birth and into the school years.

Together we can do more. Whether it's closing achievement gaps, addressing mental health, or preventing involvement in child welfare, to meet the needs of our young people, we must reach them early and support their well-being in body and mind through a wide variety of interventions and support services. Our best hope for the future is to work together to invest wisely in children and families across organizations and service providers.

We value Kansas children and share a commitment to giving all Kansas kids the best possible start.

The Children’s Initiatives Fund supports a broad range of services to support the multifaceted needs of children and achieving the best possible outcomes, including home visits, early screening, prenatal care, and family preservation services. These programs work to address the most important problems facing children and families in our state.

\$19,152

ANNUAL COSTS AT A CHILD CARE CENTER FOR AN INFANT AND A 4-YEAR OLD,

which is

Child Care Assistance provides subsidies to make quality child care accessible to low income working families.

30% OF THE MEDIAN INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

20% OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 LIVE IN POVERTY

89% of children served by the **Early Childhood Block Grant** had one or more risk factors relating to poverty, including parents who were low income, teens, and/or had less than a high school education

Child Care Quality Initiative trains child care providers on child abuse and neglect prevention strategies

1,981

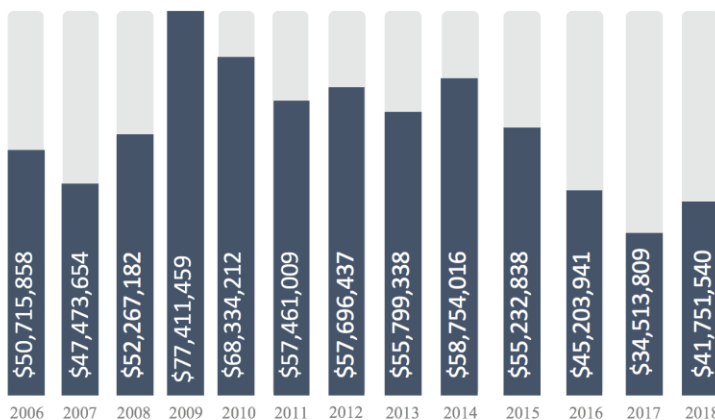
CHILDREN WERE CONFIRMED AS VICTIMS OF MALTREATMENT IN 2014

56% OF 3-4 YEAR OLDS WERE NOT IN A SCHOOL PROGRAM, BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015

The **Early Childhood Block Grant** expands access to high-quality early education. An outside evaluator has found that children in these programs make significant improvements in their literacy and numeracy skills, and that 80% were on track by the end of the year.

23% INCREASE IN FOSTER CARE CHILDREN

83% of families receiving **Family Preservation** services were able to maintain their children at home



CIF FUNDING HISTORY
FY2006-2018

Despite the demonstrated effectiveness of these services and growing need in Kansas communities, funding to CIF has been cut repeatedly.