

Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas in 2019

WEBINAR

February 6, 2019

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- Kansas has been awarded \$4,482,305 in federal grant funding.
- Funding is authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.
- The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five is a one-year planning grant.
- The grant period is Dec. 31, 2018 – Dec. 30, 2019.

How Kansas will approach this effort

- Working collaboratively across sectors.
- Meaningfully engaging families and communities.
- Building on existing initiatives, programs and systems.
- Working quickly to complete activities by Dec. 30, 2019.

What Kansas will do in 2019

- Conduct needs assessment.
- Develop strategic plan.
- Maximize parental choice and knowledge.
- Share best practices among early childhood providers.
- After the needs assessment and strategic plan are completed, improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in the state.

Conduct Needs Assessment

- Collect and analyze existing needs assessments. Include alignment with:
 - *Title V Maternal & Child Health Services*
 - *Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)*
 - *Infant Toddler Services (Part C)*
- Story collection and community sensemaking.
- Community engagement sessions.
- Gather additional information.
- Synthesize findings.

Develop Strategic Plan

- Review needs assessment findings and assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Kansas early childhood system.
- Review state and community early childhood structures.
- Host summit of early childhood stakeholders.
- Develop strategic plan.
- Communicate results back to communities.

Maximize Parental Choice and Knowledge

- Amplify the experiences of families in the development of the needs assessment and strategic plan.
- Support parent leadership.
- Link Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards to evidence-based practices.
- Enhance support for communities to adopt the Help Me Grow Kansas framework.
- Enhance Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS).

Share Best Practices

- Expand cadre of Technical Assistance System Network trainers available to deliver the Early Childhood Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) curriculum.
- Enhance Kansas' child care quality recognition and improvement system pilot (Links to Quality).
- The Kansas Preschool Pilot is designated as the state's matching funds.

Improve Quality

- Informed by results of the needs assessment and strategic plan.
- Target funds to improve the overall quality of early childhood services.

Expected Outcomes

- Decisions affecting early childhood in Kansas are informed by and coordinated through children, parents, families, communities, stakeholders and agencies.
- An actionable, statewide strategic plan for early childhood is relevant to and validated by stakeholders and communities.
- Best practices are amplified, and workforce challenges are recognized and addressed.
- Quality services in communities are connected, coordinated and accessible so that families have choice in the resources that best meet their needs.
- A sustainability plan leverages funding to scale efforts, maximize efficiencies and increase access to early childhood services.

Stay Engaged and Informed

Our Tomorrows –

We are using an innovative technology called SenseMaker® to:

- Collect at least 1000 stories about thriving or surviving from families in Kansas
- Raise family and community voice by holding conversations about story data in Community Sensemaking Sessions
- Shape policy and programming decisions and try innovative solutions with Community Action Labs



SenseMaker

There are several ways to participate...



Get Involved and Learn More:

- bit.ly/JoinOurTomorrows

Share Your Story

- bit.ly/OurTomorrows

Stay Engaged and Informed

Kansas Infant-Toddler Services (tiny-k/Part C) Needs Assessment

- Share your story about the growth and development of a child you are close to or have worked with:
bit.ly/PartCAssess (*English*) or bit.ly/PartCes (*Spanish*).
- If you're a provider (or please share with providers in your network), tell us about your screening practices at bit.ly/devscreen
- For more information, contact Chris Tilden, Research Project Coordinator at ctilden@ku.edu

Stay Engaged and Informed

- **Webinars** (every other Wednesday – starting February 6) to share information, take questions, and get feedback.
- **Email Updates** (following the webinar) with recording and key links.
- **Website Page** with webinar links, a sign-up for email updates, and contact form.
<http://kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood-initiatives-in-kansas-2019/>