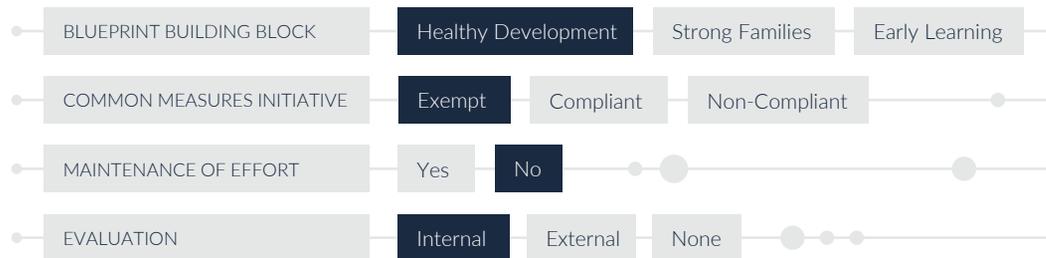


# Autism Diagnosis

Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund (Cabinet)

## Interdisciplinary teams working together to quickly and accurately diagnose autism

Early diagnosis can significantly improve treatment outcomes for children with autism spectrum disorder, yet many rural communities lack the necessary medical resources to conduct accurate screenings. To provide timely diagnostic services to as many Kansas families as possible, Autism Diagnostic Teams (ADTs) are trained and provided with the necessary materials to offer early childhood screenings and/or assist schools and families in developing individual treatment plans and streamlined service delivery. ADTs are drawn from local school districts, tiny-k/Part C Infant-Toddler networks, and mental health professionals.



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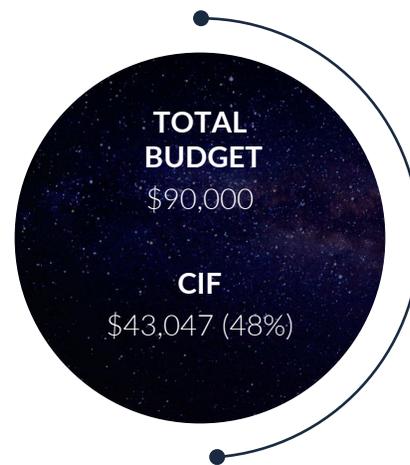
## THE NEED

Early intervention is a top priority in autism treatment nationwide, as evidenced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention campaign “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” The sooner a child is diagnosed, the better the long-term outcomes for children and their families. Early diagnosis also opens up access to related services and support systems, reducing the burden on schools and communities down the road. The need for trained specialists is great, particularly in rural Kansas communities. Problems reaching children and families in medically underserved areas increase the wait time between screening, diagnosis, and subsequent intervention.

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*“We are reaching more people in underserved areas and building capacity in the providers who are out there ... increasing their knowledge and awareness about autism red flags and the diagnostic process.”*

~ Rene Jamison, Autism Diagnosis



## OUR SOLUTIONS



### TRAINING AND COACHING

Collaborative partnerships with state agencies and universities result in high-quality training and coaching for ADTs.



### EDUCATION

Higher education partnerships throughout the state provide for graduate education opportunities and certificate programs.



### TELEMEDICINE

Assessment, monitoring, and referrals occur through telemedicine for medically underserved areas of the state.

# Autism Diagnosis

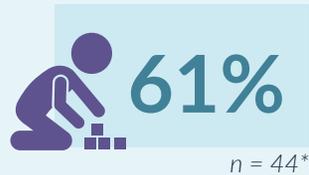
## OUTCOMES

### Percent of children in the Autism Diagnosis program who received an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis

FY 2017



FY 2018



\*The decrease in the number of children evaluated in FY 2018 is attributed to several factors, including a program shift from the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) to the Center for Child Health and Development.

**Telemedicine consults** drastically reduce travel time for families and allow children and their families to receive evaluation results surrounded by a team of providers they already know.



## FY 2018 POPULATION SERVED

Total Children	44
Prenatal to Age 2	3
Ages 2-5	23
Ages 5-12	15
Ages 12-18	3
Ages 18+	0
Caregivers	67
Professional Development	40

32

Number of active Autism Diagnostic Teams (ADTs) across the state

15

Number of ADTs who completed evaluations in FY 2018

21

Counties in Kansas that were directly served by Autism Diagnosis

# Autism Diagnosis



## LOOKING BACK

### WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Transitioned coordination of care for clients from TASN to ADTs and Telemed providers

Successfully advocated for insurance companies to expand coverage and provide reimbursement for autism evaluation expenses

Established a new collaboration with Telehealth ROCKS (Rural Outreach to Children of Kansas) to support ongoing training and coaching for local providers to build competency and support program sustainability

Increasingly targeted funding towards improving program sustainability

## LOOKING FORWARD

### WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Establish more collaborative relationships and partnerships for continued growth to better address the needs of children and families

Increase the number of interactions between the University of Kansas medical team and the ADTs to address the demand for additional providers

Merge multiple models and projects, building capacity to increase diagnosis and address the larger needs of communities

Continue training of new ADTs across the state to increase access, knowledge, and awareness, and to reduce the burden on families

**Evaluation Practices:** Autism Diagnosis internally collects autism diagnostic outcomes for each child served. In FY 2019, the Autism Diagnosis program plans to field a satisfaction survey to the Autism Diagnostic Teams for feedback following the training and resources that were made available to them.

**Evidence Base: Gateway Service.** Services improve access to multiple evidence-based autism diagnosis and interventions, according to the needs of the individual families served.