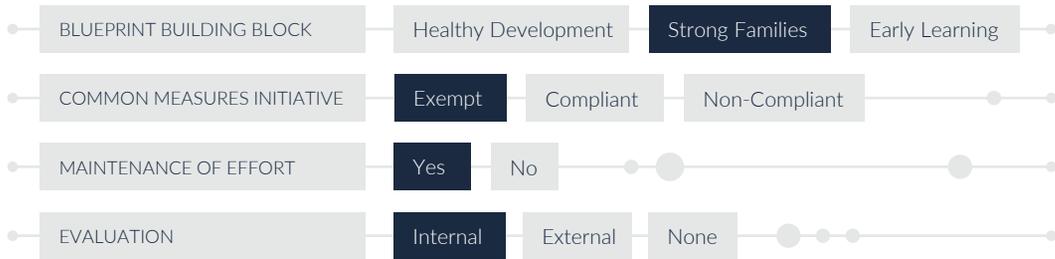


# Child Care Assistance

Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

## Support for families needing child care to enable parents to work or improve job skills

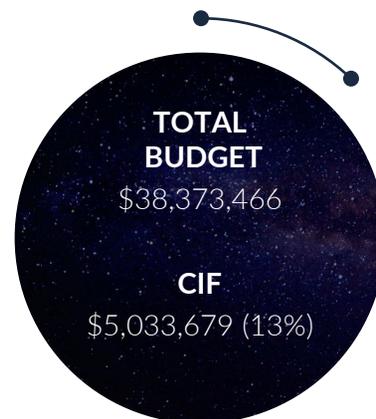
Affordable child care makes it possible for parents to find and keep the kinds of jobs that can support a family. When that care is high quality, children are better prepared to start school. The Kansas Child Care Assistance program offers access to these dual benefits for families in need, enabling parents to work (and/or improve job skills) while their children receive quality child care.



# Child Care Assistance

## THE NEED

Parents who can't afford child care find it much more difficult to secure reliable employment. Access to high-quality child care not only improves school readiness and, by extension, future earning potential, but has also been shown to reduce the incidence of criminal behavior later in life, saving money in judicial and other costs. By enabling parents to work, and children to receive developmentally appropriate child care, Child Care Assistance promotes independence for the whole family.



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*“We have seen parents who are better able to provide for their families and gain additional training and education to improve their earning power.”*

~ Sally Hargis, Child Care Assistance

## OUR SOLUTIONS



### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Subsidies help parents afford the child care they need to maintain consistent employment, putting families on the path to financial independence.



### BETTER EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Access to high-quality child care ensures that children receive adequate early education on the path to school readiness.



### STABLE, CONSISTENT CARE ENVIRONMENTS

Families experiencing stable care benefit from increased opportunities to pursue career and educational goals, resulting in a better-prepared workforce.

# Child Care Assistance

## OUTCOMES



## FY 2018 POPULATION SERVED

Total Children	18,162
Prenatal to Age 2	4,352
Ages 2-5	6,805
Ages 5-12	6,712
Ages 12-18	293
Ages 18+	0
Caregivers	0
Professional Development	0



# Child Care Assistance



## LOOKING BACK

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Converted to the Kansas Eligibility Enforcement System (KEES) to determine program eligibility

Completed a market rate analysis to determine any rate adjustments for the start of the new fiscal year

Collaborated with the Kansas Quality Network (KQN) to distribute resources for the continuous quality improvement of child care in Kansas

Launched the Links to Quality (L2Q) two-year pilot in April 2018

## LOOKING FORWARD

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Continue to work with protection and prevention services to better serve children in foster care

Continue to improve consumer knowledge of the key elements of child care quality to support families in making better-informed child care choices

Increase the quality of infant and toddler care in Kansas through a partnership with Head Start

Increase the health, safety, and professional development requirements of providers to improve child care quality

**Evaluation Practices:** Quality Control Reviewers review random samples of cases throughout the year and conduct an annual evaluation where the primary purpose is to ensure payment and eligibility requirements, identify any training needs of staff, and align with new policies and regulations. Information is recorded in an internal agency database. An annual public assistance report is provided on the agency website.

**Evidence Base: Strong Evidence.** Research using appropriate comparison methodologies has found that families receiving child care subsidies have improved employment and financial outcomes, and that effects remain beyond the end of services.