

# **Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas in 2019**

Advisory Team Meeting

November 1, 2019

# Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant

- ▶ Due November 5, 2019
- ▶ 23 total awards
- ▶ Kansas can request up to \$10M/year for 3 years
- ▶ Funding decisions announced 12/31/2019

*“We are ALL Early Childhood Stakeholders”*  
Governor Laura Kelly

# Kansas Grant Considerations

- ▶ Ensuring appropriate sustainability of activities.
- ▶ Focusing on infrastructure, reducing burden for communities, and providing flexible funding for community-based organizations to design what works on the local level.
- ▶ Focused on addressing the most pressing concerns from the Needs Assessment (central messages and key findings).
- ▶ Grant Announcement Notes:
  - ▶ Significant focus on how we will serve vulnerable and underserved populations.
  - ▶ Construction costs are NOT an allowable use of funds.

# Kansas Grant Implementation

- ▶ Cabinet is the designated applicant, KSDE fiscal agent in collaboration with KDHE and DCF.
- ▶ All contracted work must go out to bid.
- ▶ KU-Center for Public Partnerships & Research (CPPR) is a sub-recipient to serve as backbone support, lead Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) work, and conduct evaluation.
- ▶ Dissemination of progress will continue as it has in the planning grant year, and messaging will be created and evolve as needed to fulfill the goals and objectives of the grant.

# Kansas Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Governance

- ▶ Cabinet is statutorily responsible for coordinating ECCE system
- ▶ State Directors Team
  - ▶ Policy, funding, regulatory, and programmatic recommendations
  - ▶ Together with the Cabinet – serve as decision makers, elevating decisions that need Governor, Legislative, or State Board of Education approval.
- ▶ Early Childhood Advisory Council
  - ▶ Membership designated through Executive Order
  - ▶ Assist with a periodic statewide needs assessment and implementation of the Strategic Plan
  - ▶ Coordination among federally-funded and state-funded ECCE programs and services

# Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant Activities

- ▶ Activity One: PDG B-5 Statewide Needs Assessment
- ▶ Activity Two: PDG B-5 Statewide Strategic Plan
- ▶ Activity Three: Maximizing Parent and Family Knowledge
- ▶ Activity Four: Sharing Best Practices and ECCE Workforce
- ▶ Activity Five: Improving the Overall Quality and Service Integration
- ▶ Activity Six: Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Use

# Kansas Grant Approach

- ▶ Kansas ECCE System is poised for significant change.
- ▶ Our needs assessment identified the greatest challenge is our fragmented delivery system and alignment of early childhood programs and services.
- ▶ Kansas renewal grant funding goals:
  - ▶ Scale what is working, align systems with intention, build critical infrastructure, and foster innovation at the local and state level.
  - ▶ Align funding streams, RFPs, Professional Development (PD), and data systems.
  - ▶ Streamline access to resources and reduce the burden placed on communities to build cohesive local systems.

# Kansas Grant Outcomes

- ▶ **Community and Parent Focus.** Local communities are equipped and connected in ways that make navigating systems easy for parents to receive what they choose and need to support the healthy development of their children. (3)
- ▶ **Workforce Development.** Kansas prioritizes and supports ECCE professionals with clear standards and pathways to enact best practices for children. (4)
- ▶ **Quality Programs and Services.** Communities address their specific needs and challenges through coordinated strategies that improve access, availability, and quality. (5)
- ▶ **System Alignment and Coordination.** Kansas aligns the ECCE system for equity and maximum impact, with state agencies coordinating and integrating services so communities and families experience seamless, respectful, and responsive supports. (6)

# **Kansas Grant Highlighted Investment Areas**

- ▶ Direct to Communities -- \$7,250,000
- ▶ Workforce Supports -- \$3,800,000
- ▶ Parent Engagement -- \$1,100,000
- ▶ Centralized Access Point  
and Resource Directory -- \$1,000,000

# **Activity 1: PDG B-5 Statewide Needs Assessment**

- ▶ Update on the process and key findings.
- ▶ Plan for submission in December 2019.

# Activity 2: PDG B-5 Statewide Strategic Plan

- ▶ Update on the process.
- ▶ Our strategic plan will:
  - ▶ Transform the experiences of children and families who need equitable access to high quality early care and education no matter where they live
  - ▶ Reduce the burden of improving local systems by giving communities flexibility to deliver high quality services.
- ▶ We are assessing how funds are spent, building and scaling what works, and refining our data systems.
- ▶ Plan for submission by current grant end date (2/28/2020).

# Activity 3: Maximizing Parent and Family Knowledge

- ▶ **Summary:** Scale Connected Families, Connected Communities (CFCC), weaving Help Me Grow (HMG) core components into a systematic approach.
  - ▶ Improving Screening and Addressing Concerns
  - ▶ Improving Coordination and Navigation of Services
  - ▶ Empowering Families and Parent Leaders
- ▶ **Highlighted Activities:** 1-800-CHILDREN infrastructure, *Bridges* Pilot Project, Connect Teams, parent leadership activities and stipends, Kansas Family Leadership Team, Kansas Care Coordinators, Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) scaling, DCF Resource Agent Pilot Project

# Activity 4: Sharing Best Practices and ECCE Workforce

- ▶ **Summary:** Remove recruitment and advancement barriers and raise public awareness about the role of ECCE professionals.
  - ▶ Align PD and establish core competencies and career pathways
  - ▶ Implement a workforce registry to access and track PD opportunities, guide advancement, and support recruitment
  - ▶ Promote evidence-based trainings and effective transitions
  - ▶ Implement policy changes that support ECCE as a viable career
- ▶ **Highlighted Activities:** Workforce Coordinator position, scale Links to Quality, build workforce registry, explore articulation agreements, establish core competencies and career pathways, align existing PD, Transition and Workforce Summits

# Activity 5: Improving the Overall Quality and Service Integration

- ▶ **Summary:** Cabinet will issue an RFP to award sub-grants addressing 4 issues affecting our vulnerable and underserved children:
  - ▶ Lack of high-quality infant-toddler child care
  - ▶ Rural ECCE infrastructure challenges
  - ▶ Geographic differences and community-level coordination
  - ▶ Transitions into kindergarten
- ▶ **Highlighted Activities:** Pilot Common Application for ECBG, technical assistance for common app and sub-grants, Kansas Early Childhood Innovation Platform

# Activity 6: Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Use

- ▶ **Summary:** Establish a Kansas Early Childhood Quality Insight Consortium that will unify collaborative partnerships among institutions of higher education, state agency data stewards and analysts, providers, and families.
  - ▶ Align, integrate and link data across our ECCE system to other sectors serving children and families
  - ▶ Enhance capacity for comprehensive analytics and outcome driven-monitoring, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement (CQI)
  - ▶ Provide shared resources and expertise to establish a Kansas ECIDS Data Trust.
- ▶ **Highlighted Activities:** ECIDS (Core Team and Governance Board), unique identifiers, align ECIDS with workforce registry, data-driven decision-making culture, ethical code of conduct: for betterment of children and families.

# What's Next?

- ▶ **Needs Assessment**

- ▶ Final Report Writing and Design, and plan for submission December 2019

- ▶ **Strategic Plan**

- ▶ Framework established using Needs Assessment and public input
- ▶ Online Share Form – open Oct. 7 thru Dec. 15 to provide ideas
- ▶ Report writing – November thru January
- ▶ Final submission at the end of current grant period (Feb. 28, 2020)

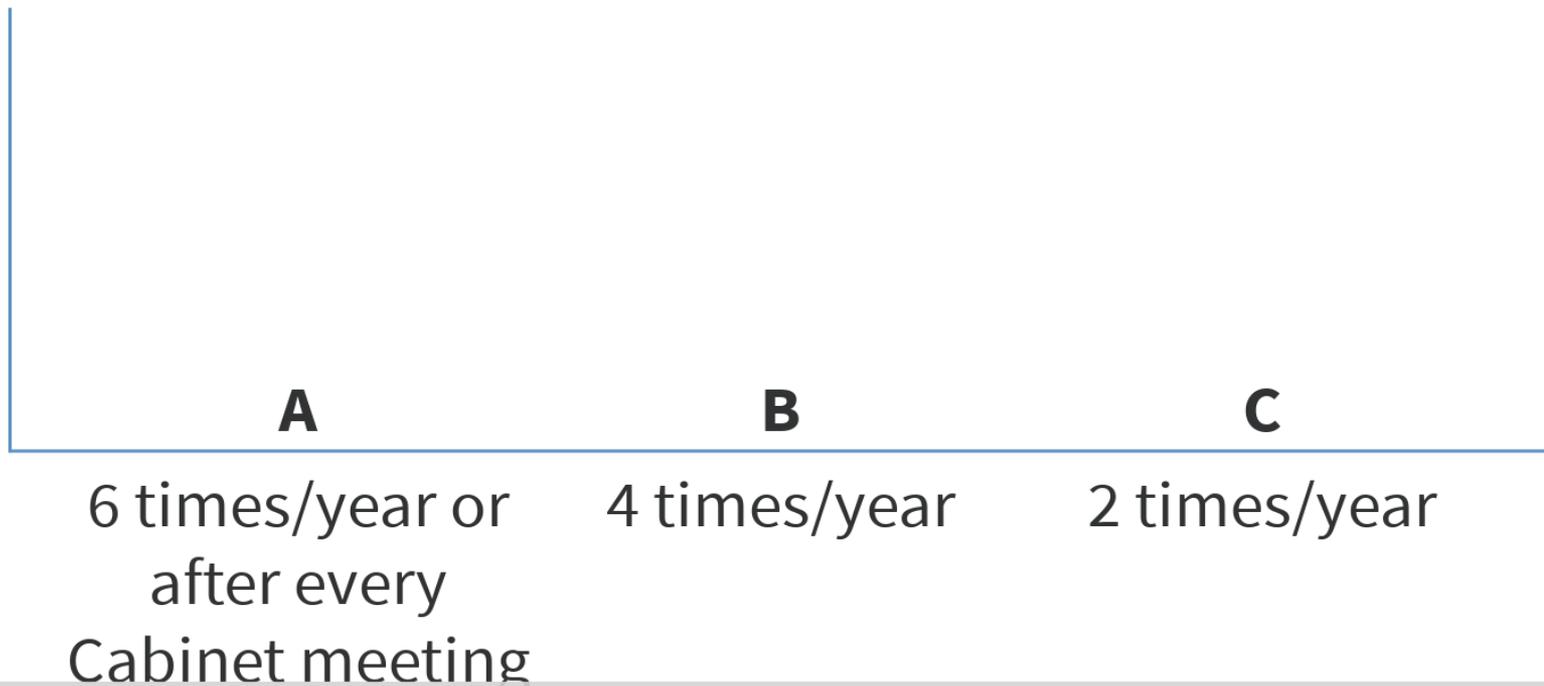
- ▶ **Community Action Labs**

- ▶ Mini-grants announced and awarded November 7<sup>th</sup>.

- ▶ **Roadshows**

- ▶ 10 communities between December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> (*specifics will be shared via weekly email and webinar updates*).

# How often should the Early Childhood Stakeholders Group meet in 2020?





# **Questions and Answers**

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Early Childhood  
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Thank you!!