

Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas



Webinar

January 15, 2020

Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

- Strong statewide commitment to giving each Kansas child the best possible start in life
- A planning grant authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act to develop a statewide, comprehensive needs assessment and strategic plan.

Our Opportunity

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Planning Grant Efforts

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

Activity 2: Strategic Plan

Activity 3: Maximize Parent Voice and Choice

Activity 4: Best Practices

Activity 5: Quality Improvements

Planning Grant End Date: June 30, 2020

Activity Overview

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Planning Grant Efforts

87 Site Visits and **1,451** Survey Responses from **400** child care facilities

805 early childhood care and education professionals surveyed

2,600 individual Kansas Stories representing all **105** counties

40 Visioning Sessions and Parent Cafes, **30** stakeholder meetings

45 Needs Assessment Reports gathered, **460** online feedback entries

53 Community Engagement Sessions, **10** Roadshows

34 Weekly email updates, **22** webinars

6000+ Voices

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Central Messages & Key Findings

Central Messages:

- The experiences of families with young children in Kansas are shaped by where they live, both across the regions of the state and within their communities.
- Young children are growing up in families where basic needs are not being met.

Key Findings:

Accessibility



Availability



Navigation



Collaboration



Workforce



Facilities



Systems Alignment



Bright Spots



Needs Assessment

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Needs Assessment Timeline

- Final Design Phase
- Completion Date – February 2020
- Available Online – Kansas Children’s Cabinet Website
- Helpful in fostering community discussions, making decisions, state and regional perspectives, etc.

Needs Assessment

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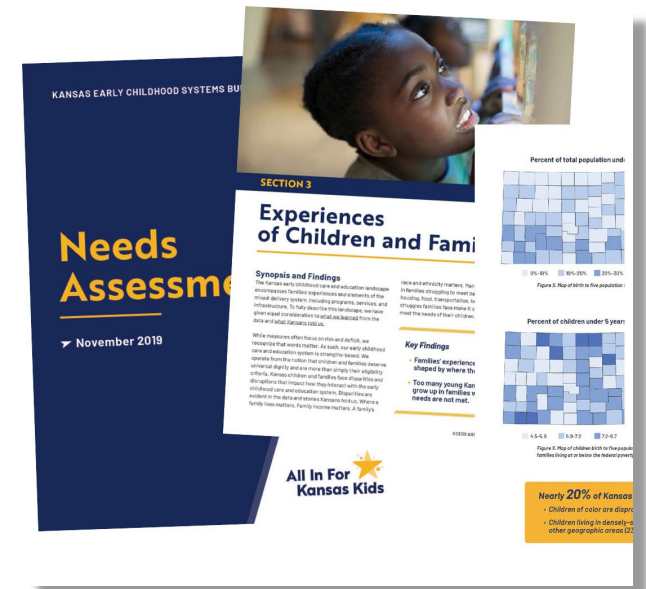
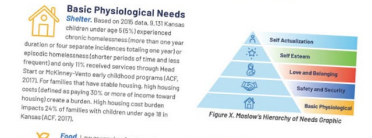


Table 3. Geographic Distribution of Children in Kansas

	Frontier	Rural	Density Equivalent	Urban
Children born to 5*	6.6%	10.6%	26.2%	56.6%
Developmental disability†	2.1%	6.7%	9.6%	36.6%
Number of children ages birth to 5 in poverty‡	1.8%	2.0%	6.8%	6.3%
Poverty rate (below 202% of federal poverty level)§	16.2%	12.0%	23.2%	21.2%
% children ages birth to five eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch¶	50.6%	44.3%	62.7%	42.1%

Children born to five are living in poverty
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A Kansas Story: Just barely surviving by...
 We were just surviving, we just had our second child. Daycare was costing us double what our mortgage was. We lived in an older home that required lots of maintenance. We were living paycheck to paycheck and often times watching the credit card debt stack up. We were forced to have one child in daycare at a school and the other at an in-home babysitter. It was frustrating to juggle 2 daycares and days off with work and running in 2 different directions.

Building Blocks

Strong Families: Kansas kids and families are stronger when their basic needs are met.

Healthy Development: Kansas kids and families thrive when they have equitable access to comprehensive health and development services.

Early Learning: Kansas kids are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond when their families have equitable access to quality care and early learning environments.

Strategic Plan

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Commitments

Workforce: Kansas will lead the way in developing, supporting, and valuing early childhood professionals.

Connected Families, Connected Communities: Kansas will empower and equip communities to create the best environments to raise a child.

Systems Alignment: Kansas will align the early childhood care and education system for maximum impact

Innovation and Scaling: Kansas will champion innovation and create opportunities to invest in the future of Kansas kids

Strategic Plan

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The Kansas Approach

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.
- Assess how funds are spent, build and scale what works, and refine our data systems.

Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan Outline

Executive Summary

Introduction

- Importance of Early Childhood
- History of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Kansas
- Who are youngest Kansans and what will empower them to thrive?
- Vision

Guiding Principles

Our Process

Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan Outline

Overview of Building Blocks (*Strong Families, Healthy Development, Early Learning*)

Strategic Plan Commitments (*Workforce, Communities, Systems Alignment, Innovation*)

- Need/Challenges
- Goals and Strategies
- Bright Spots

Strategic Plan

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Action Plans

Strategic Plan Commitments

- Goals
 - Strategies
 - **ACTION PLANS**

Action Plans

- Detailed plans that support each strategy
- Developed by Kansans
- Support shared learning and experience

Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan Next Steps

- Writing Process Continues
- Overview Presentation – February 7th Cabinet Meeting and Stakeholder Group Meeting
- Feedback Phase – mid-February
- Final Design Phase – February/March
- Completion Date – April 2020

Strategic Plan

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Grassroots Advocacy Trainers

- **Trainer Cadre Spots Still Available!**
- One-hour Grassroots Advocacy training for parents.
- To learn more about becoming a trainer, or to schedule training in your community, contact Peggy Kelly from the Kansas Head Start Association - Pkelly@ksheadstart.org or (785) 856-3132



Hosted by
Elisa Chavez,
Emily Knorp-Brown
and LaToya Mothershed

**Maximizing Parent
Voice/Choice**

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What's Next?

- Needs Assessment Report – February 2020
- KCCTF and Stakeholder Group Meetings – February 7th
- Strategic Plan – April 2020
- Online Share Form - (kschildrenscabinet.org/share)
- Webinars and Email Updates –
(kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood)

Stay Connected

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Calendar of Events

- January 15 – 30 – Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Open Houses (*Hays, Lawrence, Chanute, Hutchinson, Garden City*)
- January 29th – Webinar
- February 7th – KCCTF Meeting, 9:30am @ KASB
- February 7th – Stakeholder Group Meeting, 1:30pm @ KASB
(RSVP to lindsayorion@ku.edu)
- March 25th – Kansas Head Start Association Early Learning Advocacy Day

Stay Connected

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Thank You!

➤ **Share Your Thoughts**

www.kschildrenscabinet.org/share

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