









TOUR OVERVIEW

- Importance of having conversations and looking for solutions outside of Topeka.
- Listening sessions preceded by community outreach.
- Conversations with Kansans provided blueprint for the Office of Rural Prosperity.
- ORP will continue to focus on connecting communities with one another and with state agencies.



#LynnListens

Join us as Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers visits your town to discuss plans for rural prosperity in Kansas. He wants to hear what you have to say!



Listening Tour Schedule

Nickerson - June 17th Atchison - June 20th Colby - June 24th

Winfield - July 8th Lindsborg - July 10th Garnett - July 22nd Phillipsburg - June 25th Independence - July 23rd Ulysses - July 30th

Concordia - August 1st Sabetha - August 5th Dodge City - August 7th

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Facilitated Conversations

- 1. What does prosperity look like to you?
- 2. What has your community done well?
- 3. What roadblocks/barriers stand in your way?

Visit ORP.ks.gov for the full report.

Expanding Capacity

- ORP Staff
 - Jillian Fisher, Outreach Director
 - Joshua McGinn, Policy Analyst
- Community Development Division
 - The Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG)
 - The Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP)
 - The Kansas Main Street Program
 - The Office of Broadband Development



Broadband



Interagency Work Groups

RESEARCH

- Summarize Kansas' progress/action to date.
- Identify the scope of issues, potential causes, & barriers to change.
- Engage other states and state leaders.
- Seek input from stakeholder groups & subject matter experts.

RESOURCES

- Summarize state resources that are currently available & find ways to maximize the State's ROI.
- Catalog alternative funding sources.
- Identify what Technical assistance would be required to harness additional funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

 Propose internal/administrative changes, and make recommendations to the necessary external parties.

 Develop a long-term strategic vision for progress within their respective subject group.



ORP HOUSING WORKING GROUP

- Replicating successful public/private partnerships models across the state
- Expanding moderate income housing
- Removing barriers and encouraging re-development of older/historic property
- Coordinating state funds/investments to maximize impact



ORP CHILDCARE WORKING GROUP

- Encouraging partnerships for a cooperative model for childcare services
- Identifying state and federal resources and tools local communities can use to create their own solution to childcare needs
- Simplifying processes and procedures for child care licensing that maximize efficiencies, while ensuring the safety and welfare of Kansas children



ORP WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP

- Work with the Governor's Education Council to identify new training opportunities within the state's K-12 education system.
- Engage local leaders and economic developers to identify obstacles to recruitment and retention in rural areas.
- Develop partnerships with community colleges to encourage more associate degrees and certificate programs that meet the needs of rural communities.

Childcare Working Group

- Encouraging partnerships for a cooperative model for childcare services.
- Identifying state and Federal resources and tools local communities can use to create their own solutions.
- Simplifying processes and procedures for child care licensing while ensuring safety of Kansas children.





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Needs Assessment 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 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, 200 people at Symposium

6100+ Voices



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:



Needs Assessment



Needs Assessment

- Released 2/6/2020
- Available online Kansas Children's Cabinet website <u>kschildrenscabinet.org/needs-assessment/</u>
- Helpful in fostering community discussions, making decisions, state and regional perspectives, etc.

Needs Assessment









Strategic Plan

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 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 Outline

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

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

- Need/Challenges
- Goals and Strategies



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.



Commitments - Workforce

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

- Kansas recruits, retains, and advances a diverse early childhood care and education workforce that is prepared and qualified to meet the changing needs of young children and families.
- Policies, procedures, and infrastructure support safe, stable, and nurturing environments for young children and families.



Commitments - Families and Communities

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

- Families are equal partners in the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of programs and services that affect their children and families.
- Communities and early childhood providers have the tools and information needed to streamline access to and navigation of high-quality services for families.
- Communities are empowered to strengthen the quality and reach of early childhood care and education services in ways that address the unique needs of their population and geographical location.



Commitments - Systems Alignment

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

- The Kansas early childhood system is coordinated to optimize the well-being of young children and families.
- Policies, practices, and programming are child/family-centered to reflect the diverse needs and choices of all families.
- Early childhood data are integrated to measure what matters for children and families in the early years and beyond.



Commitments - Innovation and Scaling

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

- Kansas has policy and funding structures that support high-quality and innovative programming for children and families.
- Kansas is on the cutting edge of innovative and future-oriented practices that transform the lives of young children and families.



Strategic Plan Feedback

- What is missing?
- What could be strengthened?
- What are recommendations or action steps at the individual, community, and state level?
- https://kschildrenscabinet.org/strategic-plan/



Strategic Plan Next Steps

- Feedback Phase Now through February 24
- https://kschildrenscabinet.org/strategic-plan/
- Final Design Phase February/March
- Completion Date April 2020







Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Executive Order 20-02 Signed 2/5/2020
- Cabinet as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Cabinet-approved volunteers with technical expertise (monthly)
- > Nominations process available soon on Children's Cabinet website

Governance



What's Next?

- Completed Needs Assessment available online
- DRAFT Strategic Plan available for feedback February 7-24
- Strategic Plan April 2020
- Webinars and Email Updates https://kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood

Stay Connected



UPCOMING MEETINGS

All Cabinet meetings will be held on the first Friday of every other month:

- April 3 (Kansas Association of School Boards)
- June 5 (KASB)
- August 7 (Location TBA)
- October 2 (Location TBA)
- December 4 (Location TBA)