Welcome and Bright Spots

Agenda

- General Updates
- Common Application PILOT
- Quality Enhancement Subgrants

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Early Childhood Recommendations Panel**
  - Next Meeting is August 21 at 9:30am.
  - All meetings are viewable – Link here: https://kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings/.
  - Kansans may email written comments to Amanda Petersen to be shared with the Panel during this portion of the meeting. (apetersen@ksde.org)

- **Kindergarten Readiness Summit Preparation Events**
  - Webinars featuring information and Panel Guests (September 9th and 23rd)
  - Link to sign-up: https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids/get-involved/attend-a-webinar/
  - Virtual Summit in November 2020
  - Funding to support communities – part of PDG-Renewal Grant Quality Subgrants

Systems-Building

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Workforce Registry Updates**
  - Team from Kansas participated in peer learning calls with Colorado and California
  - Webinar presentation on Workforce Registry Overview (Date TBD)

- **Response to COVID-19**
  - CARES Act – County-Level Support
  - CARES Act – State-Level Support
    - Early Childhood Consultant Network – help early childhood services and providers respond to the COVID-19 crisis.
    - Early Childhood Workforce Health Fund – help uninsured early childhood workers with medical expenses directly attributable to COVID-19.
    - Technologies for Families Fund – provide access to equipment and devices to support virtual home visits for families in need during COVID-19.

Systems-Building

KANSAS COMMON APPLICATION PILOT

➤ **What is the Kansas Common Application Pilot?**
  ○ The Common Application Pilot (Common App) will be a single portal that early childhood care and education organizations can use to apply for multiple grant opportunities from state funding sources.

➤ **Primary Goals:**
  ○ Reduce the overall burden on providers and communities who apply for state funding
  ○ Provide a streamlined way for state agencies to provide funding and understand the statewide funding landscape.

➤ **How?**
  ○ Develop a submission process and application design that reduces the need for submitting duplicate or similar information when applying for state funding from multiple sources.

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KANSAS COMMON APPLICATION PILOT

➤ **Pilot Development - Process Goals**

- Gather insights from our stakeholders on the current grant submission and evaluation process

- Design a transparent and inclusive co-creation design process

- Identify ways to reduce time, effort, and required resources to prepare and submit a grant request

- Identify ways to reduce time, effort, and required resources to evaluate grant requests

- Identify ways to improve the visibility of available grants

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KANSAS COMMON APPLICATION PILOT

➤ **Phase 1: Discovery**
- o Research (other states; other industries, etc.)
- o Ecosystem Map / Personas
- o Jobs To Be Done / Journey Maps
- o Define Project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- o Survey to collect baseline KPI information from a wide group of stakeholders
- o Stakeholder Interviews

➤ **Phase 2: Co-creation**
- o Work with stakeholders to develop functionality
- o Naming & visual identity

➤ **Phase 3: Functionality Requirements**
- o Wireframes
- o Use of focus groups to validate lo-fi prototype
  - o Stakeholder engagement
  - o Transparency
  - o Voice of Kansans in work

➤ **Phase 4: Build**
- o Focus on Minimum Viable Product PILOT

➤ **Phase 5: Repeat Phases**
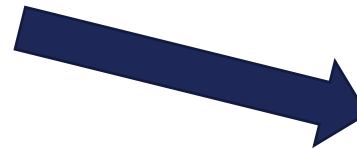- o Iterate based on feedback loops and effectiveness

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KANSAS COMMON APPLICATION PILOT

Pilot Development – Your Feedback

- Survey Link (ongoing throughout this process)
  - https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iVgVdKbZpq3MgJ
  - Ongoing survey responses throughout this process

- Functionality and Wireframe Focus Groups (Virtual - TBD)
  - Send us a note via Cabinet Share Form or Email sgardner10@ku.edu

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ **Funding Goals:**

  o Targeted towards the needs identified in the Needs Assessment.
  o Support locally-driven ideas and approaches to solve challenges related to access, availability, and quality of child care, including workforce supports.
  o Support locally-driven ideas and approaches to engage broad community partnerships, including to support transitions to Kindergarten.
  o Identify shared learning opportunities and scale what works to all Kansas communities.

➤ Funding cannot be used for construction or other physical infrastructure upgrades, or to fund 'slots' due to sustainability challenges.

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ Funding will come from the Children's Cabinet.

➤ $1,700,000 available across 5 subgrant areas in <u>PDG-R Year One</u>.
  o Each subgrant area will have a max award amount.
  o Kindergarten Readiness subgrants will be awarded to new grantees each year.
  o All other subgrants will go through a brief renewal process that aligns with the PDG-Renewal Grant timeline.

➤ We will fund as many quality applications as possible.

➤ We will work cooperatively and collaboratively with grantees throughout the grant year to understand what is working and where there are challenges.

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

- **Key Dates:**
  - Subgrant information on Cabinet Website late-August 2020
  - RFPs and Application (Kansas Common App Pilot) will be available in early September 2020
  - Subgrant Applications will be due mid-October 2020
  - Awards announced late October 2020
  - Grant Awards Start November 2020
  - Technical assistance will be available

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

- **Subgrant Areas:**
  - Increase the access and availability of high-quality child care for **target populations**
  - Increase the access and availability of high-quality child care for **rural populations**
  - Build capacity to enhance local Connected Families Connected Communities infrastructure
  - Kindergarten Readiness
  - Increase the quality of early childhood care and education environments

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ QE1: Increase the access and availability of high-quality child care for **target populations.**

- o <u>Target Populations:</u> Infants and Toddlers, migrant families, low-income families, children with special health care needs, children experiencing homelessness, and children involved with foster care

- o **Example Strategies:**
  - o Efforts to recruit and retain local child care providers *(ex. signing and retention bonuses; tuition supports to advance professional and career development; building a pool of shared dollars to support paid time off, health benefits, sick time, and substitute pay).*
  - o Incentive or bonus payments to providers for serving the target populations, including payments between enrollment gaps.
  - o Incentives, supplies, and/or upgrades to enable providers to offer non-traditional hours for child care.
  - o Outreach strategies to target population families and service providers who support them.

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ QE2: Increase the access and availability of high-quality child care for rural populations

- Rural is defined per Kansas Department of Health and Environment Definition
- **Example Strategies:**
  - Efforts to recruit and retain rural child care providers (Signing and retention bonuses; Tuition supports to advance professional and career development; Building a pool of shared dollars to support paid time off, health benefits, sick time, and substitute pay)
  - Incentives, supplies, and/or upgrades to enable providers to offer hours and services that meet the unique child care needs of rural families.
  - Integrate early childhood content into middle and high school Family and Consumer Science curricula and/or offering opportunities to work in on-site rural child care settings.
  - Increase rural business involvement in the development and sustainability of child care
  - Outreach strategies and financial supports to connect with would-be licensed providers

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ QE3: Build capacity to enhance local Connected Families Connected Communities infrastructure

- o **Example Strategies**:
  - o <u>Operational Systems</u>:
    - o Adopt or enhance screening and referral systems, workflows, or tools such as the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS)
    - o Efforts and processes to incorporate developmental screenings such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire into normal operations
  - o <u>Collaboration, Partnership, and Family Outreach</u> - Strategies and/or staffing to build community-level collaboration, community-engagement efforts, and partnership-building efforts.
  - o <u>Marketing/Awareness</u> - Develop creative awareness and information-sharing efforts around what services are available in the community and how to easily connect to those services.

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ QE4: Kindergarten Readiness

- **Required Approach**:
  - Applicants will identify a community team of six to 10 members (which must include the superintendent or a senior member of the district leadership team, the Head Start director (if applicable), either a child care center director or family child care provider, and a parent or family representative);
  - Select priority areas. Options include: eligibility qualifiers for recognition, community partnerships, quality evidence-based learning, quality workforce, health and safety, inclusion, and transitions into kindergarten;
  - Identify community-level strategies (e.g. joint professional development, community-wide implementation of curriculum, screening, or assessment tools, focused transition activities); and
  - Community teams will participate in the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Summit (virtual, November 2020) and develop 30-60-90 day action plans.

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ QE5: Increase the quality of early childhood care and education environments

- **Example Strategies**:
  - Provide consultation, coaching, and tools for families and providers to address child mental health and social emotional learning needs or make quality referrals for services.
  - Trainings on understanding trauma, secondary trauma, ACES, mental health needs.
  - Developmentally-meaningful interactions and activities for children receiving support in informal child care settings, such as sharing resources or offering relief from social isolation.
  - Culturally-responsive best practices in early learning settings (books, toys, trainings, etc.)
  - Outfitting spaces to support services for children with special health care needs
  - Supports for breastfeeding (privacy rooms, fridges, etc.)

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

➤ **Resources to Develop Subgrant Strategies**

o Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment
  o https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids/needs-assessment/

o All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan
  o https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids/strategic-plan/

o Notes from Community Engagement Sessions
  o Send note via Share Form on Cabinet Website - https://kschildrenscabinet.org/share/

o Notes from Regional Sensemaking Workshops
  o Appendix F from Needs Assessment

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NEXT STEPS

➤ **CARES Act Funding**
- o Information on how to apply for supports coming soon (before end of August 2020).

➤ **Subgrant Funding**
- o Kansas Common Application Pilot Feedback – Please take survey!
- o Information on eligibility and how to apply on Cabinet website in late August 2020
- o Subgrant application available online in September 2020

➤ **Stay Informed – sign-up on Cabinet Website**
- o Biweekly webinars
- o *All in for Kansas Kids* email

Stay Connected

Thank you!

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