

# CIF ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

June 4, 2021



## Children's Initiatives Fund

---

### Statutory Role

The responsibilities of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund are outlined in K.S.A. 38-1901(g)(1-7) as follows:

- (g) The Kansas children's cabinet shall have and perform the following functions:
  - (1) Assist the governor in developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive service delivery system to serve the children and families of Kansas;
  - (2) identify barriers to service and gaps in service due to strict definitions of boundaries between departments and agencies;
  - (3) facilitate interagency and interdepartmental cooperation toward the common goal of serving children and families;
  - (4) investigate and identify methodologies for the combining of funds across departmental boundaries to better serve children and families;
  - (5) propose actions needed to achieve coordination of funding and services across departmental lines;
  - (6) encourage and facilitate joint planning and coordination between the public and private sectors to better serve the needs of children and families; and
  - (7) perform the duties and functions prescribed by K.S.A. 38-2103, and amendments thereto.

### Recommendation

In accordance with these statutory responsibilities and with input received through the Early Childhood Governance Structure, our recommendations involve increasing the transfer from the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund to the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF), aligning funding and coordinating services per the [All In for Kansas Kids](#)

[Strategic Plan](#),<sup>i</sup> maximizing interagency cooperation for shared infrastructure, and emphasizing innovation to best serve children and families.

- 1) In accordance with these statutory responsibilities and to most efficiently align and coordinate Kansas's early childhood care and education mixed-delivery system, per the [All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan](#), we recommend increasing the transfer from the KEY Fund to the CIF by (an amount to be determined). We further recommend consolidating and streamlining funding within the CIF to maximize services to children and families, support early childhood infrastructure, and foster innovation. These recommendations are described below and align with strategies outlined in the following *All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan* goals: State-Level Coordination, Capacity and Access, and Quality and Environments.
  - a) **Fund the \$3.8 million Children's Mental Health Waiver with State General Fund (SGF) dollars rather than the CIF.** In collaboration with Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), we recommend the state matching share for this program be funded through the SGF to maintain the state's ability to draw down the full share of federal dollars for this important service. The transfer began in 2014 to protect the federal draw down during a time of devastating state general fund deficits. This consolidation will better align the service array, streamline services, and maximize efforts.
  - b) **Lapse the Child Care Quality Initiative line item and reallocate this \$500,000 within the CIF for other purposes as outlined in the budget proposal below.** In collaboration with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), we recommend that DCF implement child care quality initiatives through the existing Links to Quality program for improved coordination and alignment of technical assistance funding.
  - c) **Fund the \$50,733 Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Bank through blended resources from Kansas Department of Health and Environment programs instead of CIF.** In collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, we recommend the Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Bank funding, programming, and reporting/monitoring be housed in one agency. This consolidation will better align the service array, streamline services, and maximize efforts.
  - d) **Fund the \$50,000 Autism Diagnosis through blended resources from the Kansas University Medical Center budget instead of CIF.** We recommend the Autism Diagnosis funding, programming, and reporting/monitoring be house in one

agency. This consolidation will better align the service array, streamline services, and maximize efforts.

- e) **Reallocate funding from the Children’s Mental Health Waiver, Child Care Quality Initiative, and Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Bank as outlined above in items A, B, C and D totaling \$4,400,773 to the following CIF line items:**
  - i) \$1,600,000 to the Early Childhood Block Grants
  - ii) \$1,400,000 to Maternal Child Health Home Visiting
  - iii) \$1,400,773 to Early Childhood Infrastructure (item G below; new budget line)
- f) **Shift funding for CAEDE/Start Young into the Early Childhood Block Grant.** The CAEDE program initially started as a three-year pilot funded as a separate line item in the CIF but serves identical goals and requirements as ECBG. The Cabinet released an RFP for this grant in the spring of 2021 for year four (FY22) and received only one application, that of the existing grant recipient. Moving the funding for this program under the ECBG umbrella for FY23 and beyond facilitates better program alignment and streamlines the grant-making process for the Cabinet and potential grantees.
- g) **Within the Early Childhood Block Grant fund, allocate an amount equivalent to at least 1% of the total CIF budget that is dedicated funding that anticipates and adapts to the changing needs of children and families.** These funds should be used to support action labs, short-term pilots, demonstration projects, and seed funding. Dedicated funds will ensure a diversified ECBG portfolio of both historically-supported initiatives with proven, positive outcomes *and* adaptive, responsive, future-focused initiatives. It is anticipated that these funds will be more flexible to allow the Children's Cabinet to address emerging needs through a competitive RFP process similar to the ECBG process, but tailored to start-ups, one-time requests and other conditions that typically create barriers to qualification for the ECBG funds.
- h) **Create a line item within the CIF for Early Childhood Infrastructure to support the long-term vision of the *All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan*.** Infrastructure enhancements and efficiencies created using federal Preschool Development Grant funding will need annual financial support to maintain in future years. Setting aside dedicated funds to support early childhood system infrastructure will help the Children’s Cabinet fulfill its role as a *Connector* and its statutory responsibilities as the coordinating entity for the early childhood system in Kansas. Examples of infrastructure needs in the near-term include the items in the table below.

	KCCTF	DCF	KDHE	KSDE	KDOC	KBOR	KS Courts
<b>1-800-CHILDREN</b>	X	X	X	X			
<b>Ages Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)</b>	X	X	X	X			
<b>Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust</b>	X	X	X	X			
<b>Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS)</b>	X		X				
<b>Kansas CommonApp</b>	X			X			
<b>Workforce Registry</b>	X	X	X	X			

## CIF Budget CURRENT

<b>CIF Program</b>	<b>FY22 Gov. Budget</b>
Autism Diagnosis	\$50,000
CAEDE/Start Young ( <i>see item E above</i> )	\$1,000,000
Child Care Assistance	\$5,033,679
Child Care Quality Initiative ( <i>see item B above</i> )	\$500,000
Children's Mental Health Waiver ( <i>see item D above</i> )	\$3,800,000
ECBG	\$18,129,848
Family Preservation Services	\$3,241,062
Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Bank ( <i>see item C above</i> )	\$50,773
Infant Toddler Services	\$5,800,000
Kansas Preschool Pilot	\$4,200,000
KIDS Network	\$96,374
Maternal Child Health Home Visiting	\$250,000
Parents as Teachers	\$8,437,635
Tobacco Use Prevention Program	\$1,001,960
<b>Total (CIF AP Fund not included)</b>	<b>\$51,591,331</b>

## CIF Budget PROPOSAL FOR FY23

<b>CIF Program</b>	<b>FY23 CIF Proposed Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Child Care Assistance	\$5,033,679	
ECBG	\$20,729,848	- incorporates CAEDE/Start Young - additional funds from former line items: Child Care Quality Initiative, Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Bank, Children's Mental Health Waiver)
Family Preservation Services	\$3,241,062	
Infant Toddler Services	\$5,800,000	
Kansas Preschool Pilot	\$4,200,000	
KIDS Network	\$96,374	
Maternal Child Health Home Visiting	\$1,650,000	- increased amount by \$1,400,000
Parents as Teachers	\$8,437,635	
Tobacco Use Prevention Program	\$1,001,960	
Early Childhood Infrastructure Program	\$1,400,773	- new budget line
<b>Total (CIF AP Fund not included)</b>	<b>\$51,591,331</b>	

<sup>i</sup> The [All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan](#) is the guiding document for Kansas's early childhood care and education mixed-delivery system.