

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR SEPTEMBER 20, 2023



WELCOME

- Welcome everyone!
- Quick Updates
 - Don't forget our new monthly webinar schedule
 - Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – www.kschildrenscabinet.org
- Statewide Kansas Early Childhood Needs Assessment presentation by Chris Tilden, Associate Researcher Senior, KU CPPR
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

Agenda



2023 Webinar Schedule

~~January 11~~

~~February 8~~

~~March 8~~

~~April 19~~

~~May 17~~

~~June 14~~

~~July 12~~

~~August 9~~

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 13

All In For Kansas Kids



2023 Needs Assessment

CHRIS TILDEN, KU CPPR



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Supported by the 2023 PDG Birth to Five planning grant
- Builds on 2019 Needs Assessment and annual updates
- Will inform development of new early childhood system strategic plan

Background



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Data from an array of recently-produced evaluation and needs assessments
- Perspectives from individuals/organizations impacted by system
 - Developmental health survey/engagement sessions
 - KCCTO Career Pathway engagement sessions
 - “Key informant interviews” with closed child care operators
 - Early Childhood Transition Task Force Tour
 - Our Tomorrows
- Synthesis of quantitative and qualitative findings

Approach



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Framed by the principal goals of the All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan
 - Coordination/Collaboration: state, local, private sector
 - Family knowledge and choice
 - Workforce
 - Quality and Environments
 - Capacity and Access

Framing



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Guided by key findings of previous needs assessments
 - There are financial and geographic disparities in access and availability of ECCE services
 - Families are struggling with access to affordable child care
 - The early childhood workforce is stressed due to a broken business model where families cannot afford care and providers cannot afford to pay adequate wages, and in some cases keep the doors open

Framing



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Is there enhanced coordination (state, local, private partners)?**
 - The State Directors Team and bodies in ECCE governance groups have collaborated on many initiatives (1-800-CHILDREN, Data Trust, CommonApp, Career Pathway, Workforce Registry, etc.)
 - Local collaboratives like Local Interagency Coordinating Councils are growing and building relationships
 - Private partners like Child Care Aware, Kansas Children's Service League, Kansas Head Start Association, and agencies like Dept. of Commerce are collaborating with ECCE governance to advance field

Coordination



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• Is there enhanced coordination?

- While coordination has improved, inefficiencies in the coordinated multi-agency model ranks Kansas next to last among states in efficiency and effectiveness of early childhood system (Bipartisan Policy Center, 2023)
- Gov. Kelly's Executive Order 23-01 established a task force to recommend a new governance system/approach

Coordination



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Do families have better information and choice?**
 - Significant increase in utilization of 1-800-Children
 - Success with pilot projects like Bridges (KDHE), now integrated into KDHE Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programming in four communities
 - Large increases in developmental screening through ASQ statewide enterprise

**Information &
Choice**



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• Do families have better information and choice?

- There are disparities in access to information and services (rural/urban, low-income communities)
- Parental frustration about limited information
- Low utilization rates of benefit programs (TANF, SNAP, etc.)
- Racial/ethnic disparities in worksite conditions such as access to subsidized child care, onsite childcare, infant-at-work, family resources (Ringerling, 2023)

**Information &
Choice**



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Is the ECCE system supporting a trained, well-compensated, and resilient workforce?**
 - The number of child care workers in licensed facilities grew between 2022 and 2023, surpassing pre-pandemic numbers
 - Overall, providers felt good overall about their career, social and emotional health, and financial stability (KCCTO workforce survey)
 - Significant progress made on Career Pathway and Workforce Registry

Workforce



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Is the ECCE system supporting a trained, well-compensated, and resilient workforce?**
 - Approximately one-third (32.4%) of providers say they do not have enough money to buy the things they need (KCCTO workforce survey)
 - Many ECCE programs report staffing challenges (example: approximately half of MCH felt their programs were not adequately staffed (Interim MCH Program Needs Assessment))
 - *“It’s hard to recruit teachers on what child care pays, especially after the stress of the pandemic. We’re fully aware that you can go to Target and make more money than what you make as an early childhood provider.”*

Workforce



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Do Kansas children have access to quality services in appropriate learning environments?**

- Over \$8.5 million in PDG funds have been invested in local efforts to train workforce, equip facilities, and ensure high quality services for children and families
- Links to Quality (L2Q) has developed an ECCE Standard of Quality and provides diverse resources to support efforts for providers to build skills, resources, and connections

**Quality &
Environments**



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Do Kansas children have access to quality services in appropriate learning environments?**

- Newly announced Child Care Accelerator grants funded approximately one-third (\$43 million of \$117 requested) to support capacity-building in the ECCE system
- There is a gap between resources and awareness of these resources; examples: only 39.9% of child care providers are familiar with the KS/MO Core Competencies; only 17.8% of providers were familiar with L2Q (KCCTO workforce survey)

**Quality &
Environments**



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Do Kansas families have access to needed ECCE services for their children?**
 - Well over 100,000 Kansas children received child care services in facilities supported by stabilization funding (over \$300 million) distributed to providers in the state
 - For the first time in five years, in 2023 the number of child care programs in Kansas grew, from 4,064 in 2022 to 4,144 in 2023 (Child Care Aware 2023 Supply Demand Report)

Capacity & Access



2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

• Do Kansas families have access to needed ECCE services for their children?

- The number of licensed family child care homes (facilities caring for a maximum of 10 children) has seen a consistent decline from a high of 2,419 licensed homes in 2019 to 1,904 in 2023
- Demand exceeds capacity in all Kansas counties
- Child care costs in Kansas exceed all other household expenses, and use about 14% of the median couple's income and 45% of the median single parent's income (based on one infant in center-based care)
- Resource: Child Care Aware of Kansas 2023 Supply Demand Report

Capacity & Access





Summary

KANSAS' PROGRESS

- Many examples of progress, through efforts of many organizations and individuals.
- Recent accomplishments will be noted in Needs Assessment.
- Work remains, and this Needs Assessment will inform the next ECCE Strategic Plan.



All In For Kansas Kids



- What have we got right so far?
- Are these general findings consistent with your experience and knowledge of system?
- What is missing?



Next Steps

- Additional presentations and discussions
- Refinements from feedback and discussion
- Presentation to Children's Cabinet for endorsement (December 1)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE (NAFCC) ACCREDITATION

Family Child Care Providers! We're ready for round 2 of the NAFCC Accreditation project!

- KCCTO wants to help you work towards your National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation
- Not only will you have great support, but you're also going to be able to earn this Accreditation, valued at \$1,000, for **FREE!**
- Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your credibility as a child care provider/small business and set a benchmark for quality!
- Spots are limited! [Learn more](#), and [apply](#) TODAY!

Business Development



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS ACCELERATOR

The Capital Projects Fund Accelerator will award \$38 million in construction-only grants to expand on the state's efforts to create new licensed child care slots while adding space to enable work, health monitoring, and education supports.

- The Request for Proposals ([RFP](#)) is out, technical assistance is available!
- Applications on the Kansas CommonApp will close on:
 - 10/2 (Round 1)
 - 12/18 (Round 2)
- Learn more on the All In for Kansas Kids [website](#)!

Funding Opportunity



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2023 National Prenatal-to-3 Research to Policy Summit

- Join more than 5,000 state lawmakers and advocates, researchers, and practitioners for a virtual event to hear which states did the most to help young children and their families thrive in 2023
- Learn about the newest research informing prenatal-to-3 evidence-based policymaking
- Attend the virtual summit on Thursday, October 12th from 1-2:30pm (CST) – [Registration](#) if **FREE!**

47th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Annually, KCSL (along with 20+ co-sponsoring organizations) presents the most comprehensive conference in Kansas about the prevention of child maltreatment
- Featuring the best speakers the field has to offer and addressing current topics and issues throughout the duration of the conference
- Attend the in-person conference in Wichita, from October 18-20. Registration opens soon! [Learn more!](#)

Professional Development



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NAEYC Annual Conference

- Gathering early childhood educators from around the globe to connect, collaborate, and learn together!
- Attend the in-person conference in Nashville, TN from November 15-18. Register today ([Individual](#) and [Group](#) registration available)
- [Learn more](#) about this year's conference!

Professional Development



GENERAL UPDATES

Kansas Home Visiting

- Kansas home visiting encompasses a variety of volunteer programs that brings a trained family support professional to the homes of pregnant women and families with young children
- All programs and services come at no-cost to families and can provide support from pregnancy until the child turns five years old
- Total Served:
 - 14,319 Children
 - 11,647 Families
- [Learn more](#) about how Kansas Home Visiting connects parents to support!

Early Childhood Resources



GENERAL UPDATES

Kansas Parents As Teachers Association (KPATA)

- Join KPATA at their “Literacy Loving” Home Visits virtual training on Thursday, September 21st from 1-2:30 pm
 - Songs/Fingerplays
 - Routines/Transitions
 - Book Sharing/Engagement
- [Register](#) now!

Greenbush

- Greenbush is an educational service center and has a wide variety of virtual and in-person trainings, workshops, and continuing education for educators in Kansas
- Find out more about [Greenbush](#) and explore their [event](#) offerings on their website!

Professional Development



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Children's Cabinet Meeting**

Friday, October 6th – 9 am-12 pm

- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**

Wednesday, October 18th – 12-1:00 pm

- **Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Meeting**

Friday, October 20th – 9 am-11:30 am

You can find **all** of these meetings and more on our Children's Cabinet [YouTube channel!](#)

Stay Connected!





Stay Up to Date



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Thanks!

