

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood Recommendations Panel



MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2024



WELCOME

Thank you for serving Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!

This is a remote meeting.

- Today's meeting materials are posted on the [Panel Meetings webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site.
- Panel members will clearly identify themselves when they begin speaking.
- Panel members can use the "raise hand" feature to show they are ready to share.

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome
- Approval of December Agenda
- Approval of November Meeting Minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum
- *All in For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan Progress Update
- Office of Rural Prosperity
- Kansas Child & Family Well-Being Pathway
- Work Group Reports
- Bright Spots & Upcoming Meetings
- Adjourn (*work groups will meet following meeting*)

ACTION ITEMS

Panel members - please clearly identify yourself when you begin speaking to make and second a motion.

- Approval of December agenda
- Approval of November minutes



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment](#) Form by 5:00 p.m. the day preceding each meeting to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting.



All In For Kansas Kids



All in For Kansas Kids Strategic
Plan Progress Update

MEGHAN KLUTH, KU-CPPR



STRATEGIC PLANS UPDATES

- 2025 plans:
 - Co-create indicators of success with families (e.g. how do families define quality?)
 - System wide dissemination of progress
 - Opportunities to collaborate with Systems Progress Communication work group
 - How can we effectively track and communicate progress so people are aware of and feel connected to the work?



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATES

- Early 2025 Focus Areas:
 - Child care professional health insurance support (applications open January 1, 2025)
 - Specialized care trainings focused on mental health, service provider collaboration, special health care needs
 - Regional care conferences (spring 2025)
 - Cape Portal
 - Needs Assessment Gap Analyses – Rural Care Needs

PDG



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATES

- Early 2025 Focus Areas:
 - Referral system consulting services
 - Child care regional roundtable events
 - Future Fellows early childhood cohort
 - Expansion of Baby Steps in high need counties

PDG



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATES

- Opportunities to Collaborate
 - Are you interested in hearing about a specific initiative? Let us know!
 - Promoting opportunities for training, resources, etc. with your networks
 - Staying connected to AIFKK Strategic Plan and PDG funded work and helping share it across system and with families

PDG



All In For Kansas Kids



Office of Rural Prosperity

TRISHA PURDON, KERRI FALLETTI, AND SARA BLOOM



Rural Prosperity in Kansas

Childcare initiatives at Commerce



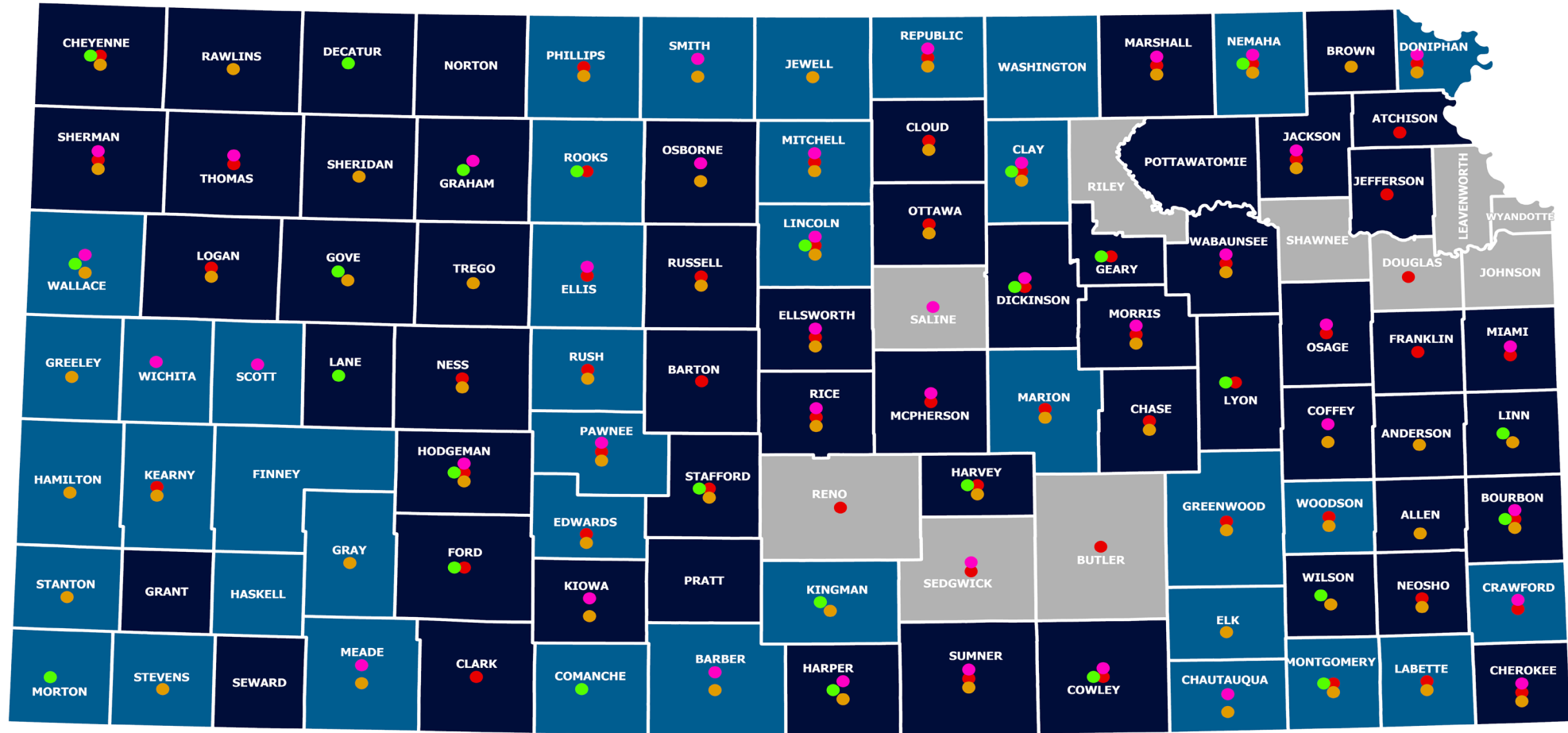
KANSAS

OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY

KANSAS

COMMERCE

OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



- HEAL
- Champions
- SEED
- Rural Murals



County, City, Employer, & Foundation Sponsors



City, Employer, & Foundation Sponsors Only



Not ROZ

Power Up and GO! – Childcare Recommendations

- Why Economic Development = Childcare

- The lack of quality childcare is keeping young people in rural Kansas from taking jobs or even having kids — and may be pushing them away from rural Kansas.
- Lack of childcare options undermines economic development efforts that focus on job growth and when combined with housing shortages, it compromises the viability and appeal of rural life.

- Addressing the Gap in Childcare efforts

- Because of the grassroots nature of many rural childcare efforts, additional resources and technical assistance may be needed to more fully address childcare access in our state's smaller communities.



POWER UP AND GO! Childcare Recommendations

- Improve coordination of state programs, regulations, advocacy efforts and providers
- Elevate teachers and providers
- Train and support local champions (consider using Skilled KC Technical Institute model of rapid-response training) to understand and navigate systemic challenges



2023 Rural Childcare Champions



Susie Swanson
Grow Clay County



Rebecca Nedland
Oberlin USD 294



Dalila Boys
Dodge City/Ford County

Amy Wallace - Kingman County

Grow Clay County Childcare

Original Plan:

- Construction of a large facility to replace current preschool rooms at elementary school and add space for two daycare rooms creating 50 daycare spots.

Ultimate Project:

- After a large grant was not received, the plan was revised. The new plan uses existing space available at middle school and will create 12-14 new childcare slots.
- Using Champions \$25,000 Grant, the project will fund a remodel, and furnishings, toys/supplies, and design fees for the retrofit.

How was childcare determined as a priority issue for this project?

- In June of 2021, local childcare center closed due to staffing issues reducing available childcare slots by 32.
- A second facility and a local church later closed that year, eliminating 20 more slots.

What partners did you involve in the project to address childcare?

Initially the Clay County Child Care Taskforce, USD 379, Clay County Medical Center, Clay County officials, Lakeside Learning Tree, KDHE and local in-home day care providers were involved. As the project has progressed, USD 379 has taken a lead role in implementing the eventual project.

Grow Clay County Childcare

Unexpected challenges:

- Public officials were not aware of the shortage of childcare and that impact on families, businesses, and growth opportunities for the community. With education, they later supported the initiative.
- Some in-home childcare providers were concerned that they would be negatively impacted. - Providing education on the shortage and need resolved these concerns.

Clay County Champion Takeaways:

- The initial solution was to build a new facility located on the elementary school campus and work to establish a provider substitute pool. Ultimately, the Champion implemented the following:
 - The Middle School was renovated to get a new center open for 12-14 slots.
 - In-home providers were not in favor of the substitute pool, but the school district has agreed to allow this in the new facility.
- As a result of educating the public about the shortage of providers that take DCF payments, two existing providers became eligible to accept those payments.

“Challenging people to think outside the box and think big was an important task in moving the project along. Educating people regarding the need for and importance of quality childcare for the benefit of our families and the growth of our communities was a key piece to solving the initial challenge.” - Susie Swanson

Oberlin USD 294

Original Plan:

Increase the number of childcare slots available in our community by building a new childcare center.

Ultimate Project:

The difficulty of finding available contractors with the skills needed for new construction required that we shift to renovating an existing location in the community, which the school now owns in Oberlin.

How was childcare determined as a priority issue for this project?

Our local foundation hosted a Strategic Doings session with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, which showed the NWKS childcare shortage impact, and how Dane G. Hansen could help. After this meeting, we identified our primary need was to add additional childcare providers to address our shortage of childcare slots.

What partners did you involve in the project to address childcare?

Locally we involved our local foundation GROW Decatur County, the City of Oberlin, USD 294, Decatur Health System, Bargain Box, and Rotary International Club. Regionally we involved the Innovation Center (EICI), Dane G. Hansen, LiveWell Northwest Kansas, and Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. We also have partnered with the Office of Rural Prosperity, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust, Childcare Aware of Kansas, and the Patterson Family Foundation.

Oberlin USD 294

Unexpected challenges:

- Finding contractors for new construction and renovation
- Learning about zoning and building codes to find a suitable new option
- Community rumors and negativity – education and information helped alleviate this challenge

Oberlin Champion Takeaways:

“The biggest success of the childcare Champion project is that we do have a building and we are moving forward with implementation of our facility. A mantra that I developed is “these bumps in the road are helping me grow.”

Another development of the childcare Champion project has been my professional and personal growth. I have learned so much about nonprofit work, the ins and outs of business planning, childcare regulations and trainings, being assertive as a leader and not being afraid to put myself out there, dealing with difficult situations with grace and so much more.” – Rebecca Nedland

Dodge City/Ford County Childcare

Original Plan:

Our goal is to assist our employers, and families, in providing childcare during the time of first and second shift to help with recruitment and retention. Our main project is to construct and open a childcare center with 300 plus childcare seats available.

Ultimate Project:

To increase childcare capacity in Ford County we are still working on building a 22 hour, 313 child capacity building. In the meantime, we are continuing to build capacity of licensed home facilities.

How was childcare determined as a priority issue for this project?

With 2 major beef packing plants that employ a big part of our community, it has caused a shortage in childcare. We also have Hilmar Cheese plant being built at the moment that will bring additional employment to our community.

What partners did you involve in the project to address childcare?

We have partnered with Dodge City/Ford County Economic Development, The City of Dodge City, Ford County, Dodge City Community College, USD 443, YMCA, Chamber of Commerce, Childcare Aware, KDHE, KSBDC, KCCTO/KITS, Russell Child Development Center, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Kansas Child, Kansas Department of Commerce, Office of Rural Prosperity and the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

Dodge City/Ford County Childcare

Unexpected challenges:

- We discovered that the cost of construction was a bigger challenge to build a new center than expected
- Most importantly a language barrier was preventing in home childcare providers from getting licensed and ready to operate.

Dodge City Champion Takeaways:

- We have put together a How to Become a Childcare Provider Seminar for people to attend and learn the process of opening a home day care. We have guest speakers from KDHE, Russell Child Development Center, KCCTO and Childcare Aware attend.
- The Champion completed an orientation with KDHE and has received a certification to help childcare providers through the process of opening a new childcare facility or in-home location.

“As a Spanish speaking woman, it has brought me great joy to help people find childcare for all walks of life especially with Ford County speaking 28 different languages. Our diverse community is in dire need of childcare.”

- Dalila Boys

Kingman County Childcare

Original Plan:

The Childcare Champion was tasked with creating and implementing a county-wide strategic plan to increase childcare capacity throughout Kingman County.

Ultimate Project:

The Kingman-Norwich school district remodeled two classrooms and opened a center that accommodates up to 46 kids. We also were able to bring a lot of focus to childcare issues.

How was childcare determined as a priority issue for this project?

- After speaking with the school districts, employers, providers, and parents, the Economic Development Committee made childcare a priority in February of 2022.
- Met with Childcare Aware and learned about the real-time data which showed the deficiency in childcare slots in Kingman County.
- Our first priority was to create a survey to collect additional data. The survey has been instrumental in applying for funding various grants.

Kingman County Childcare

Resource Partners:

USD 331 was a key partner, and this helped us receive an accelerator grant. The school district has partnered with the hospital, rec commission, and the City of Kingman to ensure the project would be completed. Since that application Amy Wallace, the project manager at the district has applied and been awarded several additional grants.

Unexpected challenges:

- There was some uncertainty among current providers with the new center opening, but we had the data to back up the need.
- We are currently trying to build support in Cunningham for the center located there.
- We also worked with current local providers to make sure they receive funding as well in order to maintain existing providers and childcare slots.

Kingman Champion Takeaways:

The Kingman-Norwich school district is remodeling two classrooms and opening a center that will be able to accommodate up to 46 kids. We also were able to bring a lot of focus to childcare issues.

“Frankly, I am not sure how a small rural community can make a substantial dent in childcare without the support and involvement of a school district.” – Amy Wallace

Rural Prosperity in Kansas - Childcare

TEFFI:SEED Program

- \$25,000 Grants for projects to support childcare, senior centers, libraries, placemaking, and rural food systems.
- Requires a 10% match
- Medicine Lodge is a great example of a successful SEED childcare project that also was paired with Community Service Tax Credits.

#RuralbyChoice Champions

- 4 Childcare Champions in 2023
- 2 Childcare Champions in 2024-2025 – Stafford & Newton
- Third round of Rural Champions opening in June 2025.

Rural Prosperity in Kansas - Funding

- **HEAL – Building or Façade Grants – Childcare allowed!**
 - Downtown or downtown corridor historic building rehabilitation or Façade rehabilitation
 - Grant application period: Nov 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025
 - \$100,000 maximum per award.
 - 1:1 CASH match required
 - Childcare is an eligible use for the building



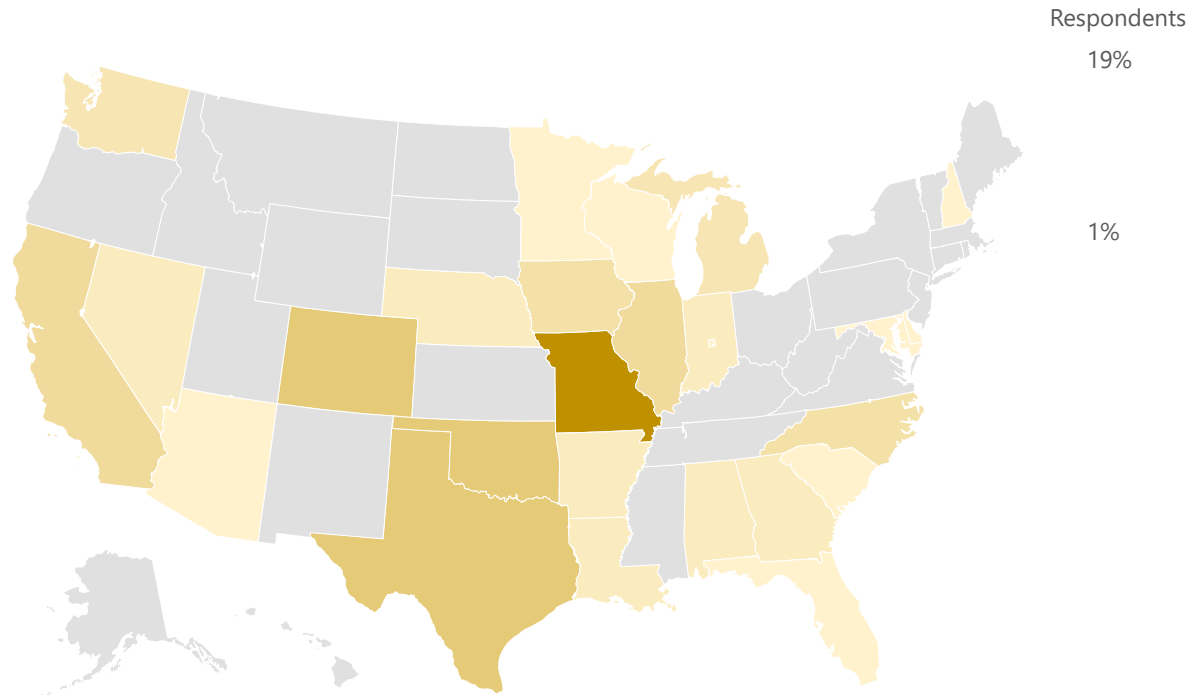
Love, Kansas

Love, Kansas is a love letter from the Sunflower State to anyone seeking a new pace of life filled with abundant opportunities.

We are one of the most cost-effective states in America, so we are reaching out to future Kansas to showcase why our beloved state is a vibrant place to live.

Boomerangs

State Lived in Before Returning to Kansas



Top reasons for Boomeranging to Kansas

1. Family
2. Job opportunities
3. Affordability/Housing Availability and Cost
4. Emotional connection

POWER UP AND GO!

Create the choir - and then listen to it!

The most accessible target audience for recruiting and retaining young people in rural communities are K-12 students. The saying “preaching to the choir” reflects a pool of like-minded individuals. We may need to create that choir — as well as space and flexibility for the choir to sing a newer song than before.

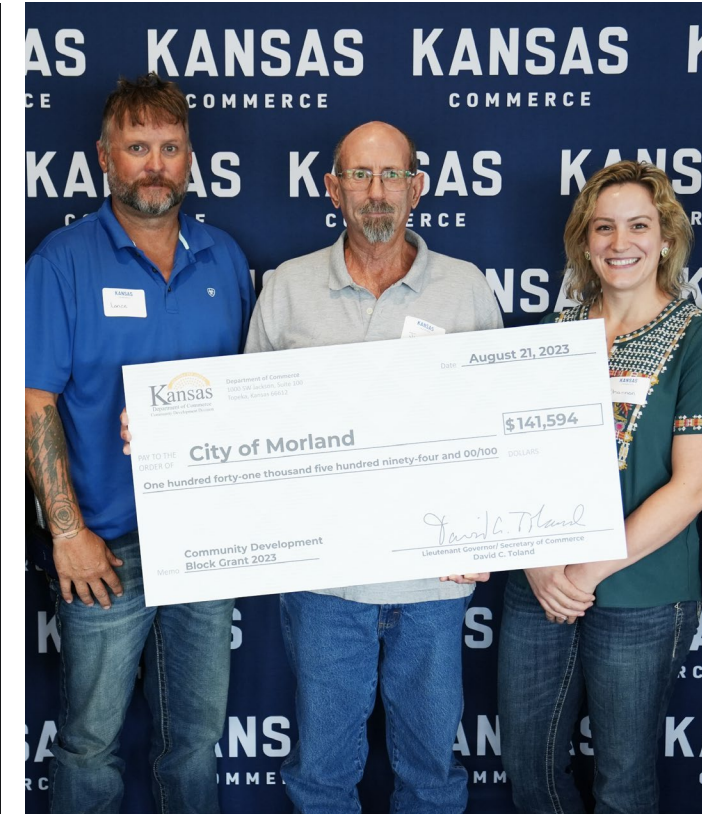
- Spread the good word about rural communities, highlighting positive approaches
- Create a community of practice and fellowship opportunities for “rural influencers”
- Expand programs that connect kids to their communities





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

Positively impacting areas of need.



The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Non-Profit Childcare & Early Education Facilities program provides funding for projects that address the child care shortage in communities. These grants provide funding for the construction of new buildings or the renovation of existing buildings, including design and planning costs.

- Approximately \$1.5 million annually
- Communities can receive up to \$650,000 (<5,000 population), and \$800,000 (>5,000 population)
- Funding can only be used for construction of facilities, and not for operations.
- Only cities/counties can apply for CDBG
- Priority will be given to communities identified by Childcare Aware as a childcare desert.
- Projects must meet one of three National Objectives:

(1) LMI Percentage (2) Slum and Blight
(3) Urgent Need





TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

Amplifying fundraising for non-profits.



KANSAS
COMMERCE

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (CSP) TAX CREDITS

AMOUNT: \$200,000

MATCH: None

Allows private, non-profit organizations and public health care entities to improve their ability to undertake significant capital campaigns for community improvement projects. State tax credits substantially reduce the cost of contributing to a charitable organization. **These credits are refundable AND transferable.**





Let's Talk

www.kansascommerce.gov

KANSAS
COMMERCE

All In For Kansas Kids



Kansas Child & Family Well-Being Pathway

JENNY WELCH BULLER, KU-CPPR



KANSAS CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING PATHWAY

- New **strengths-based** county-level indicators
 - *Domains: Health, Environment, Financial, Community, Learning & Development, Family & Household*
- **Interactive** dashboard
- County-level **well-being scores**:
 - *Getting started, strengthening, and excelling*
- Practical guidance and examples for **taking action**
- KS community **bright spots**

Coming soon!



HEALTH INDICATORS

- Access to quality care
- Preventive screenings and routine check-ups
- Health status
- Avoidance of high-risk behaviors
- Examples: Community baby showers, special health events, local-level policies that increase access.

Call for bright spots



Health



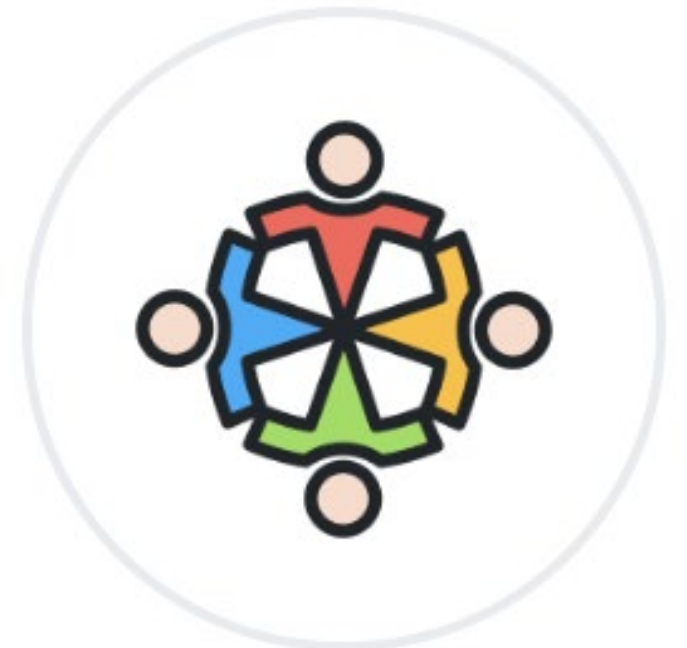
COMMUNITY INDICATORS

- Accessible supports and resources
- Connectedness
 - Community relationships, support systems, etc.
- Example bright spot: Local caregiver groups, cultural events, “small p” policies that promote connections etc.

Call for bright spots



Community



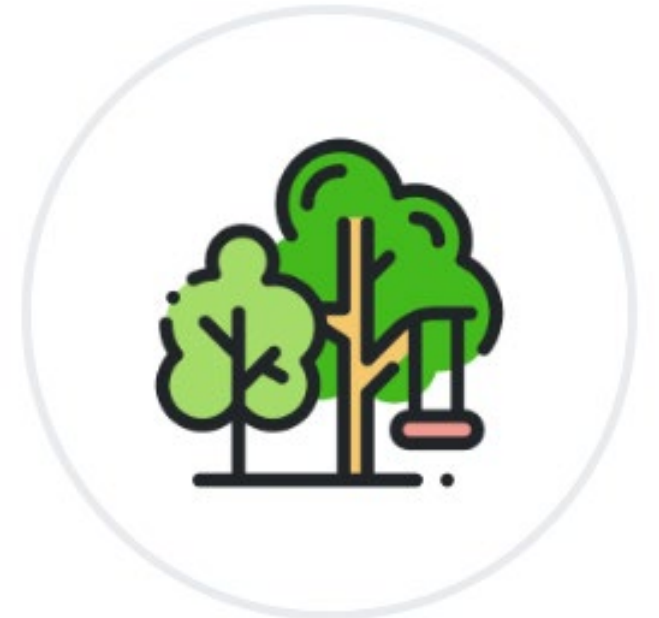
ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS

- Built environment (Parks, recreation, transportation, libraries, etc.)
- Absence of harmful substances
- Housing
- Safety
- Food security and access to safe water
- Example: Book mobiles, trails, housing projects, etc.

Call for bright spots



Environment



LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

- Access (to child care, educational opportunities)
- Quality (education/teachers)
- Examples: Local efforts to increase access, quality, shared services, etc.

Learning & Development



Call for bright spots



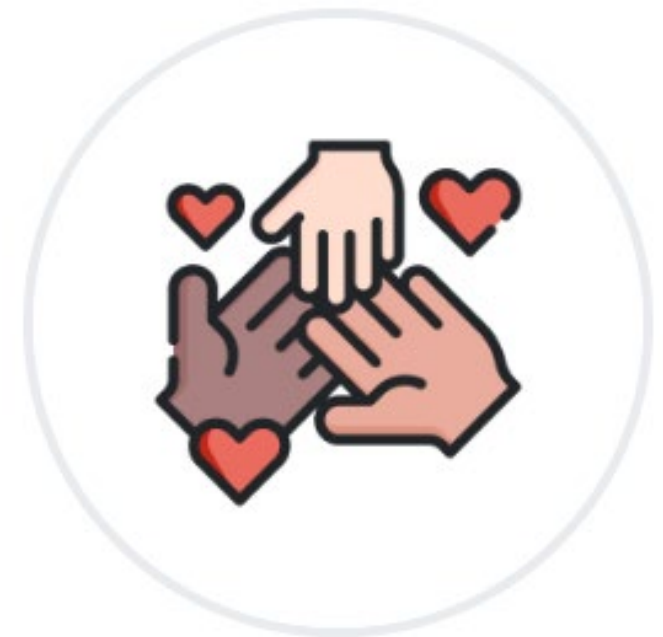
FAMILY & HOUSEHOLD INDICATORS

- Protective factors
- Caregiver supports
- Example bright spots:
Summer food program or weekend snack back-packs, educational events with free child care, etc.

Call for bright spots



Family & Household



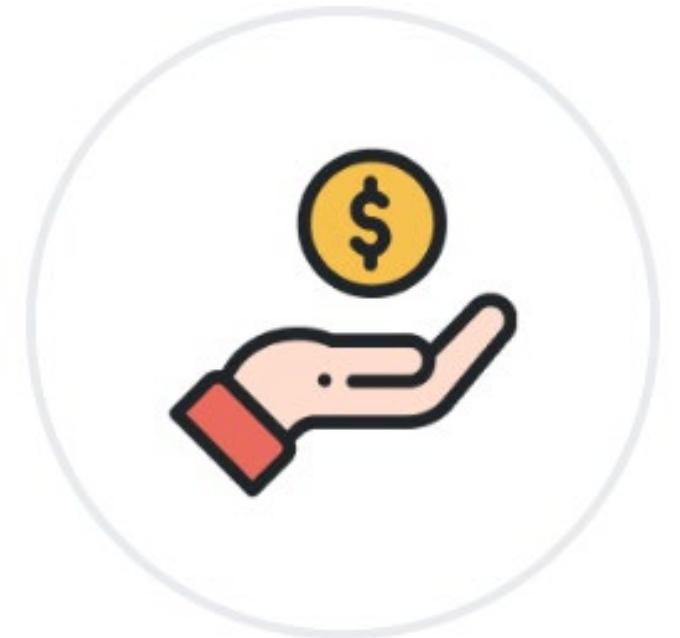
FINANCIAL INDICATORS

- Employment
- Cost of living
- Financial security
- Example bright spot: Local apprenticeships or job training programs, savings programs for youth, etc.

Call for bright spots



Financial



KEEP THOSE BRIGHT SPOTS COMING!

- Complete indicators and dashboard, add your ideas!
- Create a link for ongoing opportunities to share your community brights spots and other ideas for strengthening well-being.
- Launch!

Next steps



All In For Kansas Kids



Work Group Reports



WORK GROUPS

- Family Friendly Workplaces
- Workforce: Exit Interviews
- Workforce: Mental Health Supports
- Workforce: Targeted Journey Recruitment
- System Progress Communications

Overview



BRIGHT AND SPOTS UPCOMING MEETINGS

****Bright Spots – Panel members are invited to share****

Reminder: Post Meeting Survey

- Look for an email from Lindsay for an opportunity to provide feedback

Upcoming Meetings:

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – January 17, 9:00 a.m.
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund – February 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Livestream via [KCCTF YouTube](#)





Adjourn





[All In For Kansas Kids Newsletter](#)



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Stay Up to Date

