

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early
Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR SEPTEMBER 11, 2024



WELCOME

- Webinar Cadence
 - AIFKK webinars will be held every 2nd Wednesday of the month in 2024
- Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – <http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/>
- Presentation on the new 2024 All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan by Sara Gardner of KU CPPR
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

Agenda



2024 Webinar Schedule

~~January 10th~~
~~February 14th~~
~~March 13th~~
~~April 10th~~
~~May 8th~~
~~June 12th~~
~~July 10th~~
~~August 14th~~
September 11th
October 9th
November 13th
December 11th

All In For Kansas Kids



2024 Strategic Plan

SARA GARDNER, KU-CPPR



ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS STRATEGIC PLAN

- 5-year time horizon
- Responsive to 2024 Needs Assessment
- Feedback and opportunities for input from governance groups and professionals in the field
- Deliverable for PDG B-5 Planning Grant (Awarded December 2022)
- Available Online
 - Children's Cabinet Website
 - AIFKK Website



PILLAR 1

Ecosystem

When we speak of early childhood in Kansas, we are describing an ecosystem focused on your family centered around the Blueprint's three Building Blocks—Strong Families, Early Health Development. This ecosystem, depicted in the graphic on page 14, includes programs from the state; the systems in which these resources are funded, administered, and evaluated; and local programming and community services designed to support thriving families. The early childhood ecosystem also considers other supports families may need: health care, behavioral health services, and employment supports.

With a focus on family well-being in addition to services that directly support young children, our early childhood ecosystem are collaborating more than ever before. Kansas leaders have moved from insulated work within individual state agencies and are moving toward more unified decision-making and cross-cutting solutions. Goals and actions in this pillar are created to guide collaboration and to prioritize child and family well-being more efficiently to meet a wider range of needs. Pillar is also about nurturing the ecosystem by creating new resources, increasing capacity, private partnerships, and using data to improve outcomes for all Kansas children and families.

ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024

GOAL 2 Connect families to the right service at the right time through comprehensive networks of resources and programs.

2.1 Inventory existing local networks that help families connect to services. Promote successful models and of "no wrong door" approaches for families.

2.2 Capture and communicate the bright spots and lessons learned around referral and care coordination networks in local communities. Use allforkansaskids.org, governance group communication channels, and community group meetings to promote peer-to-peer learning and widespread adoption of proven practices.

2.3 Increase family uptake of 1-800-CHILDREN as a trusted information source. Increase provider 1-800-CHILDREN to facilitate provider-to-provider referrals.

2.4 Develop community- and family-informed benchmarks for seamless navigation of the early childhood ecosystem. Invest in resources that help communities ensure the full range of local services meets these benchmarks.

2.5 Increase the number of community-based referral networks that include both early childhood and health care providers to support stronger cross-sector relationships and to help identify and address social determinants of health.

Actions

Community-Dated Referral Network

Framework

This strategic plan is organized to follow the 2024 All In For Kansas Kids and actions arranged in three pillars of emphasis: the ecosystem of partners, and the experiences of children and families. Goals, actions, and each pillar after a brief introduction. Goals broadly describe priority outcomes the work aims to achieve while allowing flexibility for ecosystem networks and timelines. Metrics are intended to measure progress and match for each action, they capture what it means to achieve strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Organization

Pillars

- Ecosystem
- Early Childhood Work for Environment

Goals, Actions, and Metrics

GOAL 1 State desired outcomes

1.1 Detailed steps to achieve goal

Progress

Data points to know direction of where we are

All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan 2024

STRATEGIC PLAN PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

- **Purpose:** Provide a north star and unified vision for the Kansas Early Childhood Ecosystem and help guide decision-making for EC leaders and champions at all levels.
- **Document Structure**
 - Pillars – broad categories that align with the Needs Assessment (Ecosystem, Workforce, Children & Families)
 - Goals – Full sentence objectives that specify how to get to the vision
 - Actions – Detailed steps to take to meet the Goals
 - Measures of Success – data points we can track on how we know we are going in the right direction

All in for Kansas Kids



STRATEGIC PLAN INTRODUCTION

Vision

Commitment Statement

Background

- Importance of Early Childhood
- What do Our Youngest Kansans Need (featuring NA Findings)
- Our Children's Future

Plan Framework

- 3 Pillars, 15 Goals, 111 Actions, Indicators of Progress

Strategic Plan



KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ECOSYSTEM

What is the Kansas EC Ecosystem?

- Anchored by Blueprint for Early Childhood
- 4 state agencies provide funding and administer/manage programs across ECE
- Includes a range of positions, services, and resources to support young children and their families – supported by Thriving Communities.



Strategic Plan



Blueprint for Early Childhood

Foundational Building Blocks



Healthy Development



Strong Families



Early Learning

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ECOSYSTEM

Who is in the Kansas EC Ecosystem?

Child Care

- Family Child Care
- Child Care Centers
- Head Start
- Child Care Assistance
- Out-of-School Programming



Pre-K to 12 Education

- Preschool Education
- Early Childhood Special Education (Part B)
- Kindergarten Transitions
- Literacy and Reading Supports
- School Health



Health Care

- Family/Primary Care Doctors
- Pediatricians, OBGYNs, and Midwives
- Immunizations and Newborn Screening
- Food and Nutrition Resources
- Federally Qualified Health Centers



Family Supports

- Economic Assistance (TANF, etc.)
- Housing Supports
- Child and Family Well-Being
- Dept. of Corrections Programs for Parents
- Employment Services



Crisis Services

- Care Coordination
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Family Preservation Services
- Substance Use Disorder Supports



Prenatal and Maternal Support

- SIDS Network
- Kansas Perinatal Community Collaboratives
- Doula Services
- WIC Programs
- SUD Support for Pregnant Women



Mental/Behavioral Health

- Maternal Depression Screening
- Child Mental Health Specialists
- Mental Health Providers/Practices
- Local Health Departments
- Behavioral Health Specialists



Home Visiting

- Parent Education
- Universal Home Visiting (MCH)
- Parents as Teachers
- Healthy Families Initiatives
- Early Head Start
- MIECHV and Family First
- 1-800-CHILDREN



Early Intervention/ Developmental Disability

- ASQ Screening
- Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services (Part C)
- Infant/Toddler Specialist Network
- Kansas Inservice Training
- Special Health Care Supports
- Child Occupational and Physical Therapists



Strategic Plan



Blueprint for Early Childhood Foundational Building Blocks



Healthy Development



Strong Families



Early Learning

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

➤ Ecosystem

- State and Local Collaboration to meet child and family needs
- Communities connect families to the right resources at the right time
- Use data to measure impact and improve programs
- Expand resources to help increase capacity, including public-private partnerships

Strategic Plan



- **Goal 1** Strengthen the continuum of early childhood services through widespread collaboration across state and local partners.
- **Goal 2** Connect families to the right service at the right time through comprehensive networks of resources and programs.
- **Goal 3** Measure impact across the full continuum of early childhood services over time and use the data to make changes that reduce disparities and improve outcomes for children.
- **Goal 4** Promote agreements between public and private sectors to expand early childhood initiatives.
- **Goal 5** Support policies and initiatives that increase capacity, enhance quality, improve access to services, and contribute to economic security for families.
- **Goal 6** Strengthen existing tools and create new resources to ensure providers offer families seamless transitions in support of their child's interests, healthy social-emotional development, and academic potential.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

➤ Workforce

- Increase compensation and financial sustainability
- Prioritize professional advancement and development opportunities
- Grow the overall ECE workforce capacity
- Improve quality of environments and services provided by the ECE workforce

- **Goal 1** Support strategies to increase the overall compensation of early childhood professionals and improve the financial sustainability of programs.
- **Goal 2** Build workforce capacity to provide high-quality early childhood services.
- **Goal 3** Support early childhood professionals to help them reach their professional development goals.
- **Goal 4** Support high quality programming and resources for expecting families and children in all birth to age 5 environments so they can reach appropriate developmental goals.

Strategic Plan



STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

➤ Children and Families

- Prioritize well-being and mental health of children and families
- Engage families in meaningful ways to improve programs
- Invest in the meeting the basic needs of families with young children
- Help families make informed decisions about – and access to – the services their children need.

- **Goal 1** Engage families in opportunities to connect and learn while encouraging family input and acting on insights from lived experience.
- **Goal 2** Build awareness of the services available to help families make informed decisions in support of their child's interests, healthy development, and learning.
- **Goal 3** Improve child well-being by increasing access to the full range of services that prioritize safe, nurturing parent/caregiver relationships and strong families.
- **Goal 4** Prioritize the mental health of children and families by offering accessible, multi-generational services and opportunities for connection in supportive environments.
- **Goal 5** Ensure families experience respectful and responsive interactions across the full continuum of early childhood services.

Strategic Plan



PATHWAYS TO ACTION

State-Level Opportunities

- EC Recommendations Panel
- Family Leadership Team or Family First Advisory Board
- Child Care Systems Improvement Team
- State Home Visiting Leadership Team
- Maternal Child Health Council

Take Action Locally

- Community-led Child Care Coalitions
- Local Interagency Coordinating Councils
- Family Resource Centers
- Parent Engagement Groups
- Local LiveWell or Healthy Community Groups
- Local Chambers

Strategic Plan



CALL TO ACTION

Maximize Investments in Early Childhood

- Establish/strengthen private sector partnerships
- Utilize flexibility in federal funding to optimize impact (braiding sources to meet priority needs)
- Make strategic, state-level investments that leverages local investments and boosts sustainability

Strategic Plan



ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS

A Plan for All of Us in the Ecosystem

- Families and caregivers
- Policymakers
- Business and community leaders
- Service organizations
- Professionals caring for our children

Strategic Plan



AllinforKansasKids.org Website

- **About → Strategic Plan**
- **Ask for copies!**
- **Share Thoughts & Ideas!**
- **Stay Tuned for Progress Updates!**

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood
Systems Updates



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NAEYC ACCREDITATION

Participate in a pilot study of NAEYC's new tiered Program Quality Assessment System!

- NAEYC has announced plans for their newly revised quality assessment and accreditation system with tiered levels of quality assessment. The process will be simpler and tiers will allow programs to progress at their own pace.
- Before this new system launches in March 2025, NAEYC is looking for a diverse group of programs to participate in a pilot study of the new system!
- [Learn more](#) about the plans for the new system, and submit your [interest survey](#) to be considered for the pilot study!

Pilot Study Opportunity



CHILD CARE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Child Care Aware of Kansas is excited to announce that they will be offering Child Care Community Partnership Grants (CCCPG) in the 2024-2025 fiscal year!

- Awarding 15 Community-Led Coalitions with \$30,000
- Application Period: September 3, 2024-October 31, 2024
- Offering grants to support Community-Led Coalitions with a focus on advancing child care capacity in your community. All interested coalitions must contact their Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator to obtain grant log-in information and application details.
- You can find more grant information on the Child Care Aware [website!](#)

Funding Opportunity



CHILD CARE HEALTH AND SAFETY GRANTS

Child Care Matters and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are assisting facilities in achieving licensing compliance!

- Starting this month, KDHE is providing grants for licensed facilities with regulatory or statutory violations, to assist in correcting these violations with minor renovations, repairs, or other safety-related expenses.
- Applications will be open through June 30, 2025
- Check your eligibility and apply for funding on [KDHE's website](#).

Funding Opportunity



GREENBUSH AND KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

Greenbush: Free Resource for Families and Professionals – Family Connect Modules

- A series of eight one-hour interactive [modules](#) connecting families to resources and services to promote the healthy development of children ages 0-5.

KCSL:

- Offering several trainings for child abuse prevention, trauma informed care, and more, which also qualify for child care licensing hours.
- Learn more and register for sessions at the [KCSL website!](#)

**Early Childhood Resources
and Professional
Development**



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **2024 Early Childhood Recommendations Panel**
Friday, September 20th – 9 am-11:30 am
- **Children’s Cabinet Meeting**
Friday, October 4th – 9 am-12 pm
- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**
Wednesday, October 9th – 12-1:00 pm

You can find **all** these meetings and more on our Children’s Cabinet YouTube channel!

Stay Connected!





Stay Up to Date



[ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS NEWSLETTER](#)



[@KCCTF](#)



[KANSASCHILDRENSCABINET](#)





Thanks!

