



Cabinet Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024





Welcome & Approval of Minutes

DON HINEMAN, CHAIR



Approval of Minutes

- October 4 - Regular Meeting
- October 4 - Board Retreat

Minutes



A young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a bright yellow dress, is running through a grassy field. She is holding a string of colorful balloons (blue, green, yellow, purple, pink) in her left hand. The background is a soft, hazy landscape under a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is joyful and hopeful.

2024 Children's Cabinet Annual Report

MELISSA ROOKER

JESSICA SPRAGUE-JONES, KU-CPPR



Vision and Goals

- Reports the full scope of the Children's Cabinet's 2024 work
- Four sections describe the work, highlight insights, and articulate next steps:
 - Our Progress
 - Strategic Approach
 - Data for Impact
 - Recommendations

Annual Report



Introduction

Overview of the document and the Children's Cabinet

- Profiles of Cabinet members and staff
- Blueprint for Early Childhood
- Executive Summary

Annual Report



Our Work

Connector

Convenes diverse stakeholders in children's issues from government, nonprofit, and the private sector.

Champion

Elevates the importance of investing in early childhood and contributes to innovative program approaches.

Strategist

Identifies opportunities for effective collaboration and overcomes barriers to optimal system performance.

Evaluator

Evaluates use of the CIF, contributes to data-informed decision making, and offers practice and policy recommendations.

Manager

Manages grant-making, fund administration, and strategic planning processes.

Roles



Overview

- Children's Initiatives Fund
- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Initiative Spotlights
 - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

Our Progress



Children's Initiatives Fund

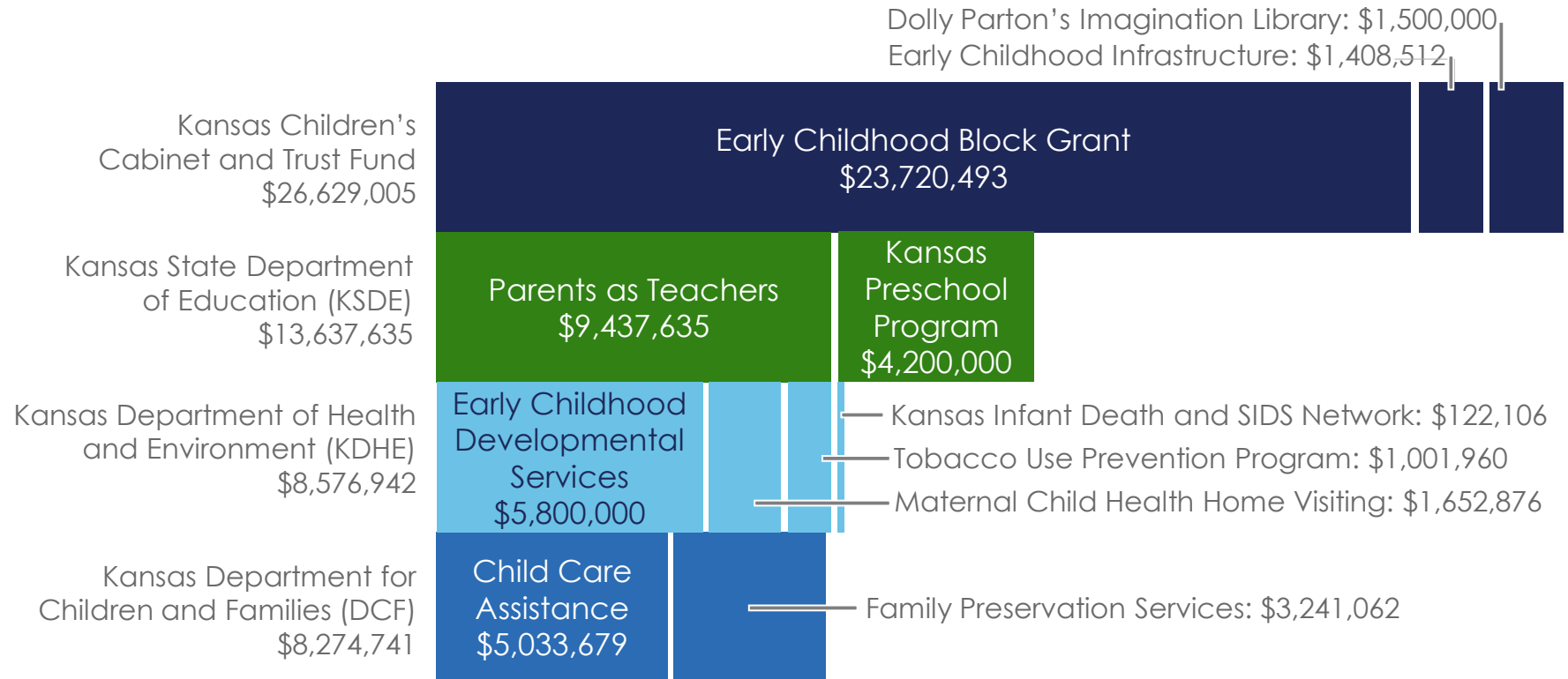
- Created in 1999 to focus investment of Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funds
- Funded 10 programs in 2024 in the areas of early care and education, early intervention, maltreatment prevention, and tobacco use prevention
- Profiles include program descriptions, populations served, and impact data

Our Progress



CIF Funding by Agency and Program

TOTAL FUNDING: \$57,493,323



* Including \$375,000 allotted to the Accountability Fund

CIF Accountability Process Key Takeaways

- **Supporting Families:** Programs provide essential support for the healthy development of children and families, as evidenced by performance metrics and family feedback.
- **Increasing Program Impact:** All programs utilize multiple funding streams. CIF enables them to extend reach and impact.
- **Basic Needs:** Many families struggle to meet basic needs, which can blunt the effectiveness of services.
- **Staffing:** Programs struggle to find and retain staff. Many cite low wages as the primary contributor.
- **Mental Health:** There is a need for additional mental and behavioral health resources for children, families, and service providers.

Our Progress

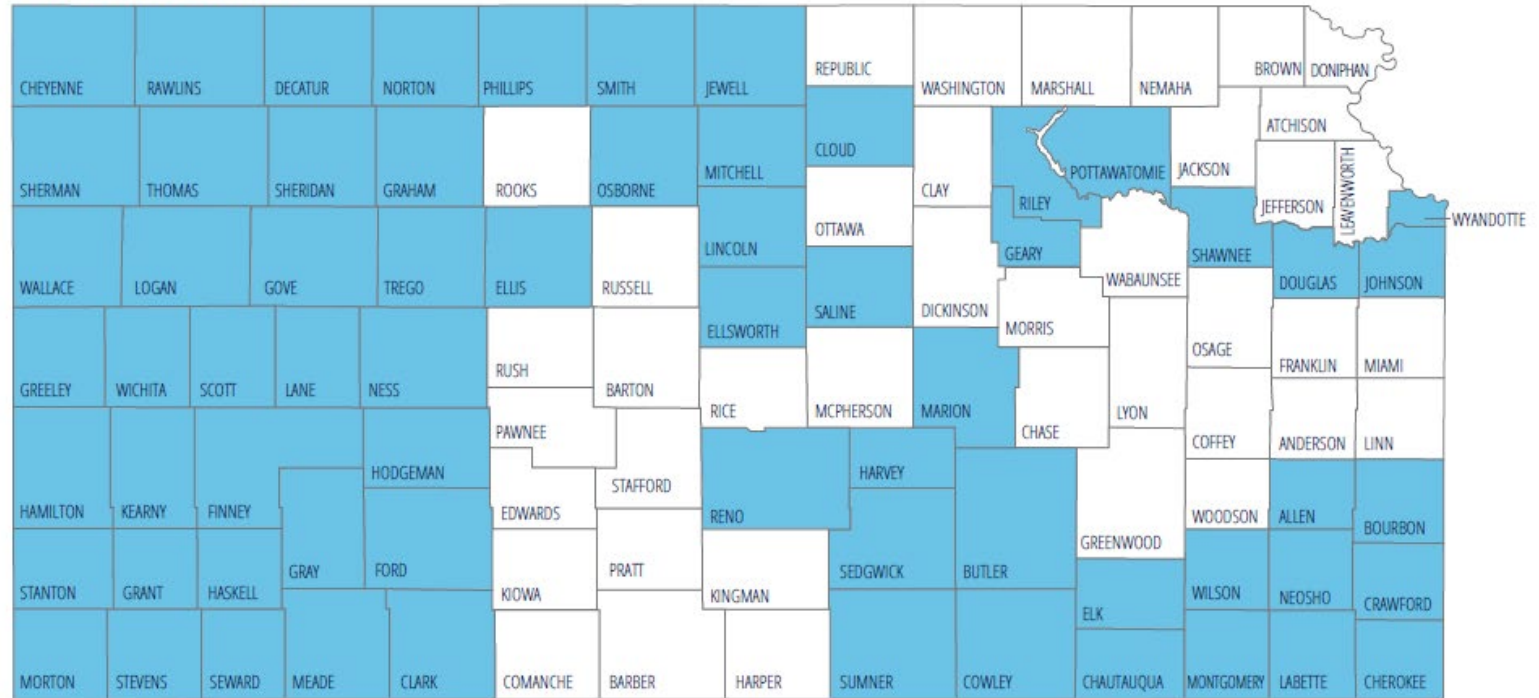


Early Childhood Block Grant

Signature CIF investment

In 2024, ECBG-funded programs served over 8,000 children and almost 7,000 caregivers across 63 counties

Counties Served



Our Progress



ECBG Evaluation Key Takeaways

Family and Program Outcomes

- 17% increase in positive parenting
- 1% increase in parental stress
- 2% decrease in full-time care in the last year
- 78% high-quality classrooms

Child Outcomes

- 75% on track in early communication
- 59% of 3-year-olds on track in early literacy
- 70% on track in language comprehension
- 68% on track in early numeracy

Our Progress



Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

- Federally funded program focused on preventing child maltreatment
- Kansas Children's Cabinet serves as state lead agency
- Funded \$2,050,484 million in 2024, includes American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding
- 11 grantees offering an array of services including parent education, home visiting, case management, preventative legal services, and resource centers

Our Progress



CBCAP Evaluation Results

Protective Factors Survey results:

- 30% growth in family functioning and resilience
- 8% growth in nurturing and attachment
- 30% growth in social supports
- 11% growth in caregiver/practitioner relationship

Our Progress



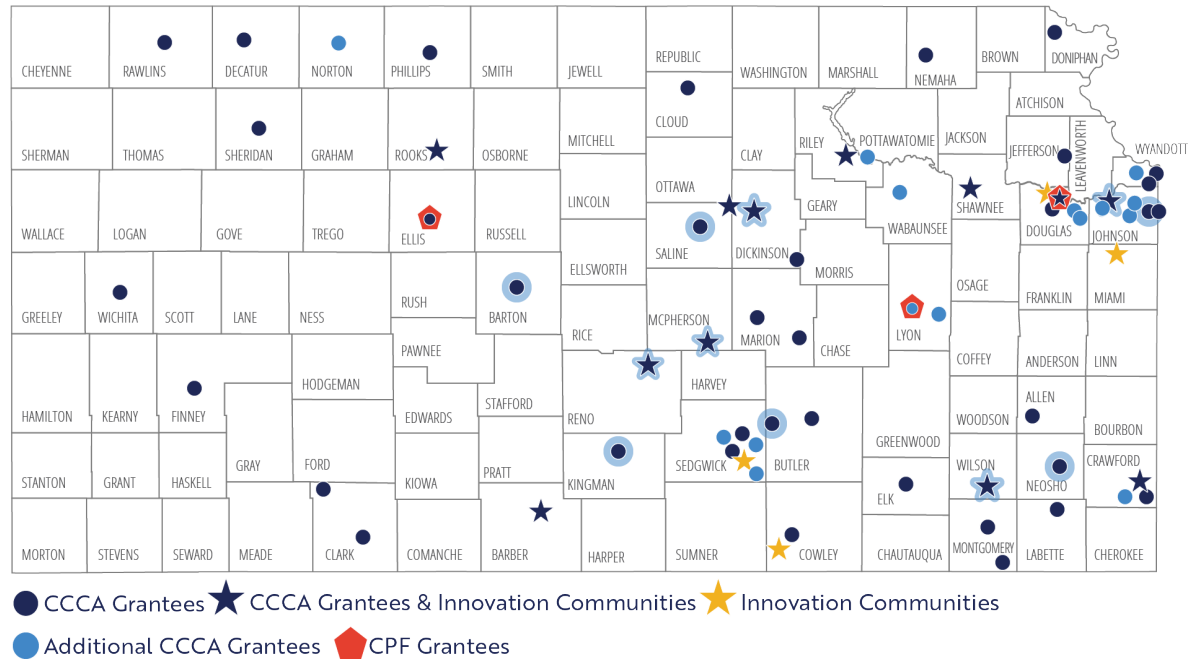
Overview

- Child Care Capacity Accelerator
- Capital Projects Fund
- Rural Initiatives
- KAN-LINK
- Initiative Spotlights
 - NWKS Public-Private Partnership
 - Future Fellows

Strategic Approach



Child Care Capacity Accelerator & Capital Project Fund Overview



- **Purpose:** Invest in child care business start-up costs to accelerate child care capacity throughout the state.
- **CCCA:** Strengthen community capacity to provide child care
- **CPF:** Build/renovate community spaces to meet child care and other basic needs

Strategic Approach



Accelerator Year One Highlights

- 63 total communities
- 36 located in rural parts of the state
- 23 new facilities in 20 counties
- 3,340 new licensed child care slots created in Year 1
 - 5,655 projected by the end of the grant program
- 448 new child care staff hired
- \$58 million in matching cash and/or in-kind funds

Strategic Approach



Capital Projects Fund

The Capital Projects Fund provides construction-only funding to build/renovate multi-purpose community facilities that:

- Provide employment and educational activities
- Ensure immediate broadband access
- Offer health monitoring services
- Address a critical need
- Create new licensed child care slots

Strategic Approach



KAN-LINK

Prevention framework to improve cross-sector coordination and collaboration to ensure families with young children are connected to services

Family Resource Center Innovation Lab Pilots (year 1):

- **Community Children's Center FRC**, Douglas County
 - Partnerships and collaborations between care and services to support families during pregnancy and the first year of life
- **Turner Early Childhood Unified School District 202 FRC**, Wyandotte County
 - Increase screenings and referrals for younger siblings
- **Livewell Northwest Kansas FRC**, Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace Counties
 - ECE screening and referral within existing insurance navigation program

Strategic Approach



NWKS Public-Private Partnership

- Dane G. Hansen Foundation established a Regional Childcare Endowment at the NWKS Community Foundation
- Will support sustainable community-led child care solutions across 26 counties in Northwest Kansas
- Plan to raise \$25 million over five years, with the Hansen Foundation pledging the initial \$5 million
- KS Legislature allocated \$5 million via the CIF in June 2024

Strategic Approach



Overview

- Projects that demonstrate key data insights and innovative evaluative approaches
 - Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust
 - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - Our Tomorrows

Data for Impact



Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust

Three Authorized Projects

1. Reducing Foster Care Removals Through EC Services
2. Distinct Count of Children in Early Care and Education Services
3. Matching Early Childhood and State Longitudinal Data System K-12 Datasets

Data for Impact



Building better evidence yields more comprehensive and actionable information for decision making to best support children and families.

Sustainable data practices for Project 1 were applied to Authorized Project 2, which utilizes the same dataset.

Discovery session interviews conducted with state agencies for Project 2 will inform data structure changes for Authorized Project 3.

Findings from Project 3 will inform matching and data integration efforts for future projects within the Data Trust and beyond.

Key Takeaways

Reducing Foster Care Removals Through EC Services

- Results consistently demonstrate ECBG and CBCAP participation is associated with reduction of child removals into foster care.
- 2024 results found 28% reduction in removals.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

- Children participating in both Imagination Library and ECBG demonstrated improved early literacy skills compared with ECBG alone.

Our Tomorrows

- In almost 400 stories collected about what a thriving future looks like in 2040, Kansans envision a welcoming state where comprehensive care is available and affordable. Kansans have concerns about social isolation, environmental catastrophes, and anxiety about a scarcity of resources and privacy concerns with technology.

Data for Impact



Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust

Matching Early Childhood and State Longitudinal Data System K-12 Datasets

- Children's Cabinet will provide KSDE with one early childhood data set in a secure data environment
- KSDE will pilot a matching protocol to identify and link pre-existing child records across early childhood and K-12 datasets
- Pave the way for longitudinal analyses evaluating the effects of early childhood on educational outcomes throughout childhood

Data for Impact



Overview

- 2024 Recommendations
 - Budget
 - Family Friendly Workplaces
- Conclusion

Recommendations



Annual Report

- Questions
- Discussion
- Additional Recommendations?

Discussion



2024 Annual Report Recommendations

Enhance State Investment in Early Childhood *(2024 motion adopted)*

The Kansas Children's Cabinet recommends enhanced state investment in the early childhood care and education system to better meet the needs of young children and their families, reduce CIF transfers to other agencies, and maximize Master Settlement Agreement dollars toward Kansas Children's Cabinet priorities as outlined in the Blueprint for Early Childhood and the All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan.

Recommendation



2024 Annual Report Recommendations

Early Childhood Care and Education Governance Recommendation *(2024 motion adopted)*

The Kansas Children's Cabinet recommends the Governor and the Kansas Legislature work together to identify the appropriate method for unification of early childhood programs and services and create an implementation plan that recognizes the role of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, in alignment with the 2023 Early Childhood Transition Task Force recommendations. We support exploring options to:

- fully realize the Kansas Children's Cabinet's statutory role as outlined in K.S.A. 38-1901;
- retain the Kansas Children's Cabinet governing board oversight of the CIF as outlined in K.S.A. 38-2103;
- retain the role of the Kansas Children's Cabinet governing board as grant maker for any existing or new grant programs that may be developed and administered by the unified entity;
- retain the role of the Kansas Children's Cabinet as the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council in accordance with the federal Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Kansas Executive Order 20-02);
- and, establish methods of collaboration and coordination between the Children's Cabinet board and the unified entity's administrative leadership.

Recommendations



2024 Annual Report Recommendations

Basic Needs Recommendation *(2024 motion adopted)*

The Kansas Children's Cabinet recommends increasing access to work and family support programs that help children and families meet their basic needs. Research clearly shows that children thrive when their basic needs are met, and that parents and caregivers are better able to support children when their own basic needs are met. The Kansas Children's Cabinet believes current restrictions to child care assistance, cash assistance, nutrition assistance, and health insurance programs undercut the investments made through the CIF and blunt the efficiency and effectiveness of early childhood care and education programs. The *2024 All In For Kansas Kids Needs Assessment* documents these concerns.

Recommendations



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Motion
 - Second
 - Vote
- John Wilson
 - Rep. Kristey Williams
 - Dr. Tara Wallace
 - Monica Murnan
 - Dr. LeEtta Felter
 - Sen. Renee Erickson
 - Cabinet Chair, Don Hineman

Children's Cabinet



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- Motion
- Second
- Vote

- John Wilson
- Rep. Kristey Williams
- Dr. Tara Wallace
- Monica Murnan
- Dr. LeEtta Felter
- Sen. Renee Erickson
- Cabinet Chair, Don Hineman

Children's Cabinet





KCCTF Grantmaking Policy

MELISSA ROOKER



COMPETITIVE GRANTMAKING PROCESS POLICY

- Motion
 - Second
 - Vote
- John Wilson
 - Rep. Kristey Williams
 - Dr. Tara Wallace
 - Monica Murnan
 - Dr. LeEtta Felter
 - Sen. Renee Erickson
 - Cabinet Chair, Don Hineman

Children's Cabinet





Agency Updates



EX-OFFICIOS

- **Amanda Petersen**

- Kansas State Department of Education

- **Matthew Billinger**

- Kansas Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Authority

- **Carla Whiteside-Hicks**

- Kansas Department for Children and Families

- **Dr. Karla Wiscombe and Brandi Wells**

- Kansas Board of Regents

Children's Cabinet





Director's Update

MELISSA ROOKER



CHILD CARE ACCELERATOR FUNDING

- Motion
 - Second
 - Vote
- John Wilson
 - Rep. Kristey Williams
 - Dr. Tara Wallace
 - Monica Murnan
 - Dr. LeEtta Felter
 - Sen. Renee Erickson
 - Cabinet Chair, Don Hineman

Children's Cabinet



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cabinet meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Next Meeting: February 7 *(virtual)*

2025 Meeting Schedule

- February 7
- April 4
- June 6
- August 1
- October 3
- December 5

Children's Cabinet





[All In For Kansas Kids Newsletter](#)



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