

# Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR APRIL 9, 2025



### WELCOME

- 2025 Webinar Series
  - Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month
- Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/
- Presentation on Help Me Grow Kansas, 1-800-CHILDREN, and Family Systems Consultants by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

### **2025 Webinar Schedule**

January OFF

February 12<sup>th</sup>

March 12<sup>th</sup>

April 9<sup>th</sup>

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13<sup>th</sup>

September 10<sup>th</sup>

October 8<sup>th</sup>

November 12<sup>th</sup>

December 10<sup>th</sup>

### Agenda





An Affiliate of the National Network



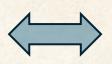


An Affiliate of the National Network

### **Madeline Wegner**

Child Health Consultant – Title V MCH
Kansas Department of Health and Environment



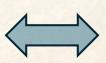


### **Rachal Harper**

Prevent Child Abuse Kansas Assistant Director Kansas Children's Service League

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#### Ali Braun

Family Systems Consultant – Title V MCH
Kansas Department of Health and Environment



# Help Me Grow Framework



 Help Me Grow Kansas is a foundational philosophy to ensure children and families are connected to the right resources at the right time.

Support Kansas children and family's well-being.

# Help Me Grow Vision



- Promote and educate on developmental screenings.
- Expand quality, closed-loop referrals and linkage to services.
- Connect established community collaboratives, uniting efforts.
- Health provider engagement, training, and feedback.
- No wrong door approach with follow up to make sure every child, youth, and family get the services they need to support health growth and development.

## Centralized Access Point





### Information and Referral



Up-to-date resource directories



"Go-To" place for questions about child development.



Community outreach and connection

# 1-800-CHILDREN Provides Judgment-free Support



Families can easily connect with the information, local resources, and support they need 24/7, even if what they need is just a listening ear.







## No question is off limits





Download the mobile app by searching 1800CHILDRENKS in your app store



Email or Text 1800CHILDREN@kcsl.org



Visit <u>1800CHILDRENKS.org</u> to find resources near you

### **Accessible to All Kansans**

### The 1-800-CHILDREN program is:

- Statewide
- Available 24/7/365
- Available via phone, email, text, website, & mobile app
- No cost
- Without eligibility or income requirements
- Accessible in over 200 languages
- Anonymous
- Available to anyone- parents, caregivers, professionals



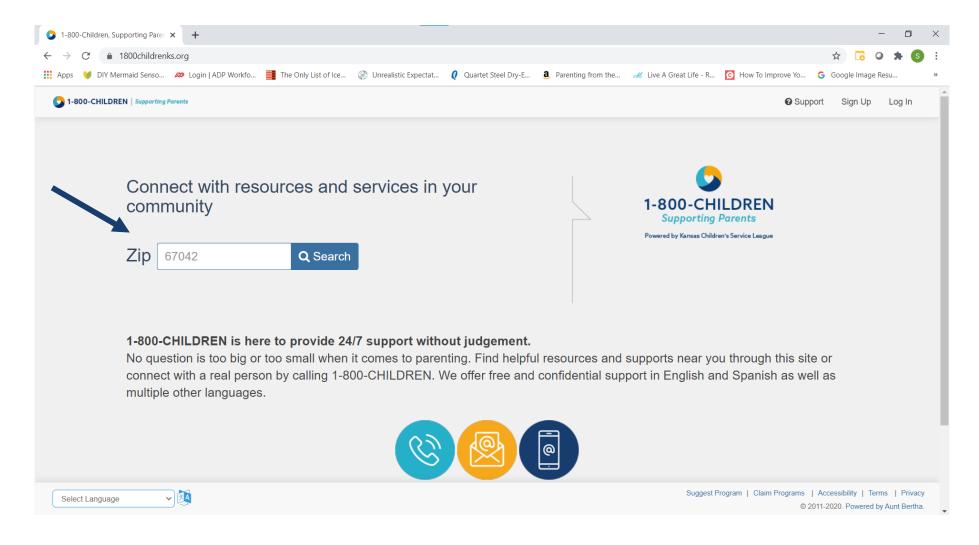
# 1800childrenks.org

Resource Directory Database



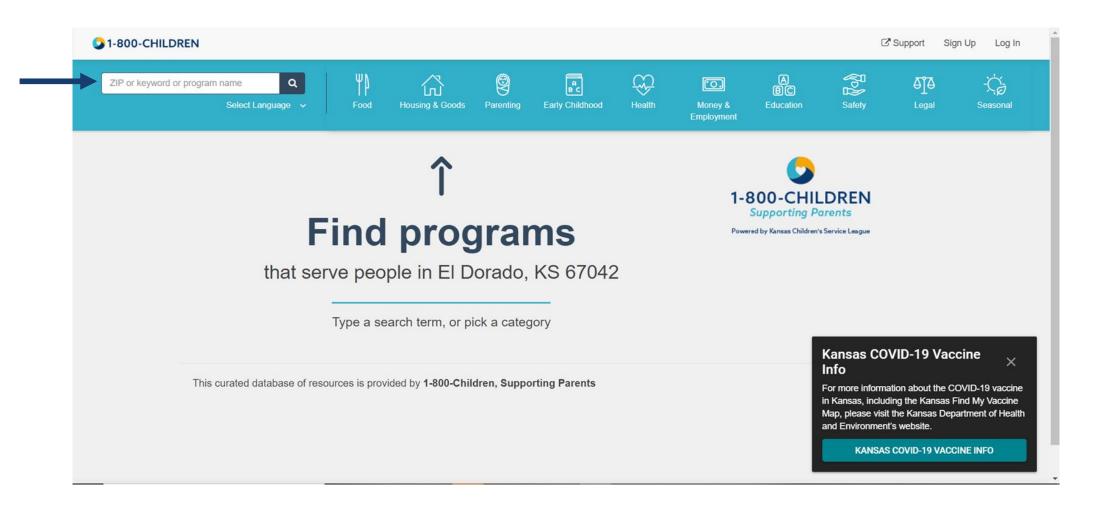


# Step 1: Enter your zip code



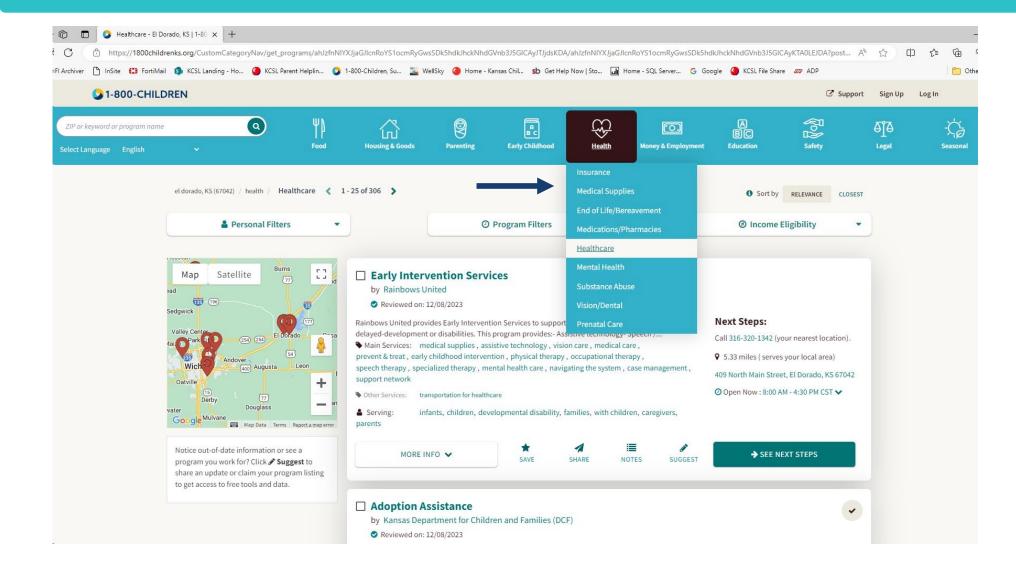


# Step 2: Search for local programs



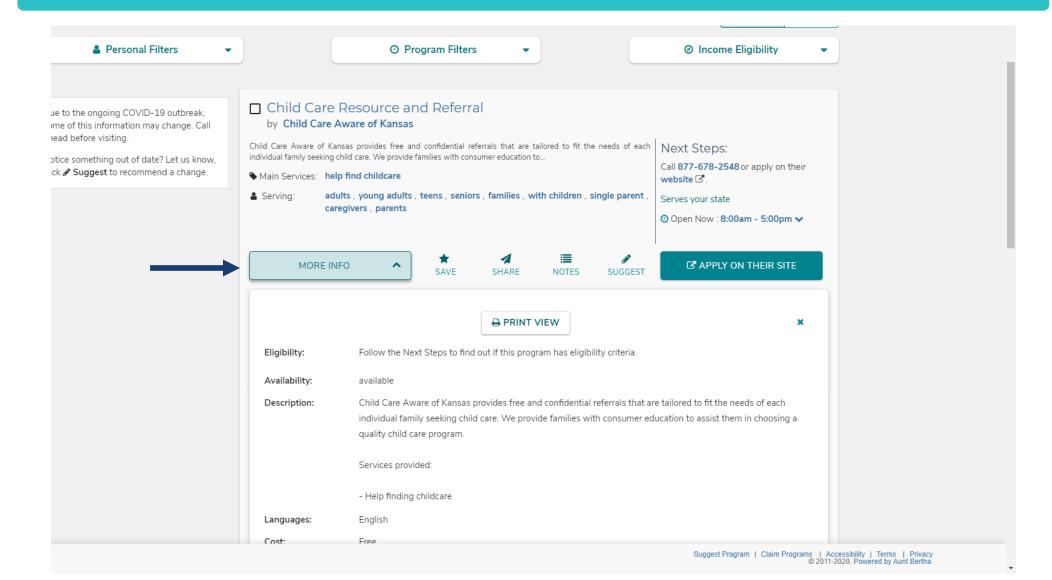


# Step 2: Search for local programs





## **Step 3: Review the details**





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- Referral process
  - Short term care coordination, follow up, direct connections
- Relationship building with services and programs
- Family Advisory Council partnering on improving search, updating resources, etc.
- Website updates

# Family Outreach and Engagement





Increase awareness of services available to families throughout communities



Ease access to resources and services



Advance rates of developmental surveillance and screening.

## Family & Community Outreach



- Parent and Caregiver Fireside Chats
- Developing Family Leader role
- Regular feedback and decision making
- ASQ screening tool
  - Books, Balls, and Blocks
  - 1-800-CHILDREN



www.helpmegrowks.org

# Books, Balls, and Blocks



- Funded through the Preschool Development Grant
- ASQ screenings
- Play and learning stations
- Resources and referrals

# Books, Balls, and Blocks



- Partnering with 2 childcare programs in 2025
- Hosting an event at the Parent Leadership Conference for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Year 2
  - New partnership opportunity, community events
  - Trainings to replicate

# Child Development

Ages & Stages Questionnaire

By phone or electronically

Ages 0-6



### Family & Community Engagement



# Family Advisory Council

The Bureau of Family Health's Family Advisory Council also known as the FAC, consist of families from across Kansas who provide guidance to KDHE on how to best support mothers, infants, children and child/youth with special health care needs.





The FAC meets 4 times a year, 3 virtual meetings with one in person.

During a council meeting there is time for the whole group to be together where there can be larger group work, which often includes cross-cutting initiatives, and systems wide presentations, that share about work happening in our state. They are also given time for their work groups, which consists of working on the "project" each work group has selected based on our current Title V State Action Plan.





Our council currently has five (5) core work groups that reflect MCH populations:

- Women/Maternal
- Early Childhood (birth age 5)
- Child (ages 6 11)
- Adolescence (ages 12+)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)





The Child group and Adolescents group paired up to present at the Parent Leadership

Conference in September 2024. Their presentation was on parent feedback, there was

great discussion with participants.

• The CSHCN and Early Childhood work groups will be working with 1800 children this year.





After reviewing the current representation in our FAC, we noticed a lack of members with children under the age of 5. To address this, plan to attend community baby showers this spring to promote the FAC along with HMG KS.

We plan to expand our FAC work groups to include a fatherhood/non-birthing partner group.



# Provider Outreach

- Provider training and education opportunities.
- Increase occurrence of closed-loop referrals.
- Advocate for integration of screenings
- Encourage providers to discuss screening results

# Activities

- Physician Champion: starting soon!
- Partnership with KSKidsMAP to facilitate provider training
  - Children's Behavioral/Mental Health Training
  - Screening Training (ASQ)
- Connecting with community services and organizations



# Guide for Adding & Claiming Programs



### Quick Reference Guide:

### How to include and update program information in the 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory

An easily accessible, reliable, and organized system of community resources ensures that Kansas families and communities are connected to the information, services, and supports they need, when they need them. The 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory and Call Line provides 24-hour, confidential, free information, support, and connection to local resources across the state. Every program added to the 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory is reviewed, updated, and verified, at minimum, every 6 months.

To ensure a robust and reliable resource directory we need your help. Step-bystep directions are outlined in the following pages to assist you in updating, adding, and/or claiming your program in the statewide 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory.



Visit 1800CHILDRENKS.org to find resources near you.



Download the mobile app by searching 1800CHILDRENKS in your app store.



Call 1-800-CHILDREN (or 1-800-332-6378) to connect with a real person.



Text or email 1800CHILDREN@kcsl.org.



1-800-CHILDREN is available 24/7 to connect you with resources and supports.

# Outreach to Families, Communities, & Providers



HELPLINE AND RESOURCE DIRECTORY

- Presentations at in-person and virtual conferences, coalition meetings, team meetings, parent groups, etc.
- Booths at professional conferences and community events
- Distribute materials to organizations across the state
- Collaboration with community partners who spread the word about 1-800-CHILDREN in their areas
- Social media & radio/streaming campaigns

## Outreach Materials Available to Order







### When it comes to raising your child, no question is off limits.

Get judgment-free parenting support 24/7 in English and Spanish as well as multiple other languages.



Call 1-800-CHILDREN. (or 1-800-332-6378)



Download the mobile app by searching 1800CHILDRENKS in your app store.



Text or email 1800CHILDREN@kcsl.org.



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# Data Collection & Analysis

- Quality improvement
- Evaluation
- Better collection and usage
- Identify systemic gaps
- Bolsters advocacy efforts

# **Activities**

- Exploring how data collection protocol and reporting can be modified for greater fidelity with Help Me Grow
- Family and Provider feedback loop
- •Care Coordination Survey
  - Families and Care Coordinators



# of KDHE staff that responded to the survey reported they provide screenings to individuals or families

As a parent, this is one of the most valuable supports I've had. It has made me more confident as a parent and helps me better support my child.

# KDHE providers strongly agreed that they are able to build trust with each individual or family

of KDHE staff who reported providing screenings said they use the results to inform what services and referrals they provide

Families who received services from KDHE strongly agreed that their provider was supportive, understanding, and trustworthy, and said that they were extremely satisfied with their provider.

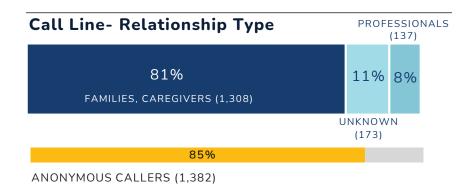
Families strongly agreed that referrals received from providers met their needs.

### 1-800-CHILDREN Activity January - December 2024

AT-A-GLANCE

**Call Line- Total Calls** 

1,618



Total Database Searches, Interactions, & Connections

67,584

Total Distinct Visitors 35,021

**New Mobile App Downloads** 

2,441

#### Top Reasons for the Call

PROGRAM INFORMATION (275)

UTILITIES (136)

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT CONCERNS (119)

CUSTODY (103)

CHILDCARE/YOUTH ACTIVITIES (100)

HOUSING (96)

MENTAL HEALTH (82)

PARENTING CLASS/SUPPORT GROUP (77)

DIAPERS/WIPES/FORMULA (69)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT (62)

**ACTING OUT/DISCIPLINE (56)** 

FOOD (54)

FINANCIAL (53)

CHILD SUPPORT (40)

OTHER BASIC NEEDS (36)

#### **Top Search Terms**

Housing Assistance (1,718)

Mortgage/Rental Assistance (1,198)

Parenting Classes (919)

Food Pantries/Food Banks (904)

Financial Assistance (652)

Emergency Food (527)

Mental Health (437)

Utilities (418)

Find Childcare (363)

Help Pay for Food (340)

Temporary Housing/Shelter (328)

Furniture/Appliances (297)

Behavior/At-Risk Resources (293)

Diapers/Formula (285)

# Coming Soon

### Help Me Grow KS

- Physician Champion: Joining the HMG KS team summer 2025
- Interested in bringing a Books, Balls, Blocks event to your program?

### 1-800-CHILDREN

- Website updates with FindHelp
- Parent Leadership Conference:
   September 2025

# Kansas Family Leadership Training Plans



The Kansas Family Leadership Training (KFLT) previously known as the Family Leadership Team (FLT) is planning to address a key need expressed by both families and providers across the state—bringing specialized leadership training to Kansas. This initiative aims to empower individuals to become strong family leaders within their communities.

We plan to work along side HMG KS to have their family leaders be a huge part in developing this training!

While much of 2025 will focus on exploration and learning, we are excited about the possibilities ahead. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward!

# Questions?

## Thank You!

### **Ali Braun**

KDHE, Family Systems Consultant aletheia.braun@ks.gov

### **Maddie Wegner**

Help Me Grow Kansas State Lead

Madeline.Wegner@ks.gov

### Michelle Reichart

Statewide Information and Resource Supervisor - 1-800-CHILDREN Program mreichart@kcsl.org





Early Childhood Systems Updates



### EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

### Join the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel!

- Applications are being accepted now through May 2<sup>nd</sup> for any Kansan interested in serving on the working group for the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council, known as the Recommendations Panel
- Visit the <u>KCCTF website</u> to learn about the knowledge and experience represented on the Panel and how you can share your voice in this important work
- Interested parties can view past meeting recordings on <u>YouTube</u> and learn more about the panel <u>here!</u>

**Get Involved!** 



### CHILD CARE GRANT INITIATIVES

# The Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center is pleased to offer two grant initiatives to support NWKS child care facilities/providers.

- Child Care Multi-Purpose Grants give child care facilities and providers the flexibility to apply grant funding to their most pressing needs
- Early Childhood Education Staff Retention Grants are designed to provide financial recognition for early childhood staff, reduce costs associated with staff turnover, and stabilize the workforce
- Application deadline is April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Learn more <u>here!</u>

## **Funding Opportunity**





# Care & Wellness Conference

May 6, 2025 Garden City, KS

**May 8, 2025**Hays, KS

### CARE & WELLNESS CONFERENCE



Join us for this free event!

Garden City- May 6

Hays- May 8

- Stipends available for participating families of young children (birth to five)
- KDHE approved in-service hours
- Connect with local early childhood professionals & families
- Expand your skills to support your role as a caregiver & professional
- Find helpful resources

Lunch is provided

### REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 9 am-11:30 am

Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - 12-1:00 pm

Children's Cabinet Meeting

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9 am-12 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



KANSASCHILDRENSCABINET



