

Kansas
Office of Early Childhood

Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG)

RFP & Application Overview

Overview

- Funding source is the Kansas Children's Initiative Fund (CIF)
- Overall funding available for awards is contingent on annual Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement amount
- **Purpose**: provide high-quality ECCE services for children birth to age 5 and their families to meet outcomes related to the Blueprint for Early Childhood (*Healthy Development, Early Learning, and Strong Families*).

ECBG SFY2028 RFP

ECBG Goals

- Provide direct services to at-risk children and their families
- Fund programs that are evidence-based and data-driven
- Increase access to services in underserved communities.
- Support community collaboration and public-private partnerships.
- Support alignment with the AIFKK Strategic Plan and statewide initiatives to improve access to early childhood services.
- Provide supplemental funding to fill gaps not covered by other funding sources.

ECBG Target Outcomes

- Children improve social, emotional, and academic skills.
- Caregivers improve knowledge, skills, and confidence; family protective factors; supportive relationships; family well-being.
- EC professionals improve knowledge, skills, and confidence to deliver high-quality services.
- Communities increase availability, quality, and sustainability of EC services; strengthen cross-sector partnerships, service coordination, and referrals to better connect families.
- Communities connect to AIFKK SP actions and statewide initiatives.

Online Resources

- Full RFP
- Launch Webinar Recording and FAQ
- Quick Access to Goals and Target Outcomes
- Quick Access to Resources
- Link to Online Application – Kansas CommonApp
- Application Timeline
- Technical Assistance Portal (all TA requests)

ECBG SFY2028 RFP

All information available:
https://kschildrenscabinet.gov/ecbg_sfy28/

Timeline

- **Application Timeline:**
  - November 16 (RFP Posted and Online Application LIVE)
  - **January 8 at 5pm – Applications Due**
  - January 11 thru March 26 – Review Period
  - April 2 – KCCTF Board votes on funding recommendations
  - July 1, 2027 thru June 30, 2028 – Grant Year

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RFP Review – Funding Opportunity

- ECBG is **Gap Funding**
- **Expected alignment** with other KOEC Programs (ex. PAT) and Kansas Preschool Pilot.
  - USDs can only use ECBG funds to fill gaps not covered by other state funding. USD lead applicants and/or USD funding partners will need to complete the KSDE Preschool Revenue Calculator.
  - KCCTF will partner with KOEC and KSDE when reviewing ECBG applications
- **Lead Applicant** and any partners must be a 501c3, county or city government entity, or USD.
  - Ensure all partners meet application goals/outcomes
  - Track and utilize data to drive decisions and respond to reporting requirements

RFP Review – Funding Opportunity (Cont.)

- **Funding** Information
  - Awards are contingent on CIF funding available and KCCTF does not anticipate an increase from FY27.
  - 15% Project Match – no more than 10% of total project can count as in-kind; cannot use state or federal funds as match
- To be deemed an **Allowable Use** of ECBG grant funds, the expense must relate to implementing grant-approved activities.
  - Indirect costs cannot exceed 8% of total grant costs. This includes the grant program's portion of organization overhead.
  - All expenses tied to ECBG funding must be proportional to time/effort spent on grant activities.

RFP Review – Grant Expectations

- **Strong proposals** will reflect data-driven plans, demonstrate ECBG use as gap funding, a focus on programs/outcomes that align to the Blueprint and ECBG target outcomes, and an ability to track outcomes and participate in the ECBG evaluation.
- Grant funds can be used to serve the following **populations:**
  - Children ages Birth up to Kindergarten eligibility and families (including prenatal)
  - Those who directly serve children B-5 and their families
  - Minimum of 50% of services should support at-risk families (p. 9 of RFP)
- **Demonstrate community partnerships** – can include both funded and non-funded partners, and both public and private entities.
  - A Collaborative Agreement will need to be completed and signed for each partnership and uploaded to the application.

RFP Review – Online Application

- All applications are submitted via the **online KSCommonApp portal** and include a User Profile, Online Application Questions, and Attachments.
- **Online Application Questions** are organized into six sections.
  - Project Overview – abstract, populations served, alignment with target outcomes
  - Community Needs – services available, needs (using data) gaps in funding
  - Partnerships – collaboration with funded & non-funded partners and lived experts
  - Programs – program recruitment, implementation strategies, common measures
  - Budget – budget upload, budget summary, match documentation
  - Program Breakdown – details specific to individual ECBG-funded program.

RFP Review – Online Application (Cont.)

- **Attachments** include budget (required), partnership documentation (required), and supporting documentation (optional)
- For **Budget**:
  - Use existing template provided
  - Be detailed
  - List personnel (Salaries & Benefits) as one line for each person. Include a short description and justification (activities they will perform)
  - Do not lump multiple expenses in one line (e.g., training, supplies, equipment)
- For **Partnership**:
  - Use existing template provided – Collaborative Agreement Form – for each funded and non-funded partner.
  - If multiple partners, combine files into ONE PDF or Create a Zip file before uploading on the 'Partnership' Tab in the online application.

RFP Review – Award Administration

- Awarded applicants will be issued 1-year agreements with the Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC), administered by KCCTF.
- KCCTF staff will work with grantees on final award scope and budget.
- Full list of requirements on p. 12-13 of RFP.
- Agreements should be signed before new grant year work can begin or expenses incurred for reimbursement.
- ECBG is a reimbursement-based grant program. Grantees will receive an invoice template to submit monthly for grant expenses, along with supporting documentation.

RFP Review – Reporting Expectations

- Per K.S.A 38-2102, programs funded by the CIF must demonstrate they are supported by credible research design, constitute best practices in the field, produce data to benchmark (evaluate) the program's desired outcomes, and participate in an evaluation or assessment to determine program performance.
- All grantees are required to participate fully in the **ECBG evaluation**.
  - **Quarterly Progress Reporting** (done via the KSCommonApp)
  - **Child- and Caregiver-level service and dosage information** (NEW for FY28)
  - Key Outcome/**Common Measures**
  - Use of the **DAISEY** Data Reporting System (link to ECBG DAISEY resource guide)
  - **Qualitative Evaluation Efforts** (NEW for FY28)
  - **Family Perspectives** (NEW for FY28)
- Support will be provided to grantees to meet evaluation requirements.

RFP Review – Reporting Expectations (Cont.)

- **Common Measures** are set by the Evaluation Team at Wichita State University based on the type of program(s) being provided by the grantee.
  - Summary list of Common Measures is on p. 15-16 of RFP or ECBG TA Webpage
  - Review the SFY2028 Common Measures Guide, which details the training required, cost of measures, frequency of measures, etc.
  - Applications should reflect programs where collection of Common Measures is feasible.
  - Report realistic estimates of children & families. If funded, you will be expected to collect risk factor data and applicable Common Measures for these numbers.
  - Include training and cost of administering the Common Measures in your budget.

RFP Review – Technical Assistance

- **ECBG Technical Assistance Team –** available via online link for questions related to both the RFP, application requirements, and the KansasCommonApp.
  - Support provided by KCCTF staff and KU-CPPR staff, depending on the nature of the request.
  - Online ECBG webpage with webinar recording, FAQ, etc.
- **Evaluation Support –** Implement the Common Measures, conduct continuous quality improvement, conduct site visits and assessment monitoring, and access to Grantee Information Resource Hub (available upon award).
- **DAISEY Support** – Ongoing availability for all things related to DAISEY, including an online ECBG DAISEY Resource Guide.
- **Kansas CommonApp Help Desk** – Ongoing availability for all things KS CommonApp.

CommonApp Overview

https://commonapp.grantplatform.com/

- Review all information, RFP, and application templates on the ECBG website: https://kschildrenscabinet.gov/ecbg_sfy28/
- New User: Create an account and update your User Profile
- Returning User: Update your User Profile
- Start Your Application: ECBG SFY28
  - Download "Sample Application PDF" to view questions prior to starting

Application

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Questions?