

Sustaining Meaningful Change

Cross-System Help Me Grow Efforts in Kansas



To create meaningful change for children, youth, and families, efforts must keep longevity in mind. Focusing on sustainability throughout the exploration, planning, and implementation of an improvement project is crucial for success (Thomas and Zahn, 2010). Kansas is in the early stages of Help Me Grow, but is already working on 4 KEY FACTORS to sustain efforts and improve outcomes: **Community Fit, Partnerships & Collaboration, Monitoring & Feedback, and Spread.**

Kansas has a strong early childhood system with exciting work happening in communities across the state.

State leaders in Kansas actively engage with communities across the state, seeking to understand and respond to individual community values, needs, and priorities. Help Me Grow's commitment to building on existing resources and responding to community variation aligns with the approach to systems building already at work in Kansas.

A central focus of Help Me Grow Kansas is leveraging existing work to build a sustainable approach to children's developmental health and well-being. Three Kansas communities have agreed to begin implementing Help Me Grow and are being guided by the visions laid out in existing systems-building efforts:

Community Fit

3 Kansas communities will jumpstart Help Me Grow initiatives, chosen because of their mix of readiness, need, and history of strong collaborations.

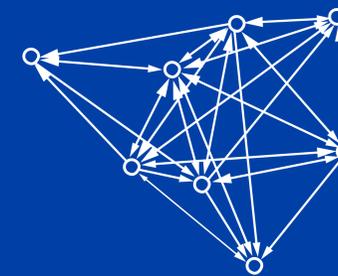
Ellis County
Children 0-5: 1,705
Rural county with 4 cities
Largest city: Hays pop. 20,000
Hays Area Children's Center
Healthy Start Home Visitor Services
Infant Toddler Early Intervention Services
Licensed child care/preschool/summer programs
Serves children with special health care needs
Special Health Care Needs satellite office
Many pediatricians in the community are committed to developmental screenings

Geary County Children 0-5: 4,164
Rural/semi-urban county with an army base and higher than average racial diversity
Strong history of community collaborations
Infant mortality rate declined from 10.9 per 1,000 (2007-09) to 5.4 (2012-16)
Part of Healthy Start/Delivering Change, ECCS Impact
Opportunity to strengthen connections between prenatal/perinatal initiatives and early childhood programs

Southeast Kansas Children 0-5: 8,756
Rural six-county region with strong coalitions
Part of MIECHV home visiting program with a coordinated intake system
Part of the ECCS Impact project
Special Health Care Needs satellite office

Partnerships & Collaboration

Strong partnerships will drive sustainable change efforts. Measuring collaboration within the selected communities will illuminate existing connections between and among organizations and point to places where relationships can be built and strengthened.



Collaborations among community and state partners can be measured to identify areas that collaboratives are doing well as well as areas that can be improved. Social Network Analyses of collaboratives illuminate existing connections between and among organizations and point to places where relationships can be built and strengthened.

Mattessich, P., Murray-Close, M., & Monsey, B. (2001). Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory. St. Paul, MN: Wilder Research.

Frey, B., Lohmeier, J. Lee, S., & Tollefson, N. (2006). Measuring collaboration among grant partners. American Journal of Evaluation, 27, 383.

Monitoring & Feedback

Shared measurement systems and technology-based coordination tools will provide feedback to inform programmatic and systems improvements.

DAISEY is a shared measurement system that helps communities see the difference they make in the lives of children, youth, and families.

Efforts are underway across the state to coordinate ASQ Enterprise systems and to encourage entry into DAISEY.

daisysolutions.com/kdhe



IRIS is a web-based communication tool that helps organizations connect families to resources in their community. IRIS streamlines the referral process and increases the rate at which families are connected to services, and the rate at which providers can follow families following a referral. Data visualizations created from IRIS referral information will inform Help Me Grow Kansas communities of the referral landscape, highlighting where systems are working well and pointing to places where additional work is needed.

connectwithiris.org

Spread

Proven methods and tools, developed through various initiatives, will be spread across Kansas to make meaningful change for children and families.

Kansas Initiative to Develop and Optimize Systems for early childhood, KIDOS 2.0, is an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) project in two place-based communities and strengthens coordination of developmental screenings and referrals across sectors.

KIDOS 2.0 Tools include

Developmental screening passports for parents and providers to track screenings, similar to tracking immunizations.

Expanded access to Ages & Stages Questionnaire® (ASQ) trainings.

A series of developmental milestone postcards with activities to engage and educate parents around their children's developmental health. Medical providers are sending out postcards as appointment reminders and programs use them to re-engage families. Postcards are also distributed at community baby showers and health fairs.



Developmental Screening Tracker									
DATE	CHILD'S AGE	SCREENING TOOL USED	WHO ADMINISTERED TOOL	IN REFERRAL	REFERRAL	COMMUNICATION	COORDINATION	PROVIDER TRAINING	PROVIDER SUPPORT



Blueprint for Early Childhood
Building a Strong Foundation for Children and Families

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund recognizes early childhood as a critical period of intervention that establishes a child's foundation for school and life success. We are therefore committed to nurturing a culture of public-private partnerships in early childhood programming where diversity of thought is an asset and past work is valued.

Goals: Healthy Development, Community Partnerships, Strong Families, Early Learning, Collaboration, shared vision.

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's Blueprint for Early Childhood:

- PRIORITY 1:** Women have access to and receive coordinated, comprehensive services before, during and after pregnancy.
- PRIORITY 2:** Services and supports promote healthy family functioning.
- PRIORITY 3:** Developmentally appropriate care and services are provided across the lifespan.
- PRIORITY 4:** Families are empowered to make educated choices about infant health and well-being.
- PRIORITY 5:** Communities and providers support physical, social and emotional health.
- PRIORITY 6:** Professionals have the knowledge and skills to address the needs of maternal and child health populations.
- PRIORITY 7:** Services are comprehensive and coordinated across systems and providers.
- PRIORITY 8:** Information is available to support informed health decisions and choices.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment's State Action Plan