



March 2009

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The \$789 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal stimulus package passed by Congress in February, provides additional support for early childhood programs and services. A [Zero to Three](#) summary of the ARRA outlines the funding for Head Start and Early Head Start, Child Care and Development Block Grants, Part C of IDEA, Title I Education Grants, school modernization, and state fiscal stabilization.

Resources

Stakeholders at the November KSF Plan meeting shared resources available to agencies and parents to support and strengthen families in Kansas. The following resources are available at little or no cost. See contact information for more details.

Kansas Parent Helpline

1 (800) 332-6378

The Parent Helpline is a free, anonymous telephone information and referral service. It is a voice on the other end of the line that can empathize with what you are going through. It is a trained person who will listen and offer support to help you with simple questions or complex situations. There is no question too small or problem too big. The Helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can refer you to services anywhere in Kansas. Call the Parent Helpline whenever you have a question or problem. Don't wait until "the next time." When you feel frustrated, upset, or confused someone at the Parent Helpline will listen and help. The Helpline is ready to help parents and youth through many situations.

Who Calls the Parent Helpline?

- Parents with children of all ages
- Teens
- Relatives/ Caregivers
- Professional social workers and counselors
- Anyone who needs advice or support relating to children

Who Answers the Parent Helpline?

Staff members and trained volunteers of the Kansas Children's Service League answer the Parent Helpline seven days a week, 24-hours a day, every day of the year. There is an option for the caller to choose either English or Spanish. Se habla Espanol. Parent Helpline staff and volunteers have referral information regarding services throughout the state.

Kansas 211

United Way's 2-1-1 Call Center helps people find needed services in communities across the state of Kansas.

There are two easy ways to find help:

1. **By computer:** Search [2-1-1 Kansas Online](#) to locate services in your area.
2. **By telephone:** Dial 2-1-1 or 1-(888) 413-4327 (toll free, statewide) across Kansas to talk with trained specialists (to find help or to volunteer). All phone calls are confidential. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kansas eLearning

Kansas Children's Service League's eLearning program provides online professional development courses for a variety of professionals including child care providers, social workers, home visitors, foster and adoptive parents, nurses, educators, and Head Start employees who desire to increase their effectiveness in serving families and children. Kansas Children's Service League is committed to bringing the best in continuing education to adult learners around the state – anytime, anywhere, at any stage in life.

eLearning courses offer unlimited geographic access and are designed to provide continuing education credit hours as well as meet professional licensing requirements. Courses developed are interactive, high-quality offerings with online instructors who are available to guide participants through the completion of the course requirements. Adult learning styles are met through audio, video, graphics and written text in each course. Students are required to respond to discussion questions online and interact with others enrolled in the class.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.elearningkcsl.org>

National Extension Projects for New Parents

“Just in Time Parenting” is a series of age-paced “newsletters” containing research-based information about child development, parenting health, nutrition, and the prevention of childhood obesity, safety, and providing stimulating, age-appropriate experiences.

Parents can subscribe for free online at: <http://www.extension.org/parenting>

Strengthening Families in the Community

[Kansas Office of the Attorney General](#)

The Kansas Attorney General recognizes the importance of comprehensive, preventive, and proactive measures to strengthen families, promote early childhood education, and reduce child abuse and neglect. The agency works to educate their employees to enhance day-to-day work so employees are better able to connect families to support services. The agency collaborates with other agencies to promote protective factors and approaches.

As part of the Attorney General's public outreach efforts links, resources, and tips congruent with the Kansas Strengthening Families Plan are on the Attorney General's Website. It also provides the information, tools, and services necessary for keeping our families and communities safe, as well as messages and publications targeting the importance of early childhood education and protective factors that reduce child abuse and neglect.

For more information, visit the Protecting Families section of: <http://www.ksag.org>

In the Literature

[Unclaimed Children Revisited](#)

[The Status of Children's Mental Health Policy in the United States](#)

Authors: [Janice L. Cooper](#), [Yumiko Aratani](#), and [Jane Knitzer](#)

Publication Date: November 2008

Over 25 years ago, Jane Knitzer documented policy and program disconnects that meant children and youth with mental health needs and their families did not get the services they needed.* That report, along with family advocacy, served as a spur to improve service delivery for the most troubled children. In the intervening years, there has also been an explosion of knowledge about the biological and social determinants of children's mental health issues, new understandings of how children and their problems develop and new ways of providing preventive and treatment services. And so, more than a quarter of a century later, NCCP posed the central question for today's children's mental health system: to what extent is this new knowledge incorporated into the policy and practice frameworks governing children's mental health? This report is based on a study that documents how current child mental health policies across the United States responds to the needs of children and youth with mental health problems, those at-risk and their families.

Our aim was to identify best policy practices that support family- and youth-focused, research-informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically competent services and supports.

For the full Executive Summary and more information, please visit:
http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_853.html

Upcoming Events

Register now for the **Kansas Fatherhood Summit!** The Summit will be held April 2-3, 2009 in Wichita, KS. Information regarding registration and programming is available at: <http://www.thedonnaveatchgroup.com/09ksfather.html>. Deadline for registration is March 23rd. A limited number of scholarships are available to cover registration and/or lodging for parents – see the website for more details.

Infant Massage Classes will be offered by Loving Touch from April 2-4, 2009 from 10:30am to Noon in Hays, KS. To register or get more information, visit <http://www.lovingtouch.com> or call 1-800-929-7492. Certification as an Infant Massage Instructor and continuing education credits available.

Register now! The **Infant Mental Health Conference**, entitled “Growing Relationships for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health” will be held April 9-11, 2009 in Salina, KS. Featured speakers include Victor Bernstein (Department of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago), Deborah Weatherston (Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health), and Dr. Charlyn Harper-Browne (National Quality Improvement Center on Preventing Abuse and Neglect of Infants & Young Children). Register online at <http://www.thedonnaveatchgroup.com/KAIMH09.html>.

Registration for **KITS (Kansas Inservice Training System) Summer Institute**, “Evidence Based Practices for Effective Collaboration with Families,” will take place June 16-19, 2009 in Lawrence, KS. For more information, go to <http://kskits.org/training/KITSSummerInst.shtml>

Questions or comments about the KSF Plan newsletter? Contact us at ksfplan@ku.edu.