



Kansas Early Childhood Block Grant RFP Available

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Jim Redmon, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, announce the release of a Request For Proposals for the Kansas Early Childhood Block Grant. This grant is designed to fund selected early childhood programs across Kansas for services for at-risk children birth to five. The proposals must reflect evidence based approaches to achieve outcomes that enhance school readiness for at-risk children.

Complete proposals are due by no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 22, 2008. The RFP can be downloaded from the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund](#) or by requesting a copy from Dyogga.Adegbore@srs.ks.gov.

Parent Mutual Support

The FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBCAP (Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention) released a Factsheet on the role of Parent Mutual Support. The Factsheet outlines the benefits of Parent Support Groups, shares information about successful models, and gives an overview of the literature.

BJ Gore, Parents Helping Parents Coordinator at Kansas Children's Service League, was a leading contributor to this Factsheet. Kansas Children's Service League is the Kansas Circle of Parents chapter. Contact [BJ](#) or [Vicky Roper](#) (Director of Education and Awareness at KCSL) if you are interested in more information or for assistance with starting a group in your agency or community.

KSF Plan Leadership Team Sets Priorities

The Kansas Strengthening Families (KSF) Plan Leadership Team was convened by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF) earlier this year to advise and guide the State's efforts to unify efforts, coordinate resources, and strengthen and support families.

The Leadership Team is made up of early childhood and primary prevention stakeholders and includes 2 parent representatives on the 14 person team. The Team represents the following agencies: Child Advocacy & Parenting Services, Inc.; Kansas Action for Children; Kansas Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies; Kansas Children's Advocacy Centers; Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund; Kansas Children's Service League; Kansas Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services; Kansas Dept. of Ed.; Office of the Kansas Attorney General; University of Kansas.

The Leadership Team identified parent involvement and parent leadership development as a priority for the coming year of the KSF Plan. The Kansas Parent Initiative will be a cross-initiative effort that encompasses early childhood (KECCS Plan), primary prevention, and child welfare. Background work is underway, including a literature review and data collection plan. The Parent Initiative will look at benefits of and barriers to parent involvement from agency and parent perspectives, and will result in recommendations at the State, community, agency and parent level for increasing parent involvement and leadership in early childhood and child abuse and neglect prevention work.

Stay tuned for more information on how you can support the Kansas Parent Initiative!

Kansas featured in national Strengthening Families newsletter

Kansas' success implementing Strengthening Families has been shared in a variety of ways around the country – presentations, learning communities, OTHERS?. Now we've been featured in the Center for the Study of Social Policy's July 2008 Strengthening Families newsletter. Also be sure to check out a new resource that's available to you - Strengthening Families materials in 16 different languages – downloadable and for use in your agency or community!

KSF Plan Website

Visit the KSF Plan online at www.ksfplan.org for resources on Strengthening Families – powerpoints, factsheets, and handbooks are available for download and use in your programs.

KSF Plan in the community

The Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA) Infant/Toddler (I/T) Project provides support services to both regulated and registered child care providers who care for infants and/or toddlers in Kansas. Support services include one-on-one coaching, professional development events, resource materials, and public awareness activities. The I/T Project has two goals: 1) to improve the quality of child care offered to infants and toddlers, and 2) to increase the availability of infant and toddler child care.

To provide a focused and intensive support service, the I/T Project developed an enhanced coaching service called EXcellent Care for Early Learning (EXCEL). Child care providers are selected to enroll in EXCEL by the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency using a competitive application process. During 2007-2008, thirty-five (35) child care providers were selected to participate in EXCEL focusing on child abuse prevention through a new national initiative called *Strengthening Families*. Funding for the program is provided by Kansas Children's Initiative Funds through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

I/T Specialists serve as formal mentors/coaches to new and experienced child care providers. These coaching services are completed in-person at the child care facility, at professional development events, through written communication, and by telephone. Specialists receive Orientation on the Strengthening Families approach, become trained on "Preventing Abuse and Neglect: Parent-Provider Partnerships in Child Care" curriculum developed by ZERO TO THREE, and work in communities to raise awareness of infant and toddler child care issues with civic, educational and business leaders. One of the I/T Specialist positions in each of the seven CCR&Rs are dedicated to the Strengthening Families EXCEL implementation. These seven I/T Specialists participate in monthly conference calls on using the Strengthening Families Guidebook to develop their coaching skills and knowledge of how to implement the Strengthening Families approach.

The requirements for EXCEL Strengthening Families participants include participation in a minimum of 8-10 on-site visits with the local Infant/Toddler Specialist, attendance at 6-12 hours of professional development, a written coaching and program improvement plan, and convening at least one Parent Café.

Tools to Strengthen Families

There's been a lot of buzz around evidence-based practice (EBP) – more and more funders are requiring EBP in programs and services. There are resources available to help you find and choose the right EBP for your agency and community.

- Registries rate programs based on EBP, and provide a quick overview of program goals, target audience, etc. Registries are a great first step in researching EBPs. Here's a sample of what's available:
 - [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare](#)
 - Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy's [Social Programs that Work](#)
 - Institute of Education Sciences [What Works Clearinghouse](#)
 - [The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices \(NREPP\)](#) (a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA))

- [The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Model Programs Guide \(MPG\)](#)
- [Promising Practices Network](#) on children, families and communities
- Integrating Evidence-Based Practices into CBCAP Programs: A Tool for Critical Discussions (produced by FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBCAP) is a new guide for agencies to use in thinking about and making decisions about EBP.
- Program developers are an important – and often overlooked – resource. As you read about and consider EBPs (or if you are already using EBPs and have questions about fidelity to the model), contact the program developer for information about how the program might fit in your agency or community. Use the “Contact Us” feature on the EBP’s website to get the conversation started. Don’t forget to ask about resources that you will need to fully implement the EBP, including qualified staff, ongoing funding, structure of service delivery, etc.

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