

Vision

Navigate EC will build upon the existing [Kansas Quality Network \(KQN\)](#) website and the *Navigate EC* branding framework to create “connective tissue” between established and envisioned elements of the Kansas early childhood system. By supplying step-by-step walkthroughs, “how-to” guides, and personalized system navigation support, Navigate EC will connect the dots for families, providers, and community members, offering them a streamlined path to the early childhood services, information, and resources they need.



Context

In May 2021, the Early Childhood State Directors Team approved an exploration into how best to combine the strengths of the KQN website and the Navigate EC framework to better meet the needs of families, providers, and community members. The Navigate EC solution offers the following benefits:

- **Simplification.** A common landing space increases the likelihood that families, providers, and communities will connect with the resources and supports they need.
- **Efficiency.** A streamlined administrative solution satisfies capacity, content, and regulatory requirements of multiple agencies (i.e., CCDF, HMG), maximizing existing efforts.
- **Sustainable Coordination.** This solution incentivizes cross-agency collaboration through long-term coordination and funding.
- **Adaptability.** The early childhood system gains a future-proof solution that can evolve and grow with the needs and priorities of the state.
- **System Alignment.** Families, providers, and communities gain a strengthened and coordinated way to access the system, building confidence.
- **Branding.** This approach recognizes expert recommendations for a unified All In For Kansas Kids brand strategy.

Next Steps

To ensure Navigate EC reflects the needs of all Kansans, a small Lead Team of early childhood system champions will provide oversight and accountability and additional feedback will be sought through individual interviews and group feedback sessions. Groups such as the Family Advisory Council, Maternal and Child Health Council, Child Care Systems Improvement Team, and Recommendations Panel sub-workgroups have already been identified as key partners toward achieving this vision.