



PRIORITY 3

Children and families have access to and utilize developmentally appropriate services and supports through collaborative and integrated communities.



CHILD

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Increase the proportion of children age 1 month to kindergarten entry who receive a parent-completed developmental screening by 5% annually through 2025.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Increase the proportion of children, 6 through 11 years, with access to activities and programs that support their interests, healthy development, and learning by 10% by 2025.

OBJECTIVE 3.3

Increase the proportion of MCH program participants, 1 through 11 years, receiving quality, comprehensive annual preventive services by 10% annually through 2025.

NPM 6: *Developmental screening (Percent of children, ages 9 through 35 months, who received a developmental screening using a parent-completed screening tool in the past year)*

Developmental Screening Initiatives

Objective 3.1: Increase the proportion of children aged 1 month to kindergarten entry statewide who receive a parent-completed developmental screening by 5% annually through 2025.

Development Milestone Cards & Passports: The Title V team continued promoting the CDC's milestone tracker app to parents and families. Developmental milestone cards and All In For Kansas Kids developmental milestone wheels were reprinted for use in Home Visiting and Universal Home Visiting programs, in collaboration with Help Me Grow.

In September, the developmental milestone passports and wheels were distributed at the Parent Leadership Conference to all attendees during the Books, Balls, and Blocks event, which highlighted importance of screenings. The developmental passports and wheels were included in backpacks that also held books from Dollys Parton's imagination Library and Help Me Grow merch items. More information on the Books, Balls, and Blocks events can be found in the Early Childhood Systems & Collaboration section.

The developmental milestone wheels were added to the MCH ordering form for programs to obtain copies as needed. A significant number of milestone cards and passports remain. Home Visiting programs have expressed interest in obtaining additional copies. The Title V team plans to distribute the milestone wheels and passports at community events and conferences in 2025.

Early Childhood Systems & Collaboration: As one of four state agencies involved in the early childhood systems building initiative, KDHE continues to serve as the lead to carry out the below projects under the plan.

- Family Engagement and Leadership: Strengthening family voices in leadership through development and learning, program and policy advisory roles, and engagement.
- Peer to Peer Supports: Expanding peer to peer support and information sharing opportunities for families in Kansas through a partnership with Families Together, Inc, the state F2F center.
- Child Care Systems Improvement: Increasing capacity of the child-care system and assuring equitable access to high-quality early childhood care and education programs.

Each of these initiatives are aligned with the Title V State Action Plan. Plan narrative and for the Holistic Care Coordination, Family Engagement and Leadership, and Peer to Peer Supports in the Cross-Cutting Plan

The Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force released its final report, providing key insights into early childhood transitions in the state. In addition to the task force report, the All In For Kansas Kids strategic plan was approved in August by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF) board. KDHE and the Title V team plan on using this strategic plan, alongside the needs assessment results, to guide initiatives and collaboration with partnering agencies to meet the plans objectives.

The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund submitted an Expression of Interest for the Perigee Fund's Building Together: Equitable Systems for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Mental Health initiative, with KDHE BFH named as a partner. This opportunity focuses on strengthening partnerships to increase family access to maternal, infant, and early childhood mental health supports. At the end of August, up to 20 finalists were invited to submit a full proposal.

Books Balls and Blocks: Title V in collaboration with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships hosted the first Books, Blocks, and Balls event. These free community screening

events for children (ages birth-5) and their families are designed to introduce and allow parents and caregivers to complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) while their children engage in developmentally appropriate play at volunteer-led activity stations. As this was Kansas' first time holding an event like this, it was decided to integrate the event into the Parent Leadership Conference in September on a smaller scale. This approach aimed to gauge interest and provided an opportunity to educate parents on the benefits of ASQ in supporting child development. There were 106 caregivers and 65 children in attendance.



Healthy Activities for School-Aged Children

Objective 3.2: Increase the proportion of children, 6 through 11 years, with access to activities and programs that support their interests, healthy development, and learning by 10% by 2025.

Child Health Literacy Promotion: The State of Kansas and KDHE have been long-standing supporters of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library promoting it to our partners and families. In March 2024, Governor Kelly signed SB195 which authorized the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund to establish a nonprofit corporation to receive donations, gifts, grants, and engage in fundraising activities for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The funding expansion will help Kansas promote early development and literacy to all children in the state. More information on this initiative is available [here](#).

Well-Child Preventive Services

Objective 3.3: Increase the proportion of MCH program participants, 1 through 11 years, receiving a quality, comprehensive annual preventive services by 10% annually through 2025.

KanBeHealthy Training: BCHS was expected to take the lead in developing the KanBeHealthy (KBH) training, but the effort encountered challenges in securing a developer. Despite these barriers, BCHS made progress by partnering with Washburn University to continue the development of the KBH training. The KBH trainings were stalled and did not occur in the fall as originally planned. They are now scheduled for May 2025.

Vision Training: In addition to the KBH trainings, plans have been developed to offer an optional Vision Training alongside the KBH sessions. The trainings will be available on consecutive days, allowing participants to attend both sessions within the same timeframe if they choose. KDHE staff or Washburn staff will facilitate this training to expand the learning opportunities beyond those previously offered by AHEC. There will be 60 registration spots available for the Vision Training in 2025.

Breastfeeding (BF) Toolkit Training: Since December 2023, four individuals completed the Breastfeeding (BF) Toolkit training on KS Train. Participants included two from the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, one from the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program, and one from the Leavenworth County Health Department.

Bright Futures Toolkit: The Child and Adolescent Health Consultant took over the management of the Bright Futures Toolkit training on KS Train. There were no new completions of this training as of August 30, 2024.

Partnership with the Kansas PMHCA Program: KDHE Bureau of Family Health provides oversight to the HRSA Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA), which was refunded in September 2024. The established Kansas program, KSKidsMAP, offers mental health case consultations, training, and physician wellness support to pediatric primary care practitioners. KSKidsMAP and Title V continued promotion of the developed [Pediatric Mental Health Toolkit](#) which includes video didactics and resources for ADHD, Anxiety, and Depression. Included within this Toolkit is an adapted AAP [Integrating Pediatric Mental Health into Primary Care Algorithm](#) that Title V also continues to promote. More details about KSKidsMAP are included in the Cross Cutting Section.

Help Me Grow Integration: Over the past year, significant progress was made in advancing Help Me Grow (HMG) Kansas. The Title V Director served as the State HMG Lead, and in August the new Child Health Consultant transitioned into the role of State Lead, working closely with KU partners to learn program functions and take over responsibilities.

Efforts were focused on the four core components of HMG:

- **Centralized Access Point (CAP):** A December 2023 CAP meeting with KU, KCSL, and KDHE reviewed data collection, HMG fidelity requirements, and the upcoming Spring 2024 report. Work continued with KU & KCSL to complete the fidelity report, which was submitted in April. Meetings were conducted with KCSL and 1-800-CHILDREN to strengthen communication between the state lead and the CAP.
- **Provider Outreach (Education, Training, Awareness):** Following the departure of the long-standing Provider Champion, efforts began to identify a new provider champion to support provider education, training, and awareness needs.
- **Family & Community Outreach:** Presentations were held to increase awareness, including a KCSL presentation on 1800CHILDREN for MCH, PMI, and TPTCM grantees in April. Additionally, KCSL and FindHelp presented on 1-800-CHILDREN for KDHE's CHW Community of Practice.
- **Data Collection & Analysis:** The HMG team worked with KU to develop two care coordination surveys. The family survey focused on lived experience, barriers to services, and understanding factors that contribute to successful referrals and connections. The provider survey was sent to care coordinators throughout the state, including Parents as Teachers, Universal Home Visiting, CSHCN Care Coordinators, and all Title V ATL coordinators. The family survey was also available in Spanish. The HMG team will evaluate the results in 2025.

Additional progress included the submission of an application for the 2024-2025 HMG National Affiliate Advisory Board.

Discussions continued around Help Me Grow Kansas' role in care coordination and referral processes, including developing a centralized intake system for home visiting services and

leveraging existing Kansas initiatives to improve early screening, detection, and family engagement. This will continue to develop in 2025.

Other Childhood Activities

Early Childhood Mental Health: The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Financing Policy Project (IECMH-FPP) through Zero to Three (ZTT) supports states' advancement of IECMH financing policies that will contribute to the healthy development of very young children, with emphasis on a full continuum of developmentally appropriate supports and services inclusive of promotion, prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. The IECMH-FPP is unique in its tight focus on financing of IECMH services, and an intentional focus on IECMH policy leaders in states. It is designed to be driven by and responsive to the needs of state-level policy influencers who are responsible for holding the vision of an IECMH system and driving progress forward. Goals of the IECMH FPP include:

- Develop and share strategies for financing a robust continuum of IECMH supports and services.
- Develop and share strategies for communicating IECMH messages to Medicaid and other policymakers, identifying and using policy levers, and using equity-driven approaches to advance policy priorities.
- Work towards creating and implementing state action plans; and
- Identify examples of successful state or community policy/practice change to share with one another and the field at large.

In Kansas, this is a collaborative between KDHE/BFH, KDHE/Medicaid, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF), State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH), and local providers. Current goals include creating a crosswalk of the DC 0-5 and workforce/training strategies. This includes identification of provider types that could/should bill Medicaid, action planning for each provider types that includes training/education needs, pathways available to support billing, any qualifications required to bill, and IECHM endorsement. Summary of key activities:

1. Convened a dynamic and engaging "Community Conversation" in Leavenworth County, bringing together 27 dedicated individuals representing 15 diverse agencies. This collaborative event provided a valuable platform to explore local referral pathways, identify opportunities for systematic improvements, and discuss innovative policy strategies. The goal was to strengthen support for children ages 0-5 and their families, ensuring they have timely access to high-quality care. Through open dialogue and shared expertise, participants worked together to lay the groundwork for meaningful and lasting change in the community.
2. Drafted and submitted a DC 0-5 policy for Kansas Medicaid Convenance's consideration. DC:0-5 provides a developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive diagnostic framework specifically designed for infants and young children, which traditional diagnostic systems often overlook. By adopting DC:0-5, states can ensure accurate identification and treatment of mental health issues during critical early developmental stages, enhancing long-term outcomes. This approach complements efforts like the CCBHC model and Medicaid programs, such as EPSDT, by creating a strong foundation for early intervention and prevention. The policy would require a State Plan Amendment; decision is pending with Governance. If approved, a blended funding between Title V and Foundation contribution would support train-the-trainer and initial provider training. KDHE and KDADS would also develop evaluation and monitoring plans to ensure successful implementation.

3. Funded by the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund with contribution from KDHE BFH, KDADS, and other state partners, the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) published a ['Leveraging the CCBHC Model to Address Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health in Kansas'](#) issue brief. The brief highlights how the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model can be leveraged to address infant and early childhood mental health needs in Kansas by providing comprehensive, integrated care and fostering collaboration among providers and systems to better support young children and their families. It also emphasizes the role of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit in supporting infant and early childhood mental health highlighting EPSDT as a crucial Medicaid provision that ensures children receive necessary mental health screenings, early interventions, and treatments, helping to identify and address developmental or behavioral concerns at an early stage. KHI suggests leveraging EPSDT to align with the CCBHC model for more effective and comprehensive care.