

System Navigation Initiatives

Objective 3.3—By 2030, Increase the percentage of families who report being able to successfully navigate and obtain needed services for their child(ren) to 83%.

Family Leader Role: To deepen family engagement and ensure messaging is family centered, The Child Health Consultant, in partnership with the Family Systems Consultant, will develop a Help Me Grow Family Leader role. This individual will work complete the Family Leadership Training, to be developed by the Family Systems Consultant.

After completion of the training, they will join the Help Me Grow Kansas Core Leadership Team to provide input on family-facing materials, assist with outreach, and participate in continuous systems improvement efforts. The Family Leader will assist with Books, Balls, and Blocks developmental screening events within their community.

Family Feedback Sessions The Title V will host structured family feedback sessions to better understand the barriers and facilitators families experience when navigating child- and family-serving systems. These sessions will use a targeted universalism approach to ensure that input reflects the diverse needs and experiences of families across Kansas.

Through these sessions, families will be invited to share their perspectives on how easy or difficult it is to access services such as early intervention, behavioral health supports, developmental screenings, and social services. In turn, this feedback will be used to inform system improvement efforts, identify gaps, and shape family-facing tools and educational materials.

These sessions will be co-designed with emerging family leaders, including individuals being trained through the new Help Me Grow Family Leader. Each session will include a brief overview of how Kansas systems work and practical tips to help parents and caregivers become stronger advocates for their children. Sessions will also spotlight resources like the 1-800-CHILDREN centralized access point and the upcoming Help Me Grow family-facing website.

Community-based Care Coordination: As part of the Help Me Grow Kansas Continuous Systems Improvement (CSI) project, Title V will explore the implementation of a community-based care coordinator role within local organizations. These roles would act as trusted messengers and navigators, supporting families in understanding referral pathways, accessing appropriate services, and remaining engaged throughout the process of care.

These care coordinators would be embedded in existing local partner organizations, such as Family Resource Centers, early childhood programs, and community health clinics, and would be positioned to offer responsive, relationship-based support tailored to the needs of each family. Their responsibilities could include helping families understand developmental screening results, offering hands-on assistance with service navigation, and long-term care coordination support.

Title V will work with local organizations to explore what this role could look like in different settings, identify potential funding or staffing models, and assess readiness for implementation. This work will be closely aligned with ongoing efforts to train MCH professionals and other frontline staff on how to engage families more effectively—particularly during moments of transition or when introducing next steps following screening or diagnosis.

Developmental Resources: To support families and providers in recognizing and responding to children's developmental progress, we will continue disseminating tools that promote developmental health literacy. These include the Developmental Milestone Wheels and Developmental Passports, which offer family-friendly guidance on age-appropriate skills and activities that support children's growth across key domains. These tools will be distributed through early care and education settings, medical practices, community-based organizations, and outreach events such as Books, Balls, and Blocks. By continuing to elevate these resources, Kansas aims to strengthen families' ability to understand, monitor, and act on their child's developmental needs.