

Priority 7: Resources and services that recognize and build upon existing family strengths are accessible to support healthy relationships and family well-being.

Cross-Cutting: Family and Consumer Partnership

Family Partnership Initiatives

Objective 7.1—Increase the percentage of state Title V activities and programs that engage with families and consumers to 10% by 2030.

Parent-to-Parent Support with Families Together: Title V will continue its partnership with Families Together, inc., the Family-to-Family Health Information Center in Kansas, to expand and enhance the [Parent-to-Parent Support Program](#). This collaboration is critical to increasing access to peer support for families across the state, particularly those navigating complex health needs within the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) system. Through this partnership, the Title V Team aims to broaden the program's reach to ensure that more families—especially those who may feel isolated or are facing barriers to care—can connect with trained parent mentors who offer guidance, emotional support, and shared experience. Over the next year, efforts will be focused on outreach, training new parent mentors, and strengthening referral pathways to connect families with appropriate support services in a timely and meaningful way. Opportunities for parents to experience both one-to-one peer support, as well as bond in group settings with book clubs and regularly occurring parent groups will also be explored.

Family Advisory Council: The Bureau of Family Health's Family Advisory Councils (FAC) will continue advancing their individual workgroup projects which are aligned with the five-year Title V State Action Plan objectives and performance measures. In addition to workgroup activities, members will gather as a full council to listen to presentations highlighting maternal and child health (MCH) initiatives from across the state and provide feedback on how the work might better incorporate family voice or



needs.

Based on member feedback, the FAC will again follow the meeting structure implemented in FY24: three virtual meetings and one in-person, two-day retreat. To support equitable participation, in-person meetings have historically rotated locations across the state, accommodating members from all regions. The in-person meeting for FY26 is scheduled to take place in Wichita, Kansas.

Ongoing recruitment efforts will continue throughout the year to sustain and diversify FAC membership. Public awareness of the council's work will be a key focus to enhance visibility, generate interest, and support recruitment as openings become available—particularly within our newly formed fatherhood workgroup.

Each year, the domain-specific workgroups select a project designed to advance strategic priorities and improve outcomes for Kansans. The domain-specific workgroups and their project plans for FFY26 are provided below.



- **Woman/Maternal**
 - This group is currently focused on improving access to mental health services for perinatal populations. Planned next steps include establishing partnerships with crisis centers and academic institutions to align resources and expand training opportunities, developing a centralized hub for services and information, and launching an annual perinatal mental health conference. Additional efforts include creating educational materials and identifying strategies to support private practices and reach underserved families.
- **Fatherhood**
 - This workgroup is newly established, with its first father joining in April 2025. The group is currently reviewing the data and insights collected by a recent fatherhood intern to identify opportunities for action and determine how best to utilize the information collected.
- **Early Childhood**
 - After completing their previous initiative, this group is in the process of identifying a new project that aligns with the 2026-2030 SAP with support from the Title V domain consultants
- **Child & Adolescents**
 - The Child and Adolescent Workgroup is focused on developing tools to support community-level change, rather than engaging in direct legislative advocacy. Current efforts include creating an informational flyer that combines family stories with youth mental health data, gathering additional regional data to inform their work, and pursuing a Governor's Proclamation recognizing Child & Adolescent Mental Health Day. The group is also identifying relevant events and conferences for outreach and presentation opportunities. Overall, the workgroup is making significant progress in building public education materials and expanding statewide awareness efforts and intends to continue this in the coming year.
- **CSHCN**
 - The CSHCN workgroup is focused on expanding and improving access to local resources for Kansas families that have children with special needs through the [1800ChildrenKS website](#). They plan to create a new "CSHCN" category, organize resources by subcategories of need, and add at least 50 new disability-related resources by the end of the year. Efforts include ensuring coverage in all Kansas

regions, using a shared document for resource collection, and sending out surveys to gather input from other community organizations.

Title V Family Delegate: Over the past two years, Kansas Title V partnered with former family delegates and the FAC to redesign the Family Delegate program. The redesigned program is now a four-year term: Delegate-Elect, Delegate (2 years) and Past-Delegate. Title V leadership intends to select the next Family Delegate at the start of FFY26, marking the beginning of a unique transitional year in the role of Delegate-elect. Unlike future Family Delegates, this inaugural Delegate-elect will primarily receive guidance and support from the Title V Directors. The initial year will focus on orientation, including learning about Kansas's systems and becoming familiar with the Title V program.

Kansas Family Leadership Team / Storytelling: The Family Systems Consultant will work to advance a long-standing priority voiced by current and former Family Advisory Council (FAC) members, as well as families across Kansas, by initiating the development of a Family Leadership Training program. This effort is being carried out in close collaboration with three Help Me Grow Kansas (HMG KS) Family Leaders. During the first year, the primary focus will be on developing the training curriculum. This work is informed and inspired by the Family Systems Consultant's recent participation in the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute (IFLTI). To further strengthen this foundation, the three HMG KS Family Leaders are also expected to attend IFLTI within the first year.

By the end of Year 1, the goal is to complete development of the training program and identify a sustainable, long-term home for its implementation and ongoing support.