

Kansas: State Initiative Profile



Overview

More than 80 stakeholders developed the Kansas Strengthening Families (KSF) Plan in 2007 to serve as a statewide, strategic plan for preventing child abuse and neglect through a collaborative, coordinated system of early childhood and prevention partners. Strengthening Families™ in Kansas has been implemented on multiple levels - in early care and education settings, in Community-Based Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CBCAP) programs, in communities, and in state partnerships. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund acts as the convener, providing leadership to unify efforts, coordinate resources, and strengthen and support families. The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas manages the KSF Plan.

Building Strengthening Families Practice on the Ground

Kansas uses a multi-faceted approach to building the Protective Factors into early childhood settings through: alignment of activities through funding requirements, including the Kansas Early Childhood Block Grants; utilization of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Survey in CBCAP and home visiting programs for evaluation & continuous quality improvement purposes; support for child care providers through resource & referral; and community organizing.

Key Aspects of the State's work

Policy/Systems change

Since 2009, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has worked to integrate the Protective Factors into Requests for Proposals, including over \$11 million in funding through the Kansas Early Childhood Block Grants.

Communities have used the Protective Factors framework to organize local planning and to guide collaboration. The Protective Factors have allowed local partnerships to expand to include representation from law enforcement, hospitals, faith-based organizations and the business community. The process has led to: development of strategic plans; a focus on data-driven decision-making; implementation of new programming, such as the Period of PURPLE Crying; and, increased public awareness, including community positive parenting calendars.

Parent Partnerships

Three communities have held Parent Café training, and the Protective Factors framework has been incorporated into the annual Parent Leadership Conference. In 2011, a Statewide Parent Leadership Advisory Council was established to provide input and feedback to the KSF Plan. Community partners in Finney County produced

Strengthening Families is a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family stability, enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect. It builds five protective factors:

Parental resilience

Social connections

Knowledge of parenting and child development

Concrete support in times of need

Social and emotional competence of children

Through the Strengthening Families Initiative, more than thirty states are shifting policy, funding and training to help programs working with children and families build protective factors with families. Many states are also using the Strengthening Families approach to integrate state prevention strategies, strengthen families in the child welfare system and engage parents and communities in building protective factors. For more information, visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net

Nationally, Strengthening Families is coordinated by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and supported by a number of national partner organizations including:

The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

The BUILD Initiative

United Way Worldwide

Zero to Three

The FRIENDS National Resource Center



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2009 QUICK FACTS

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2009 SF Investment:

Total: \$13.9 million

Direct Investment: \$12.2 million (CBCAP, Early Childhood Block Grant, Children's Initiative Fund)

Match: \$1.7 million (CBCAP & Early Childhood Block Grant grantees)

Programs reached: 54

Children reached: 700

Professional Development:
individuals trained: 1,978
hours of training: 367

Protective Factors used in
ECCS Planning: Yes

Protective Factors used in
CBCAP RFP Process: Yes

Protective Factors integrated
into state QRIS: Yes

CCR&R Network in state
supporting program
implementation in EC sector:
Yes

and distributed 10,000 positive parenting calendars (both in 2010 and 2011) as a tool for sharing the Protective Factors with parents.

Professional Development

Child Care Aware of Kansas continues to provide training and support on Strengthening Families to home- and center-based child care providers through the state's resource & referral network. In 2009, nearly 500 child care providers attended Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: Parent Provider Partnerships in Child Care (PCAN) modules & Strengthening Families orientation training sessions.

Evaluating Strengthening Families

Kansas is utilizing the Protective Factors Survey (PFS), a valid and reliable instrument, to measure individual differences in multiple protective factors in families. Over 600 CBCAP participants and families served by Kansas Project LAUNCH have completed the PFS since data collection began in 2009. Additional partners will begin data collection in 2011. Kansas researchers have published results of a PFS validation study in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, in a high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Evolving Work

Kansas Strengthening Families partners will work across state agencies to integrate the Protective Factors in multiple areas of programming. The KSF Plan will be revised to reflect the current priorities of the Leadership Team, stakeholders, and administration. Partners will expand use of the Protective Factors Survey, including in Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families programs. Social networking and social media will be explored as tools for connecting with parents.