

## Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

### Logistics

**Name of Coordinating Body:** Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

**Administrative Home:** The Cabinet is an independent body that has the Kansas Department of Education as its fiscal agent.

**Staffing:** The Cabinet has three staff persons: 1) executive director, 2) early childhood director, and 3) program consultant.

**Funding:** The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund is funded by the private sector receiving tobacco settlement funds dedicated to the health and well-being of children and youth in the state.

**Membership:** The Cabinet is composed of 15 members. There are five voting members appointed by the Governor of Kansas and four voting members appointed by legislative leadership. Members appointed by government leadership are a mix of private sector entities and former public officials. The remaining six are ex-officio members composed of the following state agencies:

- Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Secretary of Department of Children and Families
- President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
- Commissioner of Education
- Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections/Juvenile Justice

### Structure

The Cabinet is structured to administer funds to a number of early childhood programs through its Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). The CIF supports programs offering a range of diagnostic and therapeutic services in the realm of early health and education, as well as programming providing resources for parents and other caregivers. Though guided by the Blueprint for Early Childhood, CIF funds are flexible allowing communities to tailor their services to the changing needs of specific

communities and populations. Programs funded by CIF include:

- Autism Diagnosis
- Child Care Assistance
- Child Care Quality Initiative
- Children's Mental Health Waiver
- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Family Preservation Services
- Healthy Start Home Visitor
- Infants and Toddlers Program
- Kansas Preschool Program
- Kansas Reading Success
- KIDS Network Grant
- Newborn Hearing Aid Loan Bank
- Parents as Teachers
- Tobacco Use Prevention Program

### History

**Year & Method of Establishment:** Created by statute in 1999, the Kansas Children's Cabinet was created to 1) oversee the Master Tobacco Settlement monies, 2) evaluate programs, 3) assist the Governor in developing and implementing a coordinated delivery system to serve children and families, and 3) support the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the Children's Trust Fund.

### Duties/Responsibilities/Goals:

The **Kansas Children's Cabinet** has been directed by statute to undertake these four overarching responsibilities:

1. Advising the Governor and the legislature regarding the uses of the moneys credited to the Children's Initiatives Fund
2. Evaluating programs which utilize Children's Initiatives Fund moneys
3. Assisting the Governor in developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive delivery system to serve children and families of Kansas
4. Supporting the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the Children's Trust Fund

### Current Work:

Weathering the state's current fiscal crisis and ensuring tobacco settlement funds continue to support the work of the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's early childhood programs.

### Priority Projects/Initiatives

**Blueprint for Early Childhood:** The "Blueprint" is a strategic framework to optimize child and family well-being around the following: healthy development, strong families, and early learning all undergirded by community support and collaboration. The "Blueprint" is used to align the Cabinet's investment portfolio and monitor progress towards goals.

**Common Measures Initiative:** A state-wide assessment process, driven by the Blueprint for Early Childhood, designed to measure program effectiveness, using data to evaluate program impact across communities and populations throughout the state. The Cabinet plans to continue to focus on high needs children, youth and families.

### Accomplishments

Adoption of the Blueprint for Early Childhood to be used as a guide to The Cabinet's work and deployment of the Common Measures Initiative.

### Contact Information

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### Words of Wisdom:

The Cabinet is striving to become a team who reviews data to assess the impact of program investments by asking the following questions:

- 1) What did we want to accomplish?
- 2) How much did we do?
- 3) How well did we do it?
- 4) Is anybody better off?

### Links

Annual Investment Impact Report (AIIR)

Blueprint for Early Childhood:  
<http://kschildrenscabinet.org/blueprint-3/>

Common Measures Initiative:  
<http://kschildrenscabinet.org/common-measures-initiative/>