

Needs Assessment/Environmental Scan

A comprehensive environmental scan was conducted to assess the needs and current status of the early childhood system in Kansas. The scan was initiated in late 2003 by a team of high level policy makers from Kansas, including representatives from the Kansas Governor's Office, who attended the National Governor's Association, Governor's Forum on Quality Preschool. These efforts resulted in *The Matrix of Statewide Programs by School Readiness Goals*. The information included in the initial matrix has been supplemented with interviews of staff at the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF), members of the Early Learning Coordinating Committee (ELCC), Head Start, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA), and numerous other early childhood professionals around the state.

The comprehensive scan includes information from other service assessments including the five year Maternal and Child Health (MCH) State Needs Assessment (2005-2010), the Zero to Three Initiative, and the Mid-America Regional Council's Funding Map of Early Learning Investments in Kansas (2003). The MCH State Needs Assessment (2005-2010) is currently underway and includes assessment of local and state health agencies' capacities to accomplish stated outcomes and objectives for pregnant women and infants, children and adolescents, including children with special health care needs. The Zero to Three Initiative supports Kansas in its efforts to make system wide improvements in infant and toddler child care, with a current focus on financing strategies and parent education. The Mid-America Regional Council's Funding Map of Early Learning Investments in Kansas assisted with mapping early childhood services from a funding streams perspective. Additionally, in 2001, Smart Start Kansas grants were awarded to seven local communities. Early childhood stakeholders in each community came together to identify and address gaps in quality, available, and affordable early child care, education, health services, and family support. The resulting data were helpful in the completion of the scan. Finally, in February 2005, the initial report on school readiness in Kansas was completed. The report, entitled "Predicting Student Readiness for School by Kansas County: A Preliminary Report Based on 2003 Pilot Data," explores the predictive value of county-level measures of community, family, and school influences on student readiness.

The scan was completed in April 2005 and organizes services in Kansas for children ages birth through five by initiatives and programs supporting early childhood care and learning, programs supporting school readiness objectives by population served, and funding streams.

Major Initiatives in Kansas Supporting Early Childhood Care and Learning

Numerous initiatives support the five Maternal and Child Health focus areas. Figure 1 shows the convergence of initiatives to create an integrated initiatives platform. Following is a description of each initiative by public and private sector.

Public/State Agencies

Multi-Agency Initiatives

- The *School Readiness Indicators Project* is an effort to determine contributors to school readiness and ways to measure how families, communities, and schools are preparing children for success in school. Kansas is part of a national effort to identify core school readiness indicators and ultimately shape national public policy.
- The *Kansas School Readiness Assessment* is an initiative to collect data from all 105 counties in Kansas. It is a collaborative effort by programs and staff from SRS, KSDE, KDHE, and the Children's Cabinet. A statistical review of the data will take place when collection is complete.
- *The Early Learning Guidelines* support early learning by providing professionals and parents with guidance to develop their own focus and curriculum as they work with young children, ages birth through kindergarten. This framework communicates a shared set of expectations linking early learning with the K-12 standards and is part of a coordinated early childhood system that supports school readiness in Kansas.
- The *Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council* on Early Childhood Developmental Services has the statutory mission to advise on all matters pertaining to children from birth through five years of age with (or at risk of) a developmental delay/disability. This Council meets the requirement of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the federal law known as IDEA. The KS Council was actually created in 1986, before the federal law which mandated it.

Kansas Children's Cabinet

- The *Smart Start Kansas* model is a framework for community services that focuses on family supports. Supports include making high quality, affordable early learning experiences and health services available for children ages birth through five.
- Partnering with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Children's Cabinet is leading the efforts to develop an *Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan* for Kansas.

Kansas Department of Education

- The *Quality Standards* set a common framework for regulating authorities, agencies, organizations, early care and education providers, and families. They serve as a guide as well as an indication of quality for all early childhood providers and define what programs working with young children should know and do.
- The *Kansas Quality Standards Initiative* makes Kansas one of two states providing the Parents as Teachers (PAT) National Center with important information. The *Kansas Parents as Teachers Pilot Project for Quality Self-Assurance* uses the PAT standards and consultation visits to facilitate the program's continuous improvement efforts.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

- The *Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems* initiative builds partnerships across service systems to support children in their early years and promote school readiness. State agencies and communities assess early childhood service systems and critical components and develop a state plan.

- *MCH 2010* is the Kansas state needs assessment process completed every five years to determine ten maternal and child health priorities for the state. Expert panelists convene for the purpose of reviewing data and setting priorities.
- The *Kansas Early Intervention Longitudinal Study* is an evaluation of the Kansas Infant-Toddler Program (Part C of IDEA, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities).
- The *Child Care Licensing and Registration Information System (CLARIS)* is a new data system to enable the Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Regulation to monitor growing program demands, to ensure timeliness of actions, and to respond effectively to the public and other agencies.
- The *Champions for Progress* is a federally funded project to develop a three to five-year strategic plan for the Children with Special Health Care Needs program. Specifically, it develops and implements measurement strategies with Kansas Stakeholders regarding medical home access and transition issues for families of children with special health care needs.
- The *Maternal and Child Health Oral Health Program* increases awareness about the importance of oral health and seeks to improve oral health status by providing education, consultation, and training on health promotion and disease prevention.
- An *Oral Health Screening Initiative* using laser diagnostics is now available in public health departments, often as part of KanBeHealthy.
- The objective of the *Governor's Immunization Registry Task Force* initiative is to improve the immunization status of Kansas children by enabling parents to consent at the birth of their child(ren) to enroll in an immunization registry, which will ensure they get follow-up and reminders of immunization schedules and access.

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

- The *Professional Development Task Force* is part of the CCDF's plan to establish a statewide, inclusive, coordinated and comprehensive career development system for early childhood practitioners. (See the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies below for a full description).
- The *National Zero to Three Infant-Toddler Initiative* provides funds from zero to three for technical assistance and a task force to examine ways to improve care and services for infants and toddlers. A program that resulted from this initiative is the Parent Education Program housed at the University of Kansas Medical Center.
- The *Child Care and Early Education Advisory Committee* convenes a variety of child care entities to discuss early child care issues. The committee serves as a statewide network to share information and inform participants about activities across the state.
- The *Therapeutic Services to Preschool Age Children Initiative* funds five to eight Community Mental Health Centers. These centers develop early childhood therapeutic preschool programs to broaden and/or expand the array of community based mental health services for young children who experience or are at risk for severe emotional disturbance (SED). The Therapeutic Preschool is one program resulting from this initiative.
- The *Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)* supports development of multi-agency and public-private partnerships at the state level. These partnerships are intended to help build early childhood systems and enhance participants' access to comprehensive

services and support. The partnerships also involve Head Start in state policies, plans, processes, and decision affecting program participants and other low-income families.

- *The Fatherhood Summit* promotes father/male involvement, provides tools and information on how to build community fatherhood programs, and advocates change in policies and practices that promote father involvement.
- The *Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals in Kansas and Missouri* outline, by content areas and levels, what professionals who work with young children and families need to know and be able to do to provide quality early care and education. The Core Competencies establish a set of standards for care and education that support the professionalization of the field.
- The *Kansas Child Care Industry Study* was completed by Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in March 2003. This study found that child care is nearly a \$.5 billion industry in Kansas and employs over 14,000 workers, about as many as the state's hotel industry, feed grains, and meat packing plants. Regulated child care providers serve over 100,000 Kansas children and families and earn almost \$1.98 billion annually. Each state dollar spent on child care leverages approximately \$4 in federal funds and each new federal dollar generates \$1.98 in economic activity in the state. The net impact is nearly \$6 for every \$1 Kansas spends on child care.
- The *Kansas Home Visitation Training Project* offers consistent, cost-effective training to home visitors who provide home visitation services to pregnant women and families with young children through a variety of different programs. Training topics include ethical issues, self-care, family systems, cultural competency, and communication and family in the context of the community.

Higher Education

- The *Kansas Access to Early Childhood Higher Education (KAECHE) Executive Committee* is a diverse group of high level representatives from Kansas state departments, including the Kansas Board of Regents, dedicated to improving access to higher education for individuals pursuing early childhood higher education. Kansas SRS funds the work of strategic planning, communication, and forging linkages.
- Two subsets of higher education faculty, *Early Childhood Higher-Education Options (ECHO)* and *Early Education Quality Improvement Project (EQIP)*, represent four-year and two-year institutions, respectively. Both groups are working to develop shared on-line coursework which will articulate laterally between institutions. This will increase access to early childhood higher education and help build a coordinated system for upward higher education for individuals earning professional credentials.

Private Organizations

Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA):

- The objective of the *Professional Development Initiative for Early Care and Education (PDI)* in Kansas is to establish a statewide, inclusive, coordinated and comprehensive career development system for early childhood practitioners, that includes: a common core knowledge base, standardized professional requirements, a credentialing registry, coordinated training resources, early childhood education articulation agreements,

funding for education and training, commensurate compensation, and quality early care and education programs. Elements of the PDI are:

- *Resource and Referral Community Based Training*, described below under Programs.
 - *The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Kansas*, described below under Programs.
 - *Child Care WAGES Kansas*, described below under Programs.
 - *Directory of Kansas Early Childhood Education Higher Education Credentials and Degrees*
 - *List of Infant/Toddler courses available at Kansas colleges and universities*
 - *Directory of Current Articulation Agreement*
 - *Oral health training and materials for childcare providers as part of the Quality Training Incentive Project*
- The "*Good Beginnings Last a Lifetime - Make a Smart Child Care Choice*" is the Consumer Education Campaign KACCRRA promotes. The campaign is designed to enhance consumer education and parental choice when choosing quality child care for their children.

Kansas Head Start Association

- The Kansas Head Start Association has six *Oral Health grants*, sponsored by a variety of different funders including the Delta Dental Foundation. Each of the oral health grants addresses oral health education and prevention for pregnant woman and young children.

Kansas Action for Children

- The *Kids Count Data Book* tracks the status of children and families in Kansas. Many of the benchmarks are focused on early childhood and provide policymakers and citizens with indicators of child well-being.
- One of the priority areas of the *Kansas Children's Campaign* is early care and education. The Campaign advocates for access to affordable and available high quality early education opportunities.
- *Healthy Kids Healthy Kansas* addresses children's oral health, obesity prevention, and health insurance. This initiative seeks to provide public education, stress the impact of health on learning, and build a foundation for preventative services for Kansas children. Currently, a grant supports an *Oral Health Initiative*. This public awareness campaign supports a website (www.yourmouthmatters.com), commercials, and printed materials emphasizing the importance of oral health for children.

Kansas Health Foundation

- *Reach Out and Read* is a multi-year initiative to develop sites with pediatricians, family physicians, and other primary care practitioners across the state. The project promotes and educates Kansas on the critical importance of reading to young children as a means to helping them grow physically, mentally and emotionally.
- *Turn a Page, Touch a Mind (TAP-TAM)*, funded by the Kansas Health Foundation,

promotes literacy in children from birth through five through physician's offices, clinics and health centers. A program goal is to promote, educate, and train seven new TAP-TAM sites per year on the importance and satisfaction of talking to kids about books.

Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics

- As part of the Academy's *Breastfeeding Initiative*, a revised policy statement on "Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk" was issued in 2005. The new recommendations reflect new research on the importance of breastfeeding and specifically seek to increase exclusive breastfeeding.
- Also in 2005, as part of an *Early Childhood Initiative* the Academy issued a revised policy statement, "Quality Early Education and Child Care From Birth to Kindergarten," recognizing the impact of early education and child care on children's health, development, and learning. The policy statement recommends pediatricians work with communities and families to improve access to and quality of early childhood experiences. The Academy is also offering training to pediatricians on addressing and implementing these recommendations.

Programs

Brief descriptions and eligibility requirements of state programs that provide services to young children and their families follow.

Accreditation Support (Greater KC Accreditation Project): The Accreditation Support Project improves the quality of child care programs in the Kansas City area by increasing the number of early childhood centers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org) and family child care providers accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care (www.nafcc.org).

Service Area: The Accreditation Support Project does not have a specific service area. They will provide services and assistance to any and all interested childhood centers.

Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP): CACFP reimburses eligible institutions for their costs in providing meals and snacks to children and adults receiving nonresidential day care, including after school programs. Reimbursement is made on the basis of the number of lunches, suppers, breakfasts, and snacks served, using annually adjusted reimbursement rates accordant to the income levels of the families as specified by law. Eligible public and nonprofit private organizations may include child care centers, outside-school-hours child care centers, family and group child care homes, Head Start programs, and institutions providing child care services to children with disabilities. Private for-profit centers may also participate if they serve 25% or more limited-resource families.

Service Area: The CACFP is a statewide program. Currently, 550 centers (all types) and 4,500 child or day care homes are participating.

Child Care Assistance Program: The Child Care Assistance Program helps pay child care costs for families at or below 185% of the federal poverty level receiving Temporary Assistance for Families subsidies, families with children at risk for abuse or neglect, low-income working families, some families in education or training activities, families required to be in the Food

Stamp Employment and Training programs, and teenage parents completing high school. Subsidies are provided for children under age 13 unless the child cannot provide self-care. *Service Area:* The service area is statewide.

Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas, Inc.: Since its founding in Feb. of 1977, The Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas has worked to unite the wide variety of family child care providers in Kansas. While celebrating diversity, CCPC of Kansas strives to infuse each of its members with the vision of Personal Professional Achievement and United Quality Standards. Supporting memberships include resource and referral agencies, food program sponsors, regulatory and SRS staff, private business serving the child care field and other licensed child care facilities. CCPC of Kansas has held 19 annual statewide Family Child Care Conferences. *Service Area:* The governing board and voting membership is drawn from across all 105 counties of Kansas. Any child care provider licensed or registered by the State to care for twelve or fewer children may become a voting CCPC member.

Child Health Program: This program optimizes the health of Kansas children through preventive and primary care services in communities. Infants, preschoolers, and school age children receive well-child checkups, immunizations, physical examinations, hearing and vision screenings, and referrals to private physicians. *Service Area:* This program is statewide and serves all 105 counties.

Children with Special Health Care Needs: This program supports a system of services and is a payor of last resort for services to children with chronic disease or disability, including medical specialty services, specialty clinics, and durable medical equipment. *Service Area:* This program is statewide and serves all 105 counties.

Continuing Education Units Service: Kansas developed a statewide system for approving and granting Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for early childhood training and coursework. The system is operated under the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA). CEU applications are received and adjudicated on a quarterly cycle. SRS paid for its development and continues its operation under professional development funding. *Service Area:* The CEU service is available statewide.

Core Competency Training: Resource and referral community-based training is offered on the eight Core Competencies, based on the premise that children require a supportive and nurturing environment in which to grow and develop. This program is part of the Professional Development Initiative for Early Care and Education. *Service Area:* This grant serves family child care and center-based directors and staff. All 105 counties throughout Kansas are currently being served.

Early Childhood Associate Apprentice Program: Under contract with SRS through professional development funds, Butler Community College administers this program. The program is approved by the Kansas Apprenticeship Council, under the Kansas Department of Commerce. Professional development requirements consist of a two year program in which apprentices complete 4,000 on-the-job hours under the supervision of an approved journeyworker/mentor/supervisor and 20 hours of community college credit in early childhood

curriculum. The Child Development Associate (CDA) must be earned within the first year as one step along the way. At the completion of the requirements, an apprentice earns a nationally recognized certificate, Completion of Apprenticeship. This program is available in designated geographic areas aligning with educational partners (community colleges). Presently the program includes primarily individuals employed in centers, but pilots are underway to include family home professionals.

Service Area: All Kansas childhood educators would benefit from professional credentialing. The program is available to any child care provider who meets the requirements.

Early Childhood Special Education Preschools (Part B): The program is part of services mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Children ages three through five, who have been identified as a child with a disability or developmental delay according to the requirements of IDEA, are provided with special education and related services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Service Area: Because this program is mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it is available in every school district in every county in the state.

Early Childhood Unified (ECU) Licensure: The ECU Licensure is for those teachers who wish to teach children who are in the developmental span from birth to third grade. It also includes training in special education so these teachers are prepared to work with special needs in the same developmental span.

Service Area: The ECU Licensure is available statewide.

Early Head Start and Kansas Early Head Start: The purpose of this program is to enhance children's development, enable parents to be better caregivers and teachers, and help parents meet their own goals of self-sufficiency. Early Head Start is a comprehensive service delivery system that provides pregnant women and families with children ages birth through four weekly home visits, parenting skill development, child development, child and family assessments, health and mental health services, vision screening, immunization tracking, and parent involvement opportunities. Child care is provided to those families who are employed, attending school, or participating in a job-training program. Child care providers serving Early Head Start children must meet Head Start standards and earn their CDA within a year of enrollment in the program. Providers receive on-site technical assistance and mentoring, training, supplies and equipment and program enhancements. Ninety percent of children enrolled must meet the federal poverty guidelines. At least ten percent of the total enrolled must be children with special needs. Outcomes include school readiness for children and self-sufficiency for families. Standardized outcomes based on Connect Kansas are reported and monitored annually. Kansas Early Head Start programs are also part of the federal PRISM monitoring and review system, which requires that the program be thoroughly evaluated by a team of reviewers every three years.

Service Area: Kansas Early Head Start has 16 programs in 32 counties. Early Head Start has three completely federally funded programs in Garden City (Finney County), Hutchinson (Reno County), and Mayetta (Jackson County). One additional program in Jackson County receives both state and federal funds, resulting in 20 total Early Head Start programs in Kansas.

Early Reading First: Early Reading First creates language-rich preschool classrooms with the goal of ensuring that low-income students enter kindergarten ready to read. The program is grounded in research-based pedagogical theory.

Service Area: Early Reading First functions in three preschools in Topeka, KS and in five community-based preschools in Geary County.

Even Start: This program provides early childhood education to young children while simultaneously providing basic skills and literacy instruction to their educationally-disadvantaged parents. The program targets families with children birth to seven years of age. Each program must provide the four components of a family literacy program: adult education, early childhood education, parenting education, and interactive literacy activities.

Service Area: Even Start and Migrant Even Start is a multiple county project. Programs are located across the state in various counties. Programs serve all of the state except the north central and northwest areas of Kansas.

F. Webster Scholarship: This scholarship supports students in early childhood education.

Service Area: Any and all early childhood education students are encouraged to apply.

Family Preservation Services: Family Preservation Services are intensive in-home services offered to families who are in imminent danger of having a child removed from the home and come into the custody of the SRS. These services assist the family in identifying and understanding the problems within the family that place a child at risk for out-of-home placement and helps them find ways to change how the family unit functions. This program provides intensive, well-designed early care and education for infants, toddlers and young children, enriches children's early experiences, and provides critical support to their families.

Service Area: Family Preservation Services is a division of virtually all SRS programs in Kansas. Therefore, the service area for Family Preservation Services is statewide.

First Children's Finance-Kansas: This program makes low interest loans available to Kansas child care providers and programs that are unable to secure standard bank loans. Loans may be made for start-up costs, additions of facilities, fences, working capital, toys and equipment, or technical assistance.

Service Area: This program is available statewide and any child care professional may apply.

Food Stamp Program: The Food Stamp Program is a nutrition assistance program that provides a Vision card (plastic debit card) to eligible persons for use in purchasing food from local grocery stores. Any single individual or household group whose income and resources is less than 130% percent of the federal poverty level is eligible.

Service Area: The service area for the Food Stamp Program of Kansas is statewide.

Foster Care: This program provides services to children and families when the court has found a child to be in need of care. Most children in foster care have been abused or neglected and require a variety of services to meet their developmental, emotional, and physical needs. Private contractors arrange case planning, residential placement, and medical and mental health services.

Service Area: Five major contractors provide foster care services in the five geographic regions in the state. They, along with the 25 not-for-profit, sub-contracting agencies perform the day-to-day work of foster care service delivery.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP): FGP is a federally funded program authorized by Title II, Part B, of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 and re-authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993. The program is administered by the Corporation for National Service and part of Senior Corps, a network of national service programs that provide older Americans the opportunity to put their life experiences to work for local communities. The FGP offers opportunities for income-eligible people ages 60 years and older to serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers to provide ongoing supportive person-to-person services in health, education, and welfare. Settings include community organizations, including schools, hospitals, drug treatment facilities, correctional institutions, and Head Start and child care centers.

Service Area: The Foster Grandparent Program has seven programs in Kansas, serving 31 counties.

Four-Year-Old At-Risk (Title I Preschool): This program provides an early childhood education for four-year old at-risk children. Students receive additional services such as counseling, health, transportation, and nutrition services. The objectives for the program are to help at-risk preschool children acquire the skills, knowledge, and behaviors that they will need to transition successfully to kindergarten; reduce the number of at-risk children who are referred for special education evaluations during their primary school years; reduce the number of at-risk children who are retained in grade school during their primary school years; reduce the achievement gap between at-risk and non at-risk primary age children; increase the level of parent participation in the education of their at-risk children; and provide information to policymakers to assist in planning programs and services for at-risk preschoolers. Schools can choose to use Title I funds to provide these services.

Service Area: The Four-Year-Old At-Risk program is available to school districts via a competitive grant process. It is targeted to categories of children at risk for school readiness. This grant currently serves 104 out of 305 school districts.

Head Start: This program provides comprehensive community-based early education, health nutrition, parent involvement, and social services primarily to low-income children ages three through five and their families.

Service Area: The Kansas Head Start Association represents all 29 Head Start programs in Kansas, which serve 86 counties with services to three through five year-olds.

Healthy Families: Healthy Families programs provide a system of support for new parents that is voluntary, family-centered, and strength-based. Parents receive information about child development and support to promote positive parent-child interaction. Services include weekly home visitation, support for health and well-being, support groups, case management, referrals, and emergency on-call support. Services are available to families that are identified as high risk for child abuse and neglect through a standardized screen and assessment process. Families are invited to enroll at no charge. Services may begin prenatally and can continue until the child is three years of age.

Service Area: Healthy Families programs are available in Johnson, Shawnee, Sedgwick, and Reno counties.

Healthy Start Home Visitor: This program offers home visits to all pregnant women and mothers with infants under age one, with priority given to high-risk families as applicable. Home visitors provide information and referrals to community services and screen for child abuse and neglect.

Service Area: The program serves 104 of the 105 counties in Kansas. All but Clark County are served.

Immunization Program: In this program, local health departments provide vaccines and vaccine administration for infants, children and youth. Kansas sets a goal of 90% immunization. The 2002 immunization rate was 80.1%, an improvement of 13.7% over the previous five-year period. Sixteen Kansas counties achieved the Healthy People 2010 Goal of 90% immunization.

Service Area: The Immunization Program covers all counties in Kansas.

Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Tiny K) (Part C): This program supports community networks serving developmentally delayed infants and toddlers ages birth through three and their families. The program provides early intervention services including speech, occupational and physical therapies, audiology, special instruction, family training, assistive technology, social work, vision, psychological, and nutrition services.

Service Area: This program is mandated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for every school district in the state and therefore services are available in every county in Kansas.

Infant-Toddler Specialists Project: This project increases the number of quality infant-toddler care professionals through additional training, technical assistance, and consultations made available to regulated child care providers.

Service Area: The Infant-Toddler Specialists Project provides services to infant and toddler child care professionals in all 105 counties in Kansas through a system of 16 Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

Kansas Quality Rating System (KQRS): KQRS is a tiered quality rating system adopted by Kansas from *Qualistar Rating System* Colorado. This five star rating system will allow child care programs to voluntarily have their programs assessed and participate in quality improvement activities, with funding available to raise the quality of care before having their program rated.

Service Area: KQRS will be implemented on a statewide level. A pilot of 38 classrooms is currently underway.

Maternal and Infant (M&I) Program: This statewide program provides and/or facilitates access to comprehensive prenatal care and follow-up for the infant through age one.

Service Area: This program is provided by request (through referral) statewide. It has connections to virtually all the hospitals in Kansas.

Medicaid/Healthwave: Medicaid pays for medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. It is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with limited income. **HealthWave** was created for uninsured children, ages birth through 19, living in households with low income levels. The goal is to expand health insurance access to children whose family income exceeds Medicaid guidelines. *Service Area:* Medicaid (Title 21) is available statewide. HealthWave (Title 19) is available statewide.

Migrant Even Start: This program provides the same four components as Even Start programs, but targets migrant families with children ages birth through seven. *Service Area:* See above. Migrant Even Start is available at all Even Start locations

Newborn Hearing Screening: This program provides speech pathology case management and follow-up for abnormal newborn hearing results from hospitals. *Service Area:* This program is available statewide in hospitals at birth.

Newborn Metabolic Screening: This program provides nursing case management and follow-up for abnormal newborn screening results from the State Lab. *Service Area:* This program is available statewide in hospitals at birth.

Pacesetters: Pacesetters is a primary prevention program that offers professional education courses targeting healthy child development and child abuse/neglect prevention, recognition and reporting. A significant piece of the program centers on increasing the ability to identify signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and increase knowledge regarding the reporting requirements in Kansas. *Service Area:* This is a web-based program, available to everyone with Internet access.

Parents as Teachers: This program follows the Parents as Teachers model to provide expectant parents and parents of infants and toddlers (ages birth through three) with parenting advice, resource materials, and a positive approach to discipline and other skills. All interested parents may participate. The program offers home visits, group meetings, health and developmental screenings, and referrals to other services to all parents. *Service Area:* Parents as Teachers is available to all school districts in the state through a competitive grant application process. It provides universal access for all families living in the sponsoring district. It is currently in 215 school districts, across Kansas.

Reading First: The goal Reading First is that all children are proficient readers by third grade. This program requires that local educational agencies use scientifically-based reading research to guide all state and local activities. *Service Area:* This project is available to teachers statewide. In 2004, more than 400 teachers from across the state went to one of four academies, and another 400 are expected to participate in 2005.

Ready to Learn: Offered by Kansas Public Television, this program seeks to improve literacy and other school readiness skills in all children and families, with special attention to those with low literacy, low English proficiency, disabilities, and those who live in rural areas. The

components of this program include development of research-based, commercial-free television programming for young children, distribution of free books to disadvantaged children, wide distribution of *PBS Families* magazine in English and Spanish, training workshops for parents and other caregivers, and collaboration with other early childhood, education, and literacy organizations. Research at the University of Kansas and University of Alabama shows reading skills improve for children exposed to Ready to Learn programming.

Service Area: Stations KPTS (Wichita), KTWU (Topeka), and Smoky Hills PTV (Bunker Hill) participate in Ready to Learn.

Registry Service: A professional task force has researched options for the creation of a registry of credentialed child care practitioners. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has designed a computer system capable of holding such information on individual persons' credentials, coursework (both credit and noncredit), and other professional development credentials. The system is voluntary and allows training organizations to input information on individuals who attend professional development events. The system is designed to use maximum on-line capabilities for both input and output. Eventually, a verified system would take its place. Funding for design has come from SRS, but lack of subsequent funds has prevented going operational with the system.

Service Area: The Registry Service would be available statewide on a voluntary basis.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (W.I.C.): A statewide program of nutrition assessment and education, plus food vouchers for low-income pregnant, breast-feeding and postpartum women and for children up to five years old.

Service Area: The service area for W.I.C. of Kansas is statewide, available in virtually every county in Kansas.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): The SFSP provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school. The SFSP is administered by the KSDE. SFSP is run by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps, or private nonprofit organizations. These sponsors are reimbursed for the meals they serve and their documented operating costs. Sites operate in low-income areas where at least half of the children come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, making them eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Children aged 18 or younger are eligible.

Service Area: The SFSP is available statewide based on eligibility.

T.E.A.C.H: Teacher Education And Compensation Helps works to improve the quality of early childhood care and education programs for children by working to improve education, compensation and commitment. T.E.A.C.H. sponsors the Early Childhood® KANSAS Project, which is an educational scholarship opportunity for family child care providers and staff working in child care centers. This program is part of the Professional Development Initiative for Early Care and Education.

Service Area: The project has awarded 471 scholarships since December of 2000. Thirty-eight recipients have graduated with Associate Degrees in Early Childhood. There were 29 recipients and 157 sponsoring sites in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2004.

Therapeutic Services to Preschoolers: In collaboration with other community based early childhood programs, community mental health centers have created Therapeutic Services to Preschoolers for children who experience or are at risk to experience a severe emotional disturbance. The goals of the program are: 1) to preserve the family and achieve positive outcomes for these children and families; 2) to maintain children participating in the program safely in their home without need for psychiatric hospitalization or other out of home placements; 3) To promote partnerships between parents and program staff in the treatment process; 4) To achieve parent satisfaction with the program and outcomes for the child; and 5) To prepare children to have the emotional, social, and other school readiness skills necessary to be successful learners in school.

Service Area: There are currently six project areas: 1) Area Mental Health Centers in Dodge and Garden cities, serving Finney, Ford, Gray, Hamilton, Hodgeman, and Kearney counties; 2) Community Mental Health Center of Crawford County – Pittsburg, serving Crawford County schools (USD 246, 247, 248, 249, 250); 3) Family Service and Guidance in Topeka, serving a specialized Topeka Head Start program in Shawnee County; 4) Franklin County Mental Health Center – Ottawa, serving the Wellsville school district USD 289, 5) High Plains Mental Health Center – Hays, serving Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, and Wallace counties; and 6) Johnson County Mental Health Center – Mission, serving Gardner-Edgerton and Olathe school districts.

WAGES: Child care WAGES Kansas provides education-based salary supplements to early educators working in licensed child care programs that offer care for children ages birth through five. The program is designed to provide young children more stable relationships with better educated teachers by rewarding teacher education and continuity of care. This program is part of the Professional Development Initiative for Early Care and Education.

Service Area: There are currently 17 stations across Kansas. A map can be found at: http://www.kaccrra.org/wages_map.php3?sid=07c475ae5ff9f0069a2953b09de0876b

Table 1 demonstrates the programs supporting school readiness goals by population served.

Programs Supporting School Readiness Goals by Population Served

Family Goals									
Birth	1	2	3	4	5	Parent	Family	Prof. Devel.	
Maternal and Infant Program									
W.I.C									
Healthy Start Home Visitor									
Early Head Start									
Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C)									
			Head Start						
Even Start									
Migrant Even Start									
Family Preservation Services									
Foster Care									
Parents as Teachers									
Healthy Families									
Summer Food Service Program									
Child and Adult Food Program									
			Four-Year-Old At-Risk (Title I Preschool)						
Children with Special Health Care Needs									
Smart Start Kansas									
			Immunization Program						
			Medicaid/HealthWave						
			Food Stamp Program						
			Child Care Assistance						

Community Goals

Birth-3	3-5	Parent	Family	Professional Development
Smart Start Kansas				
Child Care Assistance				
Parents as Teachers				
Even Start				
Migrant Even Start				
	Four-Year-Old At-Risk (Title 1 Preschool)			
Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities				
Early Head Start				
Child Care Licensing				
Foster Grandparent Program				
	Head Start			
	Early Childhood SPED Preschools (Part B)			
				CEU Service
				Registry Service
				Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas, Inc.
				Infant-Toddler Specialist Project
				Accreditation Support
				Greater KC Accred. Project
				Apprenticeship Project
				T.E.A.C.H.
				F. Webster Scholarship
				Core Competency Training
				WAGES
				Unified Early Licensure
KQRS				

School Goals

Birth	1	2	3	4	5	Parent	Family	Prof. Develop.
			Head Start					
			Early Childhood SPED Preschools (Part B)					EC Unified Licensure

Child Goals



