

# All In For Kansas Kids



Kansas Early Childhood  
Care and Education

JULY 2020



# Early Childhood Care and Education

## Central Messages:

- The experiences of families with young children in Kansas are **shaped by where they live**, both across the regions of the state and within their communities.
- Young children are growing up in families where **basic needs are not being met**.

## Key Findings:

Accessibility



Availability



Navigation



Collaboration



Workforce



Facilities



Systems  
Alignment



Bright Spots



Needs Assessment

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- **Engage Child Care Providers and Parents in decision-making opportunities (community task forces, business roundtables, etc.)**
- Give parents & providers a voice and the tools to elevate their specific needs and generate solutions at local levels.
- **Child Care** is essential to economic growth and stability. Engage providers and help meet their needs to remain open and safely serve children so parents can return to work.
  - *"Child care is still the missing ingredient for a fast economic recovery"* – LA Times
  - *"Coronavirus is pushing the US child care industry to the brink of collapse"* – ABC News

**CARES Act Funding**

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## ➤ **Help procure supplies for Child Care Providers.**

Home-based and community based child care providers are essential businesses and have unique needs. They are facing difficulty sourcing the supplies they need to safely feed and care for young children.

- Develop supply chain partnerships to open up access to supplies such as:
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Cleaning supplies and equipment to meet public health guidelines due to COVID-19
  - Food to meet childhood nutrition guidelines
- Formally designate child care providers as “essential” so they can secure supplies from vendors prioritizing frontline workers.

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## ➤ Child Care Facilities – COVID-19 Prevention Upgrades

- Young children learn best by engaging with other children, making it difficult to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- Many child care facilities (including in-home child care) are not set up to safely manage stringent COVID-19 prevention guidelines, but could be with minimal investment such as: in-classroom hand-washing sinks, art supplies and play equipment for each child, outdoor equipment to minimize inside time, and small entrance upgrades for distance temperature checks and screenings.
  - ["Child Care Infrastructure and COVID-19: A New Reality"](#) – Bipartisan Policy Center

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## ➤ Expanding Access to Essential Services and Supports

- Expand broadband and access to technology for remote connectivity
- Invest in non-traditional child care service hours (evening and weekends) to help parents navigate job demands and shift-work opportunities
- Support the [Integrated Referral and Intake System \(IRIS\)](#) in your community, helping to identify what services are needed, which organizations can provide them, and how to make it easier for families to receive the help they need
  - [All In For Kansas Kids: Integrated Referral and Intake System \(IRIS\) CARES Act Information](#)

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# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Share your thoughts

[www.kschildrenscabinet.org/share](http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/share)

THANK YOU!

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**Stay Connected**

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