



KANSAS



BUILDING ON THE PROMISE: PROFILES OF STATE INITIATIVES TO BUILD ON EARLY HEAD START

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

Kansas Early Head Start (KEHS) provides comprehensive services following federal Head Start Program Performance Standards for pregnant women and eligible families with children from birth to age 4. KEHS was implemented in 1998 using Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) quality set-aside dollars augmented by a transfer of federal TANF funds. The initiative was designed to improve the availability and quality of child care for infants and toddlers in Kansas. In recent years, funding from state general revenue and Children's Initiative dollars from the state tobacco settlement has expanded the program. KEHS also works to increase the number of infant/toddler child care slots in communities and partners with existing community-based child care to improve the quality of care available for infants and toddlers. All KEHS child care provider partners must meet both Kansas Child Care Licensing and federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, as specified in a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding.

APPROACHES USED TO BUILD ON EHS

- ✓ Increase the capacity of existing Head Start and EHS programs to serve additional children and pregnant women.
- ✓ Develop partnerships between EHS and community-based child care providers to improve the quality of child care.

PROGRAM

Child and Family Eligibility

- **Family Income:** Grantees may serve up to 35 percent of their enrollment with children whose family incomes are between 100-135 percent of the federal poverty level if grantees can demonstrate that children below 100 percent of poverty are already being served.
- **Parental Work Status:** Parent must be employed, attending school, or in job training to access the KEHS child care model. If family work status changes to unemployed, children may be moved to the home-based model.
- **Child Age:** Birth to age four

- **Other Risk Factors:** Per the Head Start Program Performance Standards, 10 percent of enrollment must be for children with disabilities. In addition, programs must maintain a priority selection criteria grid (as required of federal Head Start grantees), which is used to determine the children/families with the highest need or risk factors. The selection criteria are based on a community needs assessment completed every three years and updated annually by the grantee. Children are selected for enrollment using this grid. Children who are not identified as having the highest risk factors may be placed on a waiting list if all EHS slots are filled at the time of their application.
- **Length of Eligibility:** A child who is eligible for KEHS at enrollment is eligible until he/she exits the program, regardless of changes in parental work activity; if the parent(s) become unemployed, the child is moved to the home-based model. Family needs are always considered in KEHS and some families move back and forth between home-based and center-based EHS.
- **Expectant Mothers Served:** Yes

Number Served by State Initiative: 1,017 including children birth to age four and expectant mothers in FY 2007. (1,177 as of July 2008.)

Number Served by Federally Funded Early Head Start: In comparison to the state initiative, federally funded EHS served 519 children birth to age four and expectant mothers (according to federal Program Information Report data for 2006).

Eligible Providers

- Federal Head Start grantees
- Federal Early Head Start grantees

Co-pay

No co-pay required

Program Standards

- **Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards Required?** Yes, for KEHS grantees and child care partners.
- **Additional State Standards:** State child care licensing. KEHS programs are required to make a monthly home visit with parents and a monthly child observation when a child is in child care.

Do other children besides those enrolled in the EHS model benefit when services are delivered in child care settings?

Only children enrolled in KEHS or in partnering child care providers receive KEHS services. However, there are approximately 2,000 children in partnering child care centers that are not directly enrolled in KEHS, but benefit because these programs are required to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Length of Day/Year

Services are offered year round. The majority of programs operate or collaborate to offer child care services between six and eight hours a day. Home-based services are weekly and offered year round.

FUNDING AND SUPPORTS

Sources and Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 (unless otherwise noted)

Kansas made \$9.7 million available in FY 07, including:

- \$7.9 million from CCDBG, and
- \$1.8 million in state general revenue.

In FY 08, Kansas plans to increase total funding to \$11.3 million, using \$7.9 from the CCDBG quality set-aside, \$1.6 million from state tobacco settlement funding, and \$1.8 million from state general funds.

What support and technical assistance does the state offer?

The Kansas Early Head Start Manager completes a yearly site visit with every KEHS program and facilitates a meeting with all KEHS directors/administrators six times per year.

KEHS works with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region VII office which provides technical assistance to the state grantees. Federally-funded staff (contracted through Caliber Associates) provide technical assistance in-person or over the phone. They help grantees develop a training plan, write agreements with child care agencies, and perform their community needs assessment. Each grantee must have a training and professional development plan, which is submitted to the TA specialist and approved by the Region VII ACF office. The TA varies based on the need of each grantee, and includes some professional development.

What incentives are there for child care providers to participate?

Incentives vary from program to program. Some programs have money available to provide mini-grants to child care providers to raise quality within the child care provider environment, enhanced rates for EHS slots in the child care partner setting, or support for training and professional development for partnering providers (including CDA classes and fees). Children who receive care in partnering programs receive the same comprehensive services meeting federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, so there is also the incentive that additional health and family support services will be available for the children and families child care providers serve. For example, in some child care facilities, all children receive an individualized “portfolio” which could include medical and developmental screenings and observations, not just the EHS children receiving child care from this provider.

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

What state agency administers the funding for this initiative?

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

How does the funding flow to local providers?

Funding flows from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to KEHS agencies through a continuation grant application completed on an annual basis. Local grantees are responsible for developing agreements and/or contracts with

community-based child care providers and providing payment to them according to the terms of these agreements/contracts.

Can a child in the state initiative also have a child care subsidy?

Generally children in KEHS are not eligible for child care subsidies. However, a few years ago, some KEHS grantees reported that families were exiting the program because they needed child care (most of these families had enrolled in the EHS home-based option and then progressed to meet their self-sufficiency goals by obtaining employment). SRS granted an exception to avoid losing families, and allowed a subset of families to access child care subsidy.

Does the state coordinate with federally funded Head Start agencies to conduct any of the activities?

The federally-funded staff at the ACF Region VII Office provide consultation on which existing federal Head Start programs to fund with new KEHS funds. KEHS works with the ACF Region VII office, which provides technical assistance to the state grantees. All KEHS grantees undergo the federal review process every three years. If the KEHS grantee delivers the center-based option with child care partners, these child care partners could be picked for on-site federal review during that process.

Does the state coordinate with the Head Start – State Collaboration Office to conduct activities?

The Head Start-State Collaboration Office is located within the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services office and the director helps with selecting new KEHS programs and planning the initiative.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

What state agencies are responsible for monitoring, and how often is on-site monitoring conducted in a year?

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services conducts an annual site visit and may visit more often as needed. Programs that are required to be licensed receive an annual visit from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as well.

Are there specific measurement tools used to monitor services provided?

Partnering child care providers are monitored by KEHS grantees using the appropriate version of the Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS, ITERS, or FDCRS). KEHS grantees use a variety of assessment tools with participating families and children to determine progress which reflects program success. These include the HOME Inventory, Denver II, Early Communication Indicator (ECI), and other approved assessment tools. Outcomes are reported quarterly to the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Are programs also monitored by federal agencies?

Currently all federally funded Head Start programs are monitored by the Office of Head Start every three years using the federal review process. KEHS programs that

receive federal technical assistance monies also go through a federal review every three years.

Has the state evaluated the effectiveness of the state EHS initiative?

Since 2002, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has collected a set of outcomes from all KEHS sites on a quarterly basis, including teacher education levels and professional development activities, parent employment and school attendance, HOME Inventory scores, and children's developmental progress. Through a partnership with researchers at the University of Kansas, children are measured on language indicators (using the Early Communication Indicator). The HOME Inventory is used to assess the impact of KEHS participation on the family environment, as are the Parents as Teachers milestones. An evaluation of one KEHS program by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) is currently underway. The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has a contract with University of Kansas to conduct a KEHS evaluation project, starting June 1, 2007.

Are state funded programs required to report data to the state?

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services monitors grantees on a quarterly and yearly basis. Each quarter, programs must submit a report that includes numbers of children, families, and pregnant women served in different program options, as well as the opportunity to identify challenges and technical assistance needs. KEHS programs also submit quarterly outcomes reports on expenditures, as well as services provided and measurements of progress in several key areas, including child development, health of pregnant women, quality of early care setting, and teacher education.

SOURCES

Interviewed

[Mary Weathers](#), EHS/HS Program Manager, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services; May 2007 (updated April 2008)

Online Information

- Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services maintains a website with a [map of locations](#).
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has developed a [profile of KEHS](#) as part of a study and report entitled [Starting Off Right: Promoting Child Development from Birth in State Early Care and Education Initiatives](#).
- CLASP has individual [state profiles](#) analyzing the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data from 2006.

*This profile was written by [Rachel Schumacher](#), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and [Elizabeth DiLauro](#), ZERO TO THREE, as part of the **Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start and Their Families** report.*

To download the full report and view other state profiles, visit

http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/state_ehs.html or <http://www.zerotothree.org/stateEHS>.