

Jim Redmon, the Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, says to look to the Governor's budget language for what to expect from the **Kansas Early Childhood Block Grant** RFP:

Applicants can include:

- Programs that provide research-based child development services for at-risk infants, toddlers and their families, and preschool for three- and four-year-olds.
  - School Districts
  - Child Care Centers
  - Family Child Care homes
  - Early Head Start sites
  - Head Start sites

Grant process driven by:

- Accountability measures
- Research-based programming
- Focus on at-risk children or under-served areas

At least 30% of all block grant funds will be set aside for infant and toddler programs

Match:

"The Children's Cabinet will work to leverage block grant funds to draw down private donations and foundation grants."

Other notes:

- Emphasizing accountability and outcomes
- Maximum early childhood program cohesion and collaboration
- Strong coordination in all programs and agencies

Six state-level organizations are working on a concept for a **Statewide Collaborative Block Grant Application**.

The partners seek to:

- Support the statewide Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan
- Build on the strengths and successes of existing early learning programs

A collaborative application could:

- Strengthen existing Kansas Early Head Start programs and their child care partners through increased per-child funding
- Implement an infant/toddler child care recruitment plan to increase the number and quality of providers
- Expand the Kansas Quality Rating System (KQRS) to measure and improve quality
- Expand KEHS and child care partnerships to serve more children and families in existing KEHS communities as well as targeted Head Start sites without KEHS
- Eliminate the waiting list for Parents As Teachers; increase the match
- Integrate mental health consultation and other social-emotional support services into the early learning system
- Enhance services for pregnant women, particularly teens – Healthy Families America, PAT, child care, KEHS, KAIMH
- Expand the practice of inclusion of all children in all program elements through integrating inclusive practices into the early learning system while strengthening and enhancing the resources of current Part C and Part B early childhood services.
- Include a strong research/evaluation component

“This statewide application could be coordinated with community-based applications which could serve as demonstration sites for innovative approaches to system building.”

Partners include:

- Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) (Mary Baskett, Contact Person)
- Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA)
- Kansas Parents as Teacher Association (KPATA)
- Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL)
- Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)
- Kansas Division of Early Childhood (KDEC)