

RESTORE THE CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES FUND

Our future depends on the health and well-being of our next generation. That's why, more than a decade ago, Kansas legislators made a commitment to our state's future prosperity by establishing the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF).

We dedicated CIF dollars to quality early childhood programs – like Early Head Start, Tiny-K and Parents as Teachers – that are making a difference in the lives of our youngest citizens and in the livelihood of our state.

INVESTING EARLY IS THE KEY

Early intervention is the key to improving outcomes for children. In fact, scientists now know that 90 percent of a child's brain architecture is established before the age of 5 and everything they learn – both as students and as adults – is built upon the strength of that architecture. Recognizing the importance of early intervention for children, the state has invested through the CIF in quality early childhood programs that are making sure more Kansas children have the tools they need to succeed in school and in life.

EARLY INTERVENTION RESULTS IN COST SAVINGS

Investing in early childhood programs optimizes state spending by reaching young children at a time when it is less costly to address educational and health challenges. Research shows that for every dollar we invest in early childhood education, we save the state at least \$7 down the road. Those savings come from such outcomes as fewer criminals in our justice system, fewer adults on public assistance, fewer teen pregnancies and a stronger work force.

RESTORING INVESTMENTS IN KIDS

A shortage of state revenues has led to an informal spending freeze for early childhood programs, resulting in an erosion of services. In fact, CIF spending on Kansas early childhood programs has remained largely unchanged since fiscal year 2007. Faced with the Great Recession and major tax cuts, both contributing to significant reductions in state revenues between 2007 and 2014, lawmakers spared early childhood programs from the worst funding cuts. However, during this time inflation increased consumer costs by 15 percent, resulting in a struggle for early childhood programs to provide the same level of services with flat funding. For the well-being of the next generation, the strength of the future Kansas workforce and the most effective use of state dollars, this trend must not continue.

THE CIF IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

As Kansans, we need to make decisions today that will give our state the best possible chance to thrive in the future. Kansas has made the commitment to invest early, and it's a commitment that is working. We need to restore CIF support for early childhood programs to ensure the strength of our investment in the next generation.

WHAT IS THE CIF?

The Children's Initiatives Fund was created by the Legislature in 1999. Funding for the CIF comes from payments made to the state from the master tobacco settlement. The CIF is administered by the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Programs that receive CIF funding undergo a rigorous evaluation by the Children's Cabinet to ensure that state dollars are being spent effectively.

WHO IS SERVED BY THE CIF?

Approximately 200,000 – roughly one-third of the state's children – were served in Fiscal Year 2014 by programs that rely on CIF dollars. These programs serve children of all ages with the primary focus on children 5 and younger.

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE CIF IN FY 2014

- Children's Cabinet Accountability Fund
- Child Care Assistance
- Child Care Quality Initiative
- Children's Mental Health Waiver
- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Early Childhood Block Grant – Autism Diagnosis
- Family Preservation Healthy Start/Home Visitor
- Infants and Toddlers Program (Tiny-K)
- Judge Riddel Boys Ranch
- Kansas Early Head Start
- Kansas Preschool Program
- Kansas Reading Initiative (Lexia)
- KIDS Network Grant
- Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Smoking Prevention Grants



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