

FY 2028

AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST

Office of Early Childhood
915 SW Harrison St. Suite 320
Topeka, KS, 66612

Kansas
Office of Early Childhood

koec.ks.gov

Christi Smith, Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

September 15, 2026

Mr. Adam Proffitt, Director
Division of the Budget 900 SW Jackson, Suite 504-N
Landon State Office Building Topeka,
KS 66612

Dear Director Proffitt,

I hereby submit for your consideration the Fiscal Year 2028 budget document for the Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC). The budget has been prepared in accordance with the instructions transmitted in your budget instructions of July 2026. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information and explanation included in this budget request are correct and complete.

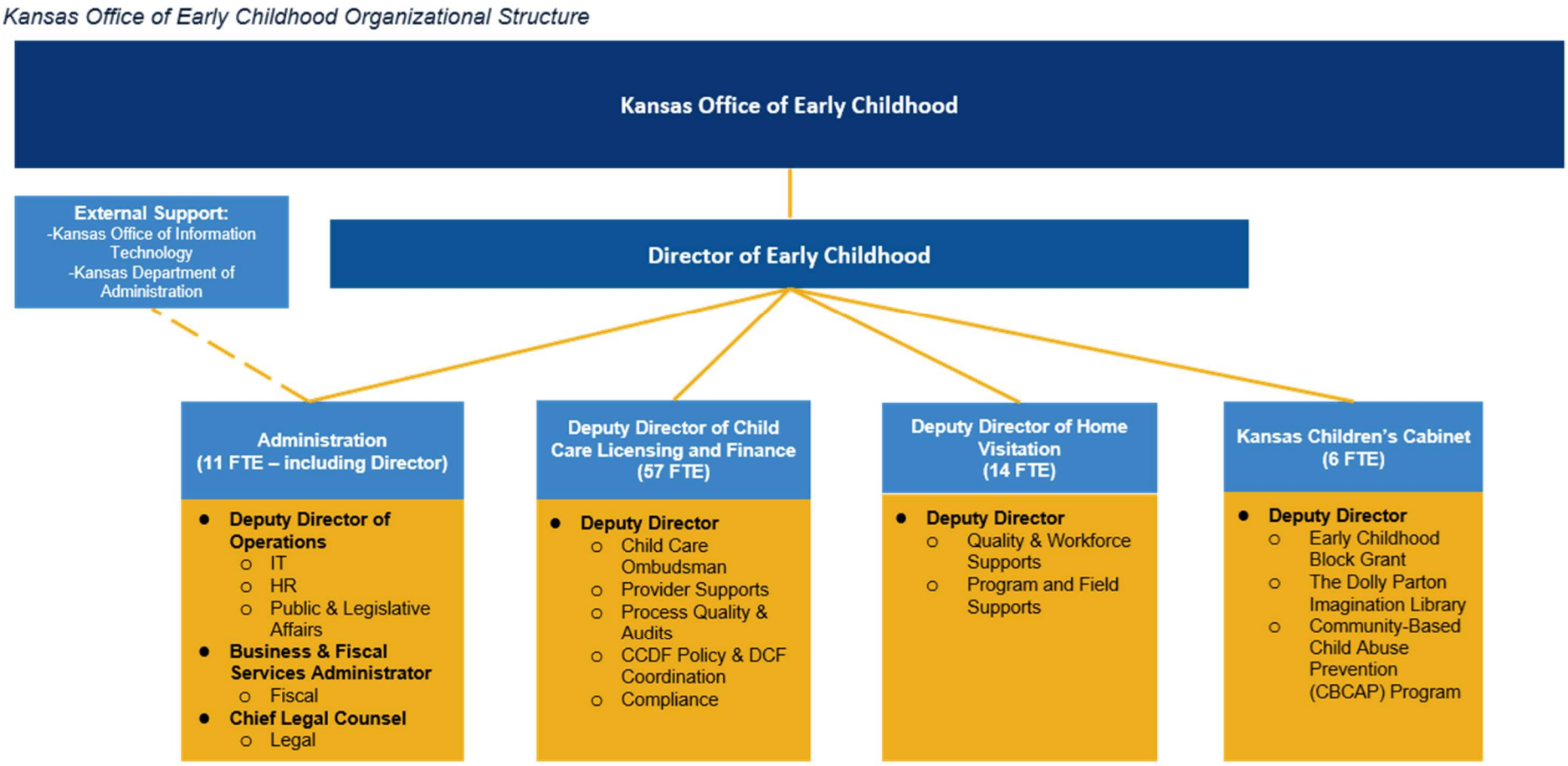
At this time, KOEC is not requesting any supplementals for FY 2027, but is requesting an enhancement for FY 2028 to ensure Children's Initiative Fund supported-programs remain at current funding levels in light of projected declines in the tobacco settlement. As this is KOEC's first budget process, my staff and I are eager to work together on next steps and necessary revisions, and are prepared to provide any additional information which you may require. KOEC is excited to be strong stewards of all of the public funding coming together to support early childhood in the state and looks forward to a collaborative process as Kansas prepares the budget for the next state fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Christi Smith

Christi Smith
Director

Kansas Office of Early Childhood Organizational Structure



KOEC PURPOSE:

The Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC) exists to strengthen early childhood systems by improving efficiency, transparency, and safety in state programs, funding, and policy implementation.

KOEC MISSION:

Our mission is to strengthen Kansas's early childhood system by connecting programs and services that help children succeed, families thrive, and communities prosper.

KOEC VISION:

Kansas envisions an early childhood system in which:

- **Every child** is supported and equipped with the foundations necessary for lifelong success.
- **Families** have access to early childhood programs and services through a coordinated, easy-to-navigate system that reduces fragmentation & administrative burden.
- **Providers** across a mixed-delivery system are supported, well-prepared, and have the resources necessary to deliver high-quality experiences for children.
- **Businesses and communities** are strengthened through a coordinated approach that supports workforce participation and enables families to thrive.

KOEC PRIORITIES:

KOEC was established to bring together early childhood responsibilities previously administered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), and the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF). By consolidating programs, staff, and funding, KOEC is building a more unified, transparent, and accountable early childhood system.

During this period of transition and integration, KOEC's priorities are to:

- Preserve continuity of services for children, families, providers, and community partners.
- Simplify access to programs and reduce administrative barriers by aligning policies, applications, eligibility processes, and provider requirements.
- Strengthen coordination across child care assistance (subsidy), licensing, provider enrollment, home visiting, early childhood workforce and quality supports, Head Start Collaboration, and early childhood grant programs.

- Support child care providers through clear expectations, consistent regulatory practices, responsive technical assistance, and streamlined interactions with the state.
- Maintain strong health, safety, and program-integrity protections while reviewing requirements and processes that may create unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Strengthen the early childhood workforce and expand families' access to high-quality early care and education in all Kansas communities.
- Improve the use of data, performance measures, and stakeholder feedback to guide policy, allocate resources, and evaluate results.
- Ensure responsible stewardship of state and federal funding through coordinated budgeting, grant management, fiscal oversight, and compliance.
- Establish a unified organizational culture focused on collaboration, service, continuous improvement, and shared accountability.

Together, these priorities support KOEC's transition from a collection of programs previously housed across multiple entities into an integrated system that is easier for families and providers to navigate and better positioned to improve outcomes for Kansas children.

DIVISIONS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST WITH KOEC MISSION:

KOEC is organized into four divisions that integrate regulatory, programmatic, fiscal, and administrative responsibilities. Although each division has distinct functions, they work collectively to improve coordination, simplify access, support providers, and strengthen outcomes for Kansas children and families.

- **Child Care Licensure and Finance** – This division promotes safe, accessible, and financially accountable child care across Kansas by aligning regulatory oversight, provider enrollment, child care assistance policy, and program-integrity functions. Responsibilities include licensing and monitoring approximately 4,000 child care facilities; enrolling child care assistance providers; protecting program integrity; and coordinating child care assistance policy and operations with DCF.

- **Home Visitation and Quality Initiatives** – This division provides unified leadership for programs and investments that strengthen families, support the early childhood workforce, and improve the quality of early childhood services. Responsibilities include statewide home visiting programs, Head Start Collaboration, early childhood workforce development, technical assistance, child care consumer education, and quality initiatives such as Links to Quality and the statewide Career and Professional Empowerment Portal (CAPE).

- **Kansas Children's Cabinet** – This division supports coordination across agencies and sectors to improve services and outcomes for Kansas children and families. It supports the Kansas Children's Cabinet Board in advising the Governor and Legislature on the use of the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF) and administers programs including the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL), and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP).
- **Administration** – This division provides leadership and operational infrastructure necessary for KOEC to fulfill its mission and maintain responsible stewardship of public resources. Functions include agency leadership, finance, operations, legal services, communications and legislative affairs, human resources, and information technology.

STATUTORY HISTORY:

KOEC was established by 2025 Kansas Laws Chapter 118 (HB 2045), effective July 1, 2025, and became fully operational on July 1, 2026. Codified at K.S.A. 75-7701 *et seq*. the legislation consolidated nearly 20 early childhood programs, associated staff, and funding previously administered across multiple state agencies into KOEC and established the Office as the central state agency responsible for administering and coordinating Kansas early childhood programs and services.

KOEC's statutory responsibilities include the authorities associated with the programs transferred to the Office. Principal statutes include:

- K.S.A. 39-709, establishing eligibility requirements applicable to the Child Care Assistance Program;
- K.S.A. 75-7701 through 75-7706, establishing KOEC and defining its leadership, responsibilities, and functions;
- K.S.A. 75-7707 through 75-7728, governing child care licensure, inspections, fees, background checks, and related enforcement;
- K.S.A. 65-537 through 65-544, establishing additional child care requirements and authorities administered by KOEC; and
- K.S.A. 38-1901 and 38-2101 through 38-2105, governing the Kansas Children's Cabinet, the Children's Initiatives Fund, and the Kansas Endowment for Youth Fund.

In addition to its responsibilities under state law, KOEC administers significant federal funding and must comply with the applicable federal statutes, regulations, grant conditions, monitoring requirements, and reporting requirements. Federal and other non-State General Fund sources represent approximately 86% of KOEC's FY 2027 budget. Major federal programs administered or coordinated by the Office include the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV); Head Start Collaboration Grant; Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

program (CBCAP); and Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5). KOEC is also subject to federal grant monitoring and the Single Audit requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.

FY 2028 Revenue Estimates:

KOEC's budget is supported by a combination of State General Fund (SGF), Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF), and federal funding and other special revenue funds. Federal funds and other funds represent the largest share of KOEC's budget, accounting for approximately 74% of the agency's requested FY 2028 base budget.

Federal Funds

KOEC administers and coordinates several federal early childhood funding streams. As the state's lead agency for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), KOEC is responsible for CCDF policy and provider enrollment. The Office also administers the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, coordinates Head Start and supports federally funded child abuse prevention and early childhood system-building initiatives.

3028-3028 — Child Care/Development Block Grant
Federal authority is the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9858 *et seq.* Assistance Listing Number 93.575. This fund supports activities authorized through the federal Child Care and Development Fund, including child care assistance and quality initiatives. KOEC is responsible for program policy and compliance including child care subsidy, while the Kansas Department for Children and Families continues to administer child care subsidy enrollment, eligibility, and payments. Kansas' annual Discretionary CCDF award is $77,955,475.

3113-3113 — ESSA Student Support Enrichment Fund
Federal authority is Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants, designed to improve student academic achievement by expanding state and local capacity. Assistance Listing 84.424. This fund enables KOEC to receive funds from KSDE to contribute to the 1800 CHILDREN agreement. Revenue is estimated at $25,000 for FY 2028.

3318-3318 — Child Care/Development Mandatory
Federal authority is the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9858 *et seq*. Assistance Listing Number 93.596. This account represents the mandatory federal Child Care and Development Fund dollars. Kansas' annual CCDF Mandatory funds are $10,634,989.

3318-3320 — CCDF Matching Funds
Federal authority is the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9858 *et seq*. Assistance Listing Number 93.596. This account represents the federal matching component of CCDF. Kansas'

annual Federal Matching CCDF funds are $20,317,348.

3307-3307 — Social Services Block Grant
Federal authority is Title XX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1397 *et seq*. Assistance Listing Number 93.667. Federal Social Services Block Grant funds support direct services via the Child Care Assistance program within the Child Care Licensing and Finance Division. Revenue is estimated at $188,877 in FY 2027, and $188,877 for FY 2028.

3323-3323 — Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Federal authority is Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 *et seq*. Assistance Listing Number 93.558. Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds support activities within the Home Visiting and Quality Initiatives Division, including the Healthy Families America and Kansas Early Head Start grant program. Revenue is estimated at $8,101,331 in FY 2027, and $8,101,331 for FY 2028.

3379-3379 — Head Start
Federal authority is the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9831 *et seq*. Assistance Listing Number 93.600. Federal Head Start funding supports KOEC's Head Start and Early Head Start-related activities. The Head Start Collaboration Office coordinates with federally funded, locally operated Head Start programs, and KOEC also supports Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership activities. Revenue is estimated at $100,428 in FY 2027, and $111,293 for FY 2028.

3503-3503 — Home Visiting Program
Federal authority is Title V, Section 511 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 711 (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, MIECHV). Assistance Listing Number 93.870. MIECHV funds evidence-based home visiting in communities identified as at-risk. Revenue is estimated at $5,769,179 in FY 2027, and $6,326,650 for FY 2028.

3319-3319 — Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
Federal authority is the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), 42 U.S.C. § 5116 *et seq*. CBCAP funds primary and secondary prevention services for families at risk of entering the child welfare system. Revenue is estimated at $1,288,340 in FY 2027, and $1,261,219 for FY 2028.

3592-3592 — Education Research Grants & Projects
Authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), from Public Law 114-95, this fund supports the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (ALN 93.434). Funds strengthen Kansas's early childhood system by improving coordination and access to high-quality services for children birth through age five. Estimated revenues are $1,362,088 in FY 2027 and $1,339,097 in FY 2028.

3616-3616 — Maternal/Child Health Services Block Grant FDF
Federal authority is Title V of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 701 et seq. Assistance Listing Number 93.994. This fund enables KOEC to receive funds from KDHE to contribute to the 1800 CHILDREN agreement. Revenue is estimated at $125,000 in FY 2027, and $75,000 for FY 2028.

3761-3761 — ARPA Capital Projects
This fund contains federal American Rescue Plan Act funding associated with capital projects. Revenue is estimated at $7,278,860 in FY 2027, and no revenue is estimated for FY 2028. Grant project ends in FY 2027.

Other Funds

2313-2313 — Child Care Background & Fingerprint Fund
This account draws its authority from K.S.A. 75-7719, which grants KOEC the authority to collect a fee for the fingerprinting of individuals residing, working, or regularly volunteering in a child care facility, in accordance with the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) Reauthorization of 2014. Fees collected are deposited in their entirety to this fund and passed through to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) for fingerprint processing. Fingerprints are federally required to be renewed every five years, with calendar year 2024 marking the first renewal cycle. The fee schedule is determined based on the rates set by the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI).

2731-2731 — Child Care Fee Fund (Lexie's Law Fee Fund)
This fund was established pursuant to Senate Substitute for HB 2356, effective July 1, 2010 (Lexie's Law). Expenditures from the fund support implementation of the Child Care Act. This is the account where licensing fees are deposited. HB 2045 (2025) eliminated licensing fees, however, Kansas is spending down this balance. Additionally, late fees and fees from Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies are collected and deposited into this fund as outlined in K.S.A. 75-7710.

2349-2349 — Education and Training Workshop Fee Fund
This fund holds revenue from the Parents as Teachers conference. The current fund balance is $10,720.37.

2347-2347 — Federal Indirect Cost Reimbursement Fund
This fund is the Agency's indirect cost fund. Revenue is generated by charging indirect costs to federal programs that benefit from support of the administrative division within the agency. KOEC's indirect cost rate for SFY 2027 is the de minimus rate of 15 percent.

2350-2350 — PAT Revenue Share
The fund is used to account for revenue received from the Parents as Teachers national organization, which is used to help administer the program. Revenue is estimated at $20,634 in FY 2027, and $30,930 for FY 2028.

2350-2351 — Service Clearing Fund
This fund enables KOEC to receive funds from DCF to contribute to the 1800 CHILDREN agreement. Revenue is estimated at $137,500 in FY 2027, and $137,500 for FY 2028.

7000-7001 — Child Cabinet Admin

This account is the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund, which draws its authority from K.S.A. 38-2101. The funds are primarily used for salary and wages as well as other operational functions. Revenue is estimated at $291,509 in FY 2027 and $291,509 for FY 2028.

Children's Initiatives Fund:

The Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF) is financed through transfers from the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund, which receives the State of Kansas's payments under the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The amount Kansas receives varies annually and is not guaranteed at a fixed level. K.S.A. 38-2102 establishes the statutory framework for transfers from the KEY Fund to CIF and authorizes the Legislature to adjust those transfers through appropriation acts based on settlement receipts, investment performance, and other fiscal considerations.

The MSA formula is calculated on national sales of cigarettes. Initiatives like federal and state adoption of the Tobacco 21 Initiative, the rise in use of nicotine products not covered by the MSA (e-cigarettes and other vaping products) have reduced the sale of covered products over time.

In April 2026, Kansas received an annual MSA payment of approximately $44.7 million, the lowest annuity payment since 2017. This compares with approximately $47.4 million received in 2025 and a high of approximately $61.3 million in 2022. Over the agreement's approximately 25-year history, Kansas's annual payments have averaged approximately $53 million. In their April 2026 meeting, the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group provided an FY 2027 estimate of $41.5 million.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet – the body statutorily authorized via K.S.A. 38-2103 to advise on the use of CIF moneys – has historically developed and approved its CIF funding recommendations before the agency budget process begins. This sequencing allows the Cabinet's recommendations to serve as the basis for preparing the CIF portion of the agency's budget request. Following this established practice, the Cabinet approved FY 2028 recommendations totaling $39,922,808.

After the Cabinet completed its review and approved its recommendations, the Division of the Budget advised KOEC that projected CIF resources would support an FY 2028 allocation of $41,736,659. This amount is $1,813,851, or approximately 4.5%, above the Cabinet-approved recommendation based on the previous funding level.

To submit a balanced budget without administratively distributing the reduction across programs before the Children's Cabinet had an opportunity to consider the funding shortfall, KOEC reflected the full $1,813,851 adjustment within the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG). This reduced the amount shown for ECBG from $23,720,493 to $21,911,248, or by approximately 8.3%. Placement of the adjustment within ECBG was a budget-development mechanism and does not represent a final recommendation regarding how the reduction should be allocated among CIF-supported programs. The Cabinet will have an opportunity to review the revised funding level, assess potential programmatic effects, and recommend how available CIF resources should be distributed.

Separate from KOEC's CIF program recommendations, the FY 2027 CIF budget includes $5.8 million for the Infants and Toddlers Program administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Although the program is operated by KDHE, it has historically received support from CIF. Projected CIF resources are not sufficient to continue this allocation in FY 2028.

In the budget table below, there are some key considerations:

- Items marked with a **dash** were discontinued in prior budget cycles and simply show up here due to the fiscal years being depicted.
- ^* CIF funding for these programs has served or will serve as full or partial share of required federal Match funding and required federal Maintenance of Effort funding.
- ***The Infants and Toddlers Program is administered by KDHE and has historically received CIF support. CIF funding is insufficient to cover this program expense in FY2028 and alternative funding should be identified.

Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) Budget

CIF Funded Programs	SFY 2027 Approved	SFY 2028 Children's Cabinet Approved Recommendation	SFY 2028 Division of Budget Expenditure Allocation
^*Child Care Services	$5,033,679	$5,033,679	$5,033,679
Healthy Start/Home Visitor	$1,666,409	$1,665,246	$1,665,246
Children's Cabinet Accountability Fund	$375,000	$375,000	$375,000
CIF Grants (ECBG)	$24,023,936	$23,725,099	$23,725,099
Parent Education (PAT)	$9,487,635	$9,437,635	$9,437,635
Imagination Library (DPIL)	$1,771,777	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Total - KOEC	**$42,358,436**	**$41,736,659**	**$41,736,659**
**Infants & Toddlers Program (program through KDHE)	**$5,800,000**	**-**	**-**
Division of Budget Base Adjustments			**$1,813,851**
Total	**$48,158,436**	**$41,736,659**	**$39,922,808**

2000-2105 — CIF Healthy Start: Universal Home Visiting Program (UHV)

This account draws its statutory authority from K.S.A. 38-2102, which establishes the Children's Initiatives Fund and requires appropriated moneys to support programs and services directly or indirectly beneficial to the health, welfare, safety, and well-being of Kansas children. CIF funding supports home visiting and related services for children and families with a focus on prenatal care and follow up visits in the home. UHV is a brief in-home prevention service available to all pregnant women and families with infants up to 1 year old. Revenue is estimated at $1,665,246 for FY 2028.

2000-2402 — Children's Cabinet Accountability Fund
This fund is the children's initiatives accountability fund established under K.S.A. 38-2103(e) and (f). It funds the Kansas Children's Cabinet's statutorily required reviews, assessments, and evaluations of CIF spending. Revenue is estimated at $375,000 for FY 2028.

2000-2406 — CIF Child Care
This account draws its statutory authority from K.S.A. 38-2102, which establishes the CIF and requires appropriated moneys to support programs and services directly or indirectly beneficial to the health, welfare, safety, and well-being of Kansas children. CIF funds are used to support child care programming within KOEC and towards Kansas' state match and maintenance of effort for CCDF. Revenue is estimated at $5,033,679 for FY 2028.

2000-2408 — CIF Grants (Early Childhood Block Grant)
This account draws its statutory authority from K.S.A. 38-2102, which establishes the CIF and requires appropriated moneys to support programs and services directly or indirectly beneficial to the health, welfare, safety, and well-being of Kansas children. This account supports grant activities administered through the Kansas Children's Cabinet. The Cabinet guides the strategic use of CIF investments and administers grant programs intended to improve outcomes for children and families. Revenue is estimated at **$**23,725,099 for FY 2028.

2000-2510 — CIF Parent Education Program
This account draws its statutory authority from K.S.A. 38-2102, which establishes the CIF and requires appropriated moneys to support programs and services directly or indirectly beneficial to the health, welfare, safety, and well-being of Kansas children. This funding supports the Parent Education Program, including Parents as Teachers. Parents as Teachers provides home visiting and family support from the prenatal period through kindergarten entry, including materials related to parenting skills, positive approaches to discipline, and development of self-esteem. Revenue is estimated at $9,437,635 for FY 2028.

2000-2560 — CIF Imagination Library
This account draws its statutory authority from K.S.A. 38-2102, which establishes the CIF and requires appropriated moneys to support programs and services directly or indirectly beneficial to the health, welfare, safety, and well-being of Kansas children. CIF funding supports the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Kansas, a statewide program that provides participating children with one free, age-appropriate book each month through age five. Revenue is estimated at $1,500,000 for FY 2028.

AGENCY-WIDE EARLY PRIORITIES:

In its first year, KOEC is building a unified agency while overseeing core services that affect families seeking care, child care providers and youth development professionals, local communities, and state and federal partners across Kansas. Early progress to date through the transition period and the agency's first few months, show the promise of KOEC's future for Kansas and the Office's ability to fulfill its legislative mandate. With continued focus on and support in building strong administrative and operational foundations, recognizing opportunities that this new historic systemwide visibility provides, and dedicated leadership, KOEC seeks to meaningfully change the experience for families, children, providers, businesses, and communities in Kansas.

KOEC has defined the following priorities for its first year of operation, consistent with the recommendations in its January 2026 Annual Report, in order to ensure it delivers on its statutory purpose of streamlining and strengthening the state's early childhood system:

- **Maximize resources** by identifying opportunities to align all public dollars towards Office priorities and reduce fragmentation while maintaining legislative intent and adhering to federal requirements.
- **Organize efficiently** by structuring teams around core system functions rather than by isolated programs or funding streams.
- **Unify field-facing systems** by developing and implementing a strong programmatic strategic plan to unify field-facing systems and improve service delivery, including review of rules, regulations, and operational processes.
- **Communicate efficiently** by building effective, efficient, and consistent ways to communicate with stakeholders, leveraging its position as a centralizing entity, and streamlining existing communication channels.
- **Collaborate purposefully** with other agencies to support the entire early childhood ecosystem.

To work towards these first year priorities, KOEC is focused on:

- **Strengthening the agency and completing the transition** – building a reliable operating foundation and ensuring staff have the essential tools and resources needed to succeed.
- **Protecting continuity and advancing program delivery** – meeting federal and state requirements, continuing services, implementing practical improvements**.**

- **Building one coordinated early childhood strategy** – examining how our work fits across child care, home visiting, quality initiatives, family supports, workforce development, KCCTF investments, and All In For Kansas Kids (AIFKK) systems building efforts.
- **Building a healthy, accountable organization** – establishing clearer decision-making practices, leadership routines, internal communications, opportunities for staff development.

AGENCY-WIDE BUDGET OVERVIEW:

KOEC oversees a consolidated early childhood budget almost entirely reflecting existing state and federal investments previously administered across multiple agencies.

Current Year 2027:

For FY 2027, KOEC's budget (passed in 2025 Kansas Laws Chapter 150 (HB 2513) totals $118,847,869 across all funding sources, primarily to support direct services and program operations. This includes $16,925,835 from the State General Fund (14.2%), $42,358,436 from the Children's Initiatives Fund (35.6%), $291,509 from the Kansas Endowment for Youth Fund (less than 1%), and $59,272,089 in federal funds and other special revenue funds (50%). By division, Child Care Licensure and Finance currently accounts for 38% of the total budget, the Children's Cabinet for 31%, Home Visiting and Quality Initiatives for 28%, and Administration for 3%. Approximately 73% of total expenditures fall under Other Assistance, reflecting direct child care and home visiting services delivered to families.

Supplemental Packages:

No supplemental packages are requested for SFY 2027.

Budget Year 2028:

KOEC's FY 2028 budget request is designed to maintain core program operations while continuing to build the administrative and operational capacity needed to support the agency's responsibilities. The SFY 2028 base budget includes anticipated fluctuations in funding sources and expenditures and does not represent an expansion beyond the FY 2027 budget as appropriated by the legislature.

Description	**SFY 2027 Budget**	**SFY 2028 Budget**
Salaries and Wages	$6,563,682	$7,268,434
Shrinkage	-	-
Contractual Services	$8,917,460	$9,128,118
Commodities	$104,402	$128,946
Capital Outlay	$36,258	$28,758
Aid to Locals	$15,714,320	$51,257,900
Other Assistance	$86,977,566	$156,377,389
Non-Expense Items	$534,181	$7,273,553
Total Expenditures	$118,847,869	$231,463,098

** Because of the fluidity of the agency and the possible movement of FTE between teams, this information on expenditures is currently being provided by KOEC at the agency-wide level. In the future, the agency will provide additional breakdowns by Division.*

The largest shifts between the SFY 2027 and SFY 2028 expenditure breakdowns—particularly within the Commodities, Aid to Locals, and Other Assistance categories—reflect the reclassification of funds between expenditure categories, rather than material changes in how the dollars are being and planned to be spent. In addition to the reduction of CIF.

Description	**SFY 2027 Budget**	**SFY 2028 Budget**
State General Fund	$16,925,835	$16,836,731
Children's Initiative Fund	$42,358,436	$41,736,659
Kansas Endowment for Youth Fund	$291,509	$291,509
All Other Funds (federal and special revenue funds)	$59,272,089	$172,598,199
Total Funds	$118,847,869	$231,463,098

There are two primary factors driving the estimated decline in total funding from FY 2027 to KOEC's FY 2028 base budget:

- **Expiration of time-limited federal and grant funding:** FY 2027 is the final year of funding for several time-limited sources, including the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal (PDG B–5 Renewal), ARPA Capital Projects Fund (ARPA-CPF), and KANLINK.
- **Projected decline in Tobacco Master Settlement revenue:** Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement receipts, which finance the KEY Fund and ultimately support CIF appropriations, are projected to remain below recent historical levels. In August 2026, the Division of the Budget established an FY 2028 CIF allocation of $41.7 million—$1.8 million below the Children's Cabinet's approved recommendations. There is an immediate funding gap that raises a longer-term sustainability concern for early childhood programs that have historically relied on CIF. KOEC will work with the Children's Cabinet and the Administration to evaluate program impacts, establish funding priorities, and identify options for aligning program commitments with available resources.

Enhancement Packages:

CIF / Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Enhancement

KOEC requests a $1,813,851 enhancement to increase CIF Grant / Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding from $21,911,248 to $23,725,099, restoring FY 2028 funding to the FY 2027 level as recommended by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board. The reduction from the FY 2027 funding level reflects the projected decline in Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement revenue available to the Children's Initiatives Fund, rather than a decrease in demand for or the effectiveness of ECBG services.

ECBG funds are competitively awarded to school districts, child care centers, Head Start programs, and community-based organizations providing preschool and evidence-based child development services. Grants support child care, home visiting, IDEA Part C early intervention, behavioral health services, developmental screening, parent education, and case management. Local grantees tailor services to identified community needs, with particular emphasis on children and families in underserved rural and frontier areas.

In FY 2025, ECBG-funded programs served 8,282 children, 7,154 parents and caregivers, and 2,561 early childhood professionals. Grantees participate in the Common Measures Initiative, a rigorous annual evaluation conducted by the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation at Wichita State University. Recent findings demonstrate measurable outcomes:

- 88% of participating parents engaged in positive parenting practices—the highest rate in 10 years.
- 81% of evaluated classrooms were rated high quality—the highest rate in 10 years.
- The percentage of 3-year-olds on track in early literacy increased from 48% in the fall to 70% in the spring.
- The percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds on track in early numeracy increased from 63% in the fall to 78% in the spring.

Restoring FY 2028 funding to $23,725,099 would maintain the state's FY 2027 investment level and preserve access to proven early childhood services. Without the enhancement, programs may need to reduce service capacity, limit geographic coverage, or serve fewer children and families despite continued need. The requested funding will sustain evidence-based services, particularly in underserved communities, and support continued accountability through shared performance measures and annual evaluation. In restoring this funding to FY 2027, the state would also need to accept KDHE's enhancement request to fund the Infants and Toddlers program (previously CIF-funded) through the SGF. This would ensure CIF funds are available for children's programs as recommended by the Children's Cabinet.

ACTUAL POSITION DATA:

KOEC has 88 FTE across its four divisions and the Director's Office.

Organizational Unit	FTE Positions	Non-FTE Unclassified Permanent Positions
Administration, including Director	11.0	0
Child Care Licensure & Finance	57.0	0
Home Visiting & Quality	14.0	0
Kansas Children's Cabinet	6.0	0
Total Positions	**88.0**	**0**

** This summary (and those reflected in the Division narratives below) represent the allocation across various organizational units as of September 15, 2026. KOEC is still working to determine the best distribution of FTEs across divisions in order to most efficiently and effectively fulfill its legislative charge.*

AGENCY PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

As a newly established agency, KOEC is evaluating its performance measures to ensure alignment with the Office's legislative mandate, goals, and strategic priorities. In the interim, KOEC will continue to reference relevant performance measures from the programs and functions transferred to the Office, as reflected in the Division narratives below. These measures will evolve as KOEC establishes its strategic direction, identifies priority areas for improvement, and determines the measures that best demonstrate the Office's impact, value, and fiscal stewardship for Kansas children, families, providers, and communities. KOEC will work to develop measures that reflect the value of a unified early childhood agency, including improvements in coordination, efficiency, transparency, accountability, and the experience of those interacting with the state's early childhood system.

CHILD CARE LICENSURE AND FINANCE DIVISION - PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Division Overview
The Child Care Licensure and Finance Division is a comprehensive state framework that protects children and promotes responsible stewardship of public funds through child care licensing and the administration of provider-side child care assistance functions. The division establishes and monitors health and safety requirements, enrolls providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program, maintains program policy, and safeguards program integrity.

Child Care Licensure (Program Area)
Child Care Licensing establishes and enforces health, safety, and operational standards for approximately 4,000 child care facilities and child care resource and referral agencies. Responsibilities include processing applications, completing required background checks, issuing permits and licenses, conducting inspections and complaint investigations, and taking corrective or enforcement action when necessary. Licensing activities are carried out by state staff and through contracts with local health departments. The program also provides training and technical assistance to providers and local licensing staff to support consistent application of requirements. KOEC currently has 17 local health departments under contract with 47 licensing specialists supporting this work in addition to the nine KOEC-employed licensing specialists and four district specialists.

Child Care Provider Enrollment (Program Area)
The Kansas Child Care Assistance Program helps eligible families cover a portion of their child care costs, supporting parents and caregivers who are working, seeking employment, or participating in approved education and training. The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) processes family applications and determines eligibility, while the KOEC Child Care Provider Enrollment team processes applications and agreements for participating providers, verifies program requirements, and supports providers serving eligible families.

Child Care Provider Integrity and Education (Program Area)
The Child Care Provider Integrity and Education team safeguards public funds and promotes compliance with Child Care Assistance Program requirements. The team educates participating providers, monitors program activity, and identifies and addresses potential fraud, improper payments, and program violations. This work strengthens financial accountability while providing clear guidance and support to providers.

Child Care Eligibility Policy and CCDF Oversight (Program Area)
The Child Care Eligibility Policy team develops, maintains, and updates policies governing eligibility for the Kansas Child Care Assistance Program. Assistance is provided for children up to age 13. Child care is provided by centers, licensed providers, registered providers, relatives, and persons in the child's home.

The amount of assistance provided varies by location, family income and size, the number of children in care, the type of child care setting, and hours of care. The team ensures alignment with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requirements and state law, works to strategically leverage CCDF funds to meet state priorities, and provides guidance that supports consistent program administration and access for eligible families.

FY 2026 Achievements

Although KOEC began operations on July 1, 2026, the programs and functions now administered by KOEC operated within legacy state agencies throughout FY 2026. The accomplishments below highlight significant work completed by those programs before their transfer to KOEC and provide a foundation for the Office's continued work.

- The Child Care Licensing program promulgated 46 regulations impacting Out of School Time programs. The overhaul of the regulations focused on reducing barriers, increasing child care slots, and ensuring Kansas maintains compliance with federal requirements. Engagement sessions were inclusive to providers statewide including child care consumers. Regulations were effective September 4, 2026.
- The program ended the fiscal year with an average of 7 days to process and receive results for background checks. Additionally, the program maintained an average of 2 days to begin processing applications as well as an average of 32 days to license commercial facilities.
- The program also hosted several roundtable events throughout the state to find out what was working well in communities as well as areas the state could assist in finding solutions to regarding early childhood.

OBJECTIVE #1:

Promote and assure safe, healthy, and accessible care for children in licensed child care facilities pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7709.

Strategies for Objective #1:

1. Provide infrastructure support at state and local levels to ensure timely and efficient processing of applications and issuance of licenses.
2. Provide public information at the local level regarding the licensure process and regulatory program.
3. Partner with other state agencies, provider organizations, and child care resource and referral agencies to gather data and facilitate the availability of quality child care.
4. Develop and implement a web-based system that supports access to child care data and submission of online applications.

Performance Measures for Objective #1:

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of licensed child care facilities and referral agencies	4,500	3,939	4,000	4,000
# of licensed facility child care slots*	144,000	141,528	142,000	142,000

**child care slots includes all licensed child care categories: As of FY 2026 – Child Care Center (56,912); Family Child Care (32,292); Head Start Child Care Center (1,831); Building based school age programs (33,340); Outdoor Summer Camp School Age Program (1,906); Youth Development Program (12,969).*

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
Average # of initial applications processed monthly	37	32	40	40
Average # of online applications processed monthly (renewal and initial)	300	327	350	350

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% of applications received online (renewal and initial)	79.0	81.0	85.0	85.0
Average # of permits, licenses issued monthly	420	370	350	350

OBJECTIVE #2:

Reduce predictable health and safety risks to children receiving care away from their parents (out-of-home care).

Strategies for Objective #2:

1. Provide in-service training to child care providers on topics related to compliance and to healthy, safe, and developmentally appropriate care.
2. Coordinate with child care provider associations, the regulated community at large, consumers of child care services, and others to review appropriateness of regulations and regulatory practice.
3. Conduct timely and effective licensing inspections and complaint investigations.
4. Secure adequate funding and resources to provide infrastructure support at state and local levels to ensure timely and effective inspections.

Performance Measures for Objective #2:

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of facilities with a prohibited person no longer in child care (K.S.A.75-7719 defines prohibited as persons with validated child abuse/neglect or certain criminal activity)	150	46	50	50
% of child care inspections conducted within 90 days (does not include complaints)	90.0	97.0	95.0	97.0
% of facilities demonstrating substantial compliance during licensing inspections	82.0	82.25	80.0	80.0

OBJECTIVE #3:

Provide consumer protection for children and families and increase public awareness regarding quality child care.

Strategies for Objective #3:

1. Provide information to parents who are seeking child care on what to look for when choosing a child care provider and how to utilize the web-based portal to review a licensed provider's compliance history.
2. Partner with other state agencies, provider organizations, child care resource and referral agencies, and private child placing agencies to promote available and quality child care and foster care.
3. Continue to direct families and the public to the web-based portal which allows anonymous anytime access to compliance history and licensing information for individual facilities/owners. Continue to enhance the system as necessary based on public needs and feedback.

Performance Measures for Objective #3:

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
Average # of parents referred quarterly to resource and referral agencies to obtain child care information	155	184	200	200

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION:

Account Code 51000 – 51990: Salaries and Wages

The Division of Child Care Licensure and Finance requests funding for 57.0 FTE. These positions support statewide child care licensing, provider enrollment, background checks, and related program-integrity functions. These positions ensure timely application processing, consistent regulatory oversight, compliance with state and federal requirements, and responsive support for child care providers.

FY 2027: Salaries and wages, including approved salary increases, are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

FY 2028: Staffing continues at the same level as FY27. Salaries and wages are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

Account Code 52000 – 52990: Contractual Services

Due to extensive travel by Child Care Licensing Program staff travel is a major expenditure for this category. State printer charges for the Child Care Licensing Program are substantial due to the extensive regulatory and educational materials printed for the local health departments that aid the agency in this program and for the child care providers regulated by the agency. The division also employs two high level contractors who assist with large scale projects and the development of technical documents and training materials for staff and providers.

Account Code 53000 – 53999: Commodities

Travel is a significant expenditure for the Child Care Licensing Program because staff are regularly traveling through the state. Major costs in this category include motor vehicle parts and supplies and gasoline purchased for all vehicles, both owned and rented, that are used by the program staff in performing their essential functions. This also includes costs for purchasing office equipment such as printers and scanners for staff moving out of district offices.

Account Code 54000: Capital Outlay

This request provides for the replacement of computer-related items, such as monitors, keyboards, sound bars, to accommodate state and local staff needs.

Account Code 55500: Other Assistance

This request provides for Aid to Local funding to local health departments under contract with KOEC to provide inspections services. These contractors help meet the requirements tied to the Child Care Development Block Grant. This section also includes all funds tied to child care assistance (subsidy), where eligible families receive funding to offset the cost of child care.

HOME VISITATION & QUALITY INITIATIVES DIVISION PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Division Overview

The Home Visitation and Quality Initiatives Division provides unified leadership for programs that strengthen families, support the early childhood workforce, and improve the quality of services across Kansas. The division administers Maternal and Child Health Universal Home Visiting and coordinates home visiting programs, including Kansas Early Head Start–Home Visitation, Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers, and services supported through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. These voluntary programs connect trained home visitors with pregnant women and families with young children to support maternal and child health, child development, school readiness, and family well-being.

The Division also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office and Kansas Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership and oversees technical assistance networks, early childhood workforce and program supports, child care consumer education, child care resource and referral services, and the Links to Quality initiative. The division also oversees Cape, Kansas' Career and Professional Empowerment (CAPE) Portal and workforce registry, which connects early childhood professionals to training, resources, and career-planning tools and maintains their professional development records. Federal and state funding, including MIECHV, CCDF, TANF, and the Children's Initiatives Fund, supports these activities.

These services share a common purpose: strengthening families and the early childhood professionals and programs that support them. Their coordination allows family needs, workforce development, technical assistance, and quality improvement efforts to inform one another while strengthening accountability and access to services statewide.

Universal Home Visiting (Program Area)

Universal Home Visiting (UHV) is a voluntary, no-cost prevention service available to pregnant women and families with infants through age one, regardless of income. There are 29 grantees serving 39 counties and serving as a front door to community services. Families receive two to four home visits focused on maternal and infant health, child development, and family strengths and needs. Home visitors provide individualized education and support, promote access to services before, during, and after pregnancy, and connect families with appropriate community resources.

Parents as Teachers (Program Area)

Kansas Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based, voluntary home visiting model that supports families from pregnancy through kindergarten entry. Within participating service areas, PAT is available without income or other eligibility requirements. Through individualized visits, group connections, screenings, and connections to community resources, PAT strengthens parenting practices, promotes healthy child development, identifies concerns early, and supports school readiness and family well-being. Approximately 60 local programs serve 70 counties, reaching more than 5,600 families and 7,600 children annually.

Healthy Families America (Program Area)

Healthy Families America (HFA) is an evidence-based home visiting model developed by Prevent Child Abuse America to promote child and family well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect. The program provides free, intensive home-based services to eligible expectant parents and families with children from birth to age three. Home visitors support positive parent-child interactions, child development and developmental screening, parenting skills, referrals, and connections to community resources. In Kansas, 13 HFA programs serve families across 45 counties, providing a significant statewide home visiting presence.

Early Head Start – Home Visiting & Child Care Partnership (Program Area)

KEHS provides comprehensive early childhood and family support services to eligible pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers, including children with disabilities. Services include quality early education, parent education, developmental support, referrals, and connections to community resources. KEHS operates through two models: Home Visiting, funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Child Care Partnerships, funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). Nine Home Visiting programs serve 36 counties, while nine Child Care Partnership programs serve 38 counties by partnering with licensed child care centers and family child care homes that serve families receiving Child Care Assistance. Both models operate under federal Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Quality Initiatives (Program Area)

Quality initiatives are centered on supporting a quality system of professional development opportunities for the workforce. Kansas implements a competency-based framework and an approach intended to guide program design, partnership development, sharing of best practices, and monitoring long-term outcomes related to healthy development, strong families, and early learning. These initiatives support quality improvement across all KOEC programs, including CCDF quality components.

- The Workforce Development program improves the quality and availability of early childhood programs across the state by establishing a coordinated, comprehensive statewide professional development system that recruits, retains, and advances a highly qualified workforce that is prepared to meet the changing needs of young children and families. Investments include needs assessment activities and initiatives specifically designed for the Kansas workforce (e.g., Core Competencies, Career Pathway, Workforce Registry, professional development opportunities, technical assistance, financial support.
- The Kansas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) provides statewide training, individualized coaching, and technical assistance to child care professionals serving infants and toddlers. Specialists work with providers to identify goals, develop improvement plans, strengthen responsive caregiving and learning environments, and support practices aligned with the Kansas Early Learning Standards.
- Consumer education and child care resource and referral activities are intended to develop an integrated system of high-quality care for low-income working families, better inform parents and the public about quality early childhood care and education opportunities available to them, and improve the overall quality of early learning and out-of-school time programs.
- Links to Quality (L2Q) is a quality recognition program for licensed child care facilities with continuous quality improvement plans and goals related to "links" (e.g., business practices, family partnerships, health and safety, learning and development). Early childhood programs receive direct support with understanding quality beyond child care licensing and implementing a framework to meet high-quality standards. The program's mission is to increase program quality, empower families, and strengthen communities. L2Q has 268 enrolled providers.
- The Career and Professional Empowerment Portal (Cape) is the go-to resource for the early childhood workforce registry. Cape is a web-based application that supports individual professionals with documenting accomplishments and accessing professional development opportunities, resources, and supports that align with career goals – all in one place. The tool integrates information, training approval processes, and access to L2Q enrollment and participation. Cape partners with organizations offering training approved for hours required by child care licensing.

Head Start Collaboration Office (Program Area)

The Head Start State Collaboration Office coordinates with Head Start programs, state agencies, and early childhood partners to strengthen services for children and families and align Head Start with statewide priorities. The Office also supports implementation of Executive Order 26-05 by connecting Head Start perspectives and priorities with the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council and the broader early childhood system.

FY 2026 Achievements

Although KOEC began operations on July 1, 2026, the programs and functions now administered by KOEC operated within legacy state agencies throughout FY 2026. The accomplishments below highlight significant work completed by those programs before their transfer to KOEC and provide a foundation for the agency's continued work.

- Russell Child Development Center was awarded MIECHV funding to expand home visiting services into areas of Western Kansas where coordinated services were limited. Through this expansion, Russell Child Development Center established a Parents as Teachers affiliate and provides program support and pass-through funding to participating school districts in communities where service needs were identified.
- KEHS-HV programs supported 442 home-visiting slots and successfully enrolled families to meet the need for services. Programs provided participating families with individualized support and opportunities for parents and children to engage in group socialization and other activities that strengthened family connections and supported children's learning and development.
- KEHS-CCP programs continued providing services for 349 child care slots. Programs strengthened engagement with families and helped connect families to quality child care, housing, medical care, and other needs.
- Kansas Parents as Teachers (PAT) continued to have a highly educated workforce, with 93% of its 280 parent educators holding an associate degree or higher and 83% holding a bachelor's degree or higher in 2025–2026. Kansas Parents as Teachers programs have a family retention rate of 90% (excluding families who moved out of the service area).
- Cape, Kansas' early childhood workforce registry, expanded its statewide reach and strengthened the infrastructure supporting workforce development. As of August 2026, the registry included 18,762 completed professional profiles representing all 105 counties, as well as 297 active trainers, 139 training developers, and 43 training reviewers.

OBJECTIVE #1:
To implement home visiting models with fidelity and sufficient program capacity to improve access to services and referral completion for pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children, including children with special health care needs, in partnership with service providers, families, and communities.

Strategies for Objective #1:

1. Align and strengthen the continuum of Kansas home visiting services to ensure children and families receive quality services and support.

2. Maintain or increase the number of families receiving home visiting services across the state – UHV, HFA, KEHS-HV, PAT.
3. Complete referrals for other services as needed based on screening and family goals (e.g., housing, food, clothing, child care, health care).
4. Maintain or increase the number of children that receive regular developmental screening and a health review, including hearing and vision.
5. Increase the number of parents who meet their own goals, including parent child interactions and a goal of economic independence.

Performance Measures for Objective #1:

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% of KEHS Home Visitation Families providing supportive and nurturing environments as evidenced by scores on Home Observation Measurement of the Environment. (KEHS-HV, Healthy Families)	92.0	92.0	94.0	94.0
% of parents will show improvements in parent child interaction based on the CHEERS Check-In Tool (HFA)	-	99.0	99.0	99.0
% of children will have health insurance coverage (HFA)	-	91.0	92.0	92.0

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of home visits conducted by PAT Programs	53,243	52,839	53,000	53,000
% of children served who received an initial or annual developmental screening and a health review including hearing and vision by PAT	91.0	94.0	95.0	95.0
% of families connected to needed community resources by PAT	94.0	94.0	95.0	95.0

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
#of families served by MIECHV-funded programs	511	556	618	618
# of home visits conducted by MIECHV Home Visitors (DAISEY direct entry user data only)	6,336	7,600	8,200	8,200
# of counties served by MIECHV Home Visitors	14	19	25	25

OBJECTIVE #2:

To provide families with access to quality early childhood programs caring for infants and toddlers and ensure coordination of services while providing a statewide system of support, training, and technical assistance to increase knowledge, skills, and well-being of the workforce.

Strategies for Objective #2:

1. Increase the continuum of quality early care and education services.
2. Increase the network of support by meeting the needs of children, families, providers, and the community.
3. Improve the skills and knowledge of the future and existing workforce, especially related to working with infants and toddlers.

Performance Measures for Objective #2:

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% of KEHS child care partnerships that provide quality early learning environments based on a recorded score of 5 or higher on the Thelma Harms Rating Scale or a dimension score of 5 if using Classroom Assessment Scoring System (KEHS-CCP, CLASS)	90.8	91.0	93.0	93.0
% of early childhood care and education professional who report an increase in knowledge, skills, or well-being immediately after engaging in training(ITSN)	98.3	98.7	98.5	98.5

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% of early childhood care and education professionals surveyed report a change in practice due to their knowledge gained in a follow-up inquiry two months after engaging in a high-intensity TA cycle(ITSN)	100	94.5	97.0	97.0

OBJECTIVE #3:

To implement, maintain, and consistently improve a statewide quality professional development system and provide for delivery of comprehensive activities, policies, and practices to support a highly qualified and effective workforce providing high-quality care for Kansas children and families.

Strategies for Objective #3:

1. Improve the skills and knowledge of the future and existing workforce (WFD).
2. Offer technical assistance to include coaching, consultation, and facilitation of mentoring and peer-to-peer opportunities (WFD).
3. Increase the number of providers participating in Links to Quality (L2Q).
4. Provide ongoing technical assistance to Links to Quality program participants (L2Q).

Performance Measures for Objective #3:

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% of early childhood care and education professionals report improved access to resources that connect them to their needs, goals, and achievements three months after their first professional support system TA engagement.	100	83.0	90.0	90.0
% of early childhood care and education professionals surveyed report an increase in knowledge, skills, or well-being immediately after engaging in training.	97.7	98.0	98.0	98.0

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
% increase of child care providers accessing professional development	36.0	9.2	9.2	9.2
# of providers participating in L2Q	243	262	400	400
# of technical assistance contacts for L2Q	1,797	1,735	1,900	1,900

OBJECTIVE #4:

To maintain and strategically expand Cape as a sustainable statewide professional development infrastructure that provides reliable workforce data, accessible professional development, standardized approval processes, and actionable information for workforce planning, while improving the user experience and preparing the system for broader statewide adoption, including child care licensing specialists as a means for certification.

Strategies for Objective #4:

1. Maintain core system operations, security, platform licensing, system administration, helpdesk, data management, and vendor support so Cape remains reliable as statewide use increases.
2. Maintain adequate staffing and specialized capacity for operations, technical support, data analysis, project management, communications, and system development as registry participation and organizational demand grow.
3. Complete and prioritize high-value system enhancements, including profile improvements and Links to Quality expansion while addressing bug fixes based on state priorities and user feedback.
4. Strengthen statewide adoption through structured onboarding, Cape Ambassadors, Cape-able events, and targeted outreach.
5. Improve data quality and reporting through continued validation, dashboards, secure data-request processes, and public-facing data displays.
6. Use Cape data to inform workforce planning, identify participation gaps, and demonstrate the reach and value of the workforce.

Performance Measures for Objective #4:

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of completed workforce profiles	12,773	18,762	21,000	21,000
# of organizations live/onboarded in Cape	4	15	25	25
# of active trainer profiles	-	297	325	325
# of training orders (completed registrations)	28,743	33,856	40,000	40,000
# of helpdesk cases created (per quarter)	-	2,077	2,200	2,200

* FY26 measures based on the FY26 Q3 report (April 1–June 30, 2026)

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION:

Account Code 51000 – 51990: Salaries and Wages

The Home Visiting & Quality Initiatives Division requests funding for 14.0 FTE. These positions provide program oversight, grant administration, federal compliance, partner coordination, and support for families, providers, and the early childhood workforce.

FY 2027: Salaries and wages, including approved salary increases, are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

FY 2028: Staffing continues at the same level as FY27. Salaries and wages are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

Account Code 52000 – 52990: Contractual Services

This request provides for contracts with vendor completing deliverables for federal grant programs, as required for project management, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement. It also includes expenses for in-state and out-of-state travel.

Account Code 53000 – 53999: Commodities

This request provides for routine office and professional supplies and equipment accessories including keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.

Account Code 54000: Capital Outlay

This request provides for the replacement of computer-related items, such as desktops, laptops, and other equipment to accommodate state and local staff needs.

Account Code 55000: Aid to Local

This request provides for Aid to Local funding for local partners, including county health departments, which assist the division programs with achieving goals and outcomes. Federal funding in this category includes MIECHV, TANF, and CCDF.

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET DIVISION:

Division Overview

The Kansas Children's Cabinet (formerly the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, KCCTF) is established by K.S.A 38-1901. This statute requires the Children's Cabinet perform the following:

1. Assist the governor and the director of the Kansas office of early childhood in developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive service delivery system to serve the children and families of Kansas;
2. Identify barriers to service and gaps in service due to strict definitions of boundaries between departments and agencies;
3. Facilitate interagency and interdepartmental cooperation toward the common goal of serving children and families;
4. Investigate and identify methodologies for the combining of funds across departmental boundaries to better serve children and families;
5. Propose actions needed to achieve coordination of funding and services across departmental lines;
6. Encourage and facilitate joint planning and coordination between the public and private sectors to better serve the needs of children and families;
7. Perform the duties and functions prescribed by K.S.A. 38-2103, and amendments thereto; and
8. Review each individual application submitted to the cabinet for any grant funding opportunities and allocate and administer such grants upon direction by the director of the Kansas office of early childhood.

K.S.A. 38-2103 requires the Children's Cabinet to perform the following tasks related to the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF):

1. Advise the governor, the legislature and the director of the Kansas office of early childhood regarding the use of the moneys credited to the CIF; and
2. Review, assess, and evaluate all uses of the moneys in the CIF. This is required to include studies, assessments, and evaluations, by contract or otherwise, through institutions of higher education and other appropriate research entities to identify best practices and otherwise determine the efficiency and efficacy of practices that are utilized in programs, projects, improvements, services, and other purposes for which CIF moneys are appropriated.

KCCTF members consist of five voting members appointed by the Governor (no more than three from a single political party), six voting members appointed by legislative leadership, and seven ex-officio members. Children's Cabinet activities are guided by the Blueprint for Early Childhood, which focuses on healthy development, strong families, and early learning. The Children's Cabinet directly administers the Early Childhood Block Grant, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), and the federally funded Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program. FY 2023 was the first year the Dolly Parton Imagination Library was funded.

Between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2026, the Kansas State Department of Education served as the fiscal and administrative agent for the Children's Cabinet. Beginning July 1, 2026, the Kansas Children's Cabinet became a division of the Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC). Currently, five staff members carry out the Children's Cabinet's administrative and program responsibilities inside the Kansas Office of Early Childhood. Children's Cabinet staff also help support general administration activities in the KOEC.

Beyond the funding directly administered by the Children's Cabinet, the CIF funds or partially funds a variety of programs administered by the Kansas Office of Early Childhood. CIF funding supports Parents as Teachers and Child Care Assistance, both of which serve as state matching funds. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has historically received a direct appropriation of CIF funding for Infant-Toddler Services (also used as state match). Each summer the Children's Cabinet makes recommendations to the governor and legislature on the use of CIF moneys. Those recommendations for FY2028 are summarized after the Revenue Estimates section (DA-405 form), including the recommendation to eliminate direct appropriation of the $5,800,000 to KDHE for Infant-Toddler Services.

Since 2020, the Children's Cabinet has served as the statewide lead for the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth–5 Renewal (PDG-R grant) from the Administration for Children and Families. The goal of the grant is to improve the early childhood care and education system in Kansas. The Children's Cabinet has worked in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department for Health and Environment and Department for Children and Families throughout the grant cycle. The work has always been designed to enhance the system without creating long-term sustainability issues. PDG-R funding has been instrumental in supporting the formation of the KOEC. The second year of this grant cycle will end on September 29, 2026 and it is anticipated that Kansas will receive a third year of funding that will end on September 29, 2027. Appropriate adjustments are being made to ensure the work is completed successfully.

Division Goal

The Children's Cabinet will develop and implement a coordinated, comprehensive mixed-delivery system to improve the health and well-being of children aged 0-5 and families in Kansas and evaluate programs funded through the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF).

OBJECTIVE #1:

Provide a range of support services to children who face one or more risk factors associated with low levels of school readiness through the Early Childhood Block Grant Program (ECBG).

Strategies for Objective #1:

1. Parent education and training.
2. Home visiting.
3. Support early education.
4. Increase access to high-quality early learning programs.

Performance Measures for Objective #1:

OUTCOME MEASURES:

Classroom-based ECBG programs measure each Pre-K child's literacy and numeracy skills using an assessment tool called the myIndividual Growth and Development Indicators (myIGDIs). The myIGDIs are a reliable and valid measure sensitive to change over time. They are used to measure developmental gains over nine months. The myIGDIs literacy and numeracy assessments contain nine subscales, eight are administered in the fall (pre-test), and all 9 are administered in the winter and in the spring (post-test). Throughout FY 2025, the number of participating children who were developmentally on track increased for 8 of the 9 myIGDIs literacy and numeracy subscales from fall to spring.

The Children's Cabinet engages evaluators from Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute to evaluate the quality of classroom environments funded by ECBG. ECBG grantee classrooms are observed in the fall and then coaching is provided to support teachers in the development of high-quality interactions. Following this coaching and support, classrooms are observed again in the spring. Based on observations with a standardized observational measure—the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)—80 percent of infant classrooms (n=60) met high-quality standards for classroom instruction by spring, 80 percent of toddler classrooms (n=194) met quality standards by spring, and 81 percent of Pre-K classrooms (n=398) met high-quality standards by spring.

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of children served through ECBG programs	8,282	7,242	7,242	6,156
# of families served through ECBG programs	7,154	6,209	6,209	5,278
# of local early childhood programs and schools funded in part by ECBG	248	218	218	185
% of children with at least one risk factor	88%	87%	87%	87%
% of children with three or more risk factors	43%	42%	42%	42%
% of children who qualified for free/reduced price lunch	68%	65%	65%	65%

OBJECTIVE #2:

Increase the availability of high-quality, age-appropriate reading materials for children and families to support early literacy in Kansas through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL).

Strategies for Objective #2:

Support children and families in Kansas by providing high-quality, age-appropriate reading materials free of charge directly to children in their homes through:

1. Increase access to high-quality reading materials by mailing books directly to children aged 0-5 monthly at no cost to families.
2. Provide tips and resources for caregivers on reading with their children.
3. Statewide support for implementation, including matching costs for local affiliates (costs split 50-50 between State and local).

Performance Measures for Objective #2:

OUTCOME MEASURES:

During FY 2025, 18,065 Kansas children graduated from the DPIL reading program by reaching their fifth birthday and receiving graduation books from the program. Additionally, 21,463 Kansas children signed up for the program and received their welcome book mailed directly to them. The DPIL serves all

105 Kansas counties and 43% percent of age-eligible children are currently participating in the DPIL program.

OUTPUT MEASURES	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Actual)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
# of children receiving reading materials from DPIL	77,148	78,147	83,000	84,000
# of books distributed by DPIL	817,923	937,021	995,210	1,008,000
# of children graduating DPIL	18,065	18,065	18,065	18,065
# of children newly enrolled	21,463	20,897	25,000	26,000
# of local affiliates	107	127	130	132
# of Kansas counties covered	105	105	105	105

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION:

Account Code 51000 – 51990: Salaries and Wages

The Kansas Children's Cabinet Division requests funding for 6.0 FTE. These positions provide program oversight, grant administration, federal compliance, partner coordination, and support for families, providers, and the early childhood workforce.

FY 2027: Salaries and wages, including approved salary increases, are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

FY 2028: Staffing continues at the same level as FY27. Salaries and wages are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses

Account Code 52000 – 52990: Contractual Services

This request provides for contracts with vendors completing deliverables for state and federal grant programs, as required for project management, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement. It also includes expenses for in-state and out-of-state travel, equipment and communication.

Account Code 53000 – 53999: Commodities

This request provides for routine office and professional supplies and equipment accessories including keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.

Account Code 55000: Aid to Local

This request provides for Aid to Local funding for local partners. CIF funding in this category includes the Early Childhood Block Grant. Federal funding in this category includes CBCAP and PDG.

ADMINISTRATION:

Division Overview

The Administration Division provides the operational backbone that allows KOEC to function day to day, encompassing agency leadership, finance, operations, legal services, communications and legislative affairs, human resources, and information technology.

General Administration

The Director provides strategic and operational leadership for the agency, serving as its public-facing leader and guiding the state's early childhood vision so that families can access the resources they need, providers can deliver high-quality early learning experiences, and communities and local economies benefit from a supported child care system. The Director oversees agency policy, program leadership, personnel leadership, systems alignment and interagency coordination, government affairs, communications, and internal structures such as budgeting, purchasing, and management functions.

The Deputy Director of Operations supports the Director on fiscal and operational strategy across KOEC's fiscal, information technology, human resources, and legislative and external affairs functions, working with the Fiscal Division on agency-wide budget planning and coordinating the implementation of state and federal legislation across divisions.

Legal

The Legal Division provides legal counsel to the Director and each KOEC division, advising on the agency's statutory authority and compliance with state and federal requirements. This includes K.S.A. 75-7701 et seq., child care licensing laws, and statutes governing the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Children's Initiatives Fund. The division reviews and drafts contracts, interagency agreements, and data-sharing agreements and advises on licensing enforcement, administrative proceedings, public records, open meetings, and confidentiality requirements. Legal also reviews proposed legislation and develops administrative regulations, supports KOEC throughout the legislative and rulemaking processes.

Fiscal

The Fiscal team provides agency-wide budgeting, accounting, grants management, procurement, and fiscal oversight. Responsibilities include preparing the agency's annual budget request through IBARS and the DA-400 budget narrative; completing state and federal financial reporting; monitoring revenues and expenditures; plan procurements, coordinating audits; administering purchasing and procurement

processes in accordance with state requirements; and maintaining appropriate internal controls. The Fiscal team partners with the Service Center to process payments accurately and timely and works directly with program staff to develop budgets, monitor spending, determine allowable uses of funds, and maintain compliance with state and federal grant requirements. This support provides agency leaders with reliable financial information for program management and decision-making.

Human Resources

Human Resources and operations at KOEC partners with the Department of Administration to support recruitment, hiring, and retention strategies aligned with KOEC's workforce priorities.

Communications and Legislative Affairs

Public and Legislative Affairs advances the agency's priorities through strategic communications, legislative coordination, and external engagement, ensuring messaging is clear, consistent, and aligned across the agency's programs and partners.

Information Systems and Technology

Information Technology is provided through the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) and supports the coordination of IT functions to ensure systems and infrastructure enable KOEC's operations and service delivery. Day-to-day technology coordination and project management support is provided to coordinate technical development, application architecture, help desk support, information security review, and project management assistance.

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION:

Account Code 51000 – 51990: Salaries and Wages

The Administration Division requests funding for 11.0 FTE. These positions provide agency leadership and essential fiscal, legal, operational, communications, legislative, and human resources support.

FY 2027: Salaries and wages, including approved salary increases, are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses.

FY 2028: Staffing continues at the same level as FY27. Salaries and wages are calculated in accordance with Division of Budget guidelines and cost indices and include longevity bonuses

Account Code 52000 – 52990: Contractual Services

Expenditures support printing, communications, facility and equipment rental, staff travel, professional services, and other contracted resources necessary to administer KOEC programs and maintain statewide agency operations.

Account Code 53000 – 53999: Commodities

This request provides for routine office and professional supplies and equipment accessories including keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.