

KEEPING THE PROMISE to KANSAS KIDS



What is the Children's Initiative Fund?

The Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF) 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 2011 by programs that rely on CIF dollars. These programs serve children of all ages with the primary focus on children ages birth to five.

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 those CIF dollars to quality early childhood programs — programs like Early Head Start, newborn screening, Pre-K and Parents as Teachers — that are making a difference every day 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 five 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

THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET RECOMMENDS SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES FUND

- Child Care Assistance Program
- Child Care Quality Initiatives
- Children's Mental Health Initiative
- Early Childhood Block Grant/Smart Start
- Early Head Start
- Family-Centered Systems of Care
- Infants and Toddlers Program (tiny-k)
- Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Program
- Parents As Teachers
- Pre-K Program
- Reading Roadmap
- SIDS Network Grant
- Smoking Prevention Grants

justice system, fewer adults on public assistance, fewer teen pregnancies and a stronger workforce.

Maintaining 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. That means giving Kansas children resources that will equip them to be a strong workforce, community leaders and taxpayers for tomorrow. Kansas has made the commitment to invest early and it's a commitment that is working. We need to honor that commitment by maintaining the CIF and continuing our investment in early childhood programs.



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