



**Tobacco Settlement  
Revenue –  
Investments in Youth**

# **STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROMISING PRACTICE PROFILES**

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## ***Kansas Children's Cabinet***

### **SUMMARY**

The Kansas Children's Cabinet was created to oversee expenditures from the state's tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) which are held in the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund. Ninety-five percent of the MSA funds are dedicated to improve the health and well-being of children and youth in the state. The Children's Cabinet, a 15-member committee, consists of State agency leadership and appointees made by legislative leadership and the Governor. This group oversees and monitors MSA expenditures and advises the Governor and legislature about future investments to support a coordinated, comprehensive delivery system to serve the children and families of Kansas.

For youth programs to be successful, policymakers, program leaders and intermediary organizations need access to flexible and sustainable sources of funding. State payments from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) currently fund a range of health, education, prevention, and other initiatives serving young people. This series of promising practice profiles focuses on the state infrastructure built to support the allocation MSA funds to programs and services that promote the healthy development of children and youth.

### **BACKGROUND**

According to 1999 legislation, all Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funding is distributed to the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund to support children and youth programs. The KEY Fund is invested and managed by the Board of Trustees of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet was established by the Legislature to oversee the expenditures of the MSA. Legislation provides for annual transfers from the KEY Fund to the Children's Initiatives Fund, capped at \$45 million, plus a 2.5 percent annual inflation factor. A focus of the Cabinet is on Early Childhood and implementing the State's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan. The Cabinet oversees an array of grants including Smart Start Kansas, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), and the Early Childhood Block Grant.

From 2000-2008, Kansas tobacco revenues and interest earnings totaled over \$541.8 million. Expenditures have ranged from \$46.9 to \$66.3 million annually. MSA revenues are expected to be \$58 million in 2009. In general, the KEY Fund has not served as an endowment as envisioned, because tobacco payments from the MSA have been less than expected and

balances have been transferred to cover shortfalls in the State General Fund. Nonetheless, Kansas continues to invest a significant portion of its MSA funding into programs and services that support the health and development of youth.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Established in 1999, the Kansas Children's Cabinet includes five voting members appointed by the Governor, four voting members appointed by legislative leadership, and six ex-officio members. The ex-officio members include leaders of the State agencies that directly impact children and youth, including the Department of Health and Environment, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Board of Regents, the Department of Education, the Juvenile Justice Authority, and the State Supreme Court. The Children's Cabinet is located within the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for budget and administrative purposes.

The Children's Cabinet has been directed by statute to undertake these four overarching responsibilities:

1. Advising the Governor and the legislature regarding the uses of the moneys credited to the Children's Initiatives Fund;
2. Evaluating programs which utilize Children's Initiatives Fund moneys;
3. Assisting the Governor in developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive delivery system to serve children and families of Kansas;
4. Supporting the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the Children's Trust Fund.

The Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) supports an array of programs and services for children and youth. FY08 programs solely supported with CIF funds include Community Services for Child Welfare, Family Centered Systems of Care, Juvenile Prevention and Intervention grants, Pre-K Pilot, Reading and Vision Research, Smart Start Kansas, and Special Health Services. FY08 programs partly supported with CIF funds include Immunization Outreach, Smoking Prevention grants, Family Preservation, Family Centered Systems of Care, Child Care Initiatives, Juvenile Graduated Sanctions grants, Children's Mental Health Initiative, and Medical Assistance.

The Children's Cabinet participates in multiple collaborative efforts to support comprehensive system planning including the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) plan that promotes school readiness and the Kansas Strengthening Families plan to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

## EVALUATION

Since its inception, the Kansas Children's Cabinet has funded an Accountability Fund to assess best practices and track program outcomes. The legislation creating the Children's Initiative Fund (House Bill 2558) specifies that funded programs have to demonstrate that the program's design is supported by credible research, that the program as implemented will constitute best practices in the field, that data are available to measure the program's desired outcomes, and that there is an evaluation and assessment component of the program.

In 2006, the Cabinet contracted with the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas to develop and implement an evaluation plan for the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). The Institute created an Accountability Framework for assessing the impact of each investment. Using a variety of methods to gather data, including grantee reporting, surveys, interviews, and document review, the Institute reports to the Cabinet annually. Each program is monitored based on the program description and cost, its alignment with State priorities, program results, use of evidence-based practices, and the quality of on-going evaluation efforts.

In FY08, 19 programs were funded by the Children's Initiative Fund, reaching over 700,000 children and youth across the state. Over 75% of these programs received a quality evaluation score of 90 or above (out of 100), with seven receiving perfect scores and no program receiving a score below 73.

## KEYS TO SUCCESS

- ✓ The Kansas Children's Cabinet provides an **infrastructure to ensure long-term, strategic investments of MSA funds** that support children, youth, and families.
- ✓ The Cabinet includes **representation from all key government agencies**, helping to promote a coordinated, comprehensive delivery system and facilitate joint planning to improve outcomes.
- ✓ The Cabinet has developed an **Accountability Framework which clearly establishes priorities for investments** and provides a common foundation for tracking progress and assessing the effectiveness of programs.
- ✓ The Children's Cabinet members have made a **significant commitment to develop their own understanding of funding and impact across agencies**, and to provide leadership for supporting families, children and youth.
- ✓ The Cabinet contracts with **an independent group to monitor and evaluate the results of the investments**. As an objective partner, the Kansas University Institute for Educational Research and Public Service provides critical support for the Children's Cabinet, providing concise, meaningful analyses of the effectiveness of funded activities.

## RESOURCES

### Websites

- Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, <http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org>
- Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan, <http://www.keccs.org>
- Kansas Strengthening Families Plan, <http://ksfplan.org>
- Kansas University Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, <http://www2.ku.edu/~ierps/>
- The Finance Project's Tobacco Settlement Revenue - Investments in Youth Initiative, <http://www.financeproject.org/tobacco>

### Publications

- Leah Robinson, "Children and Youth: E-1 Tobacco/Children's Initiatives Fund," Kansas Legislator Briefing Book 2009, Kansas Legislative Research Department, <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/Publications/2009Briefs/e-e-1-tobacco-childr-init-fnd.pdf>
- The Finance Project, "Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement State Profile: Kansas," <http://www.financeproject.org/tobacco/factsheet.cfm?abbr=KS>
- Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, [http://www.naag.org/backpages/naag/tobacco/msa/msa-pdf/1109185724\\_1032468605\\_cigmsa.pdf](http://www.naag.org/backpages/naag/tobacco/msa/msa-pdf/1109185724_1032468605_cigmsa.pdf)

## CONTACT

Jim Redmon, Executive Director  
Kansas Children's Cabinet  
Landon State Office Bldg  
900 SW Jackson St., Rm 152  
Topeka, KS 66612-1221  
(785) 368-7044 or 877-204-5171  
[jrr@srs.ks.gov](mailto:jrr@srs.ks.gov)

This Profile is part of a series of resources developed by The Finance Project intended to provide key state decision makers and opinion leaders with the information and tools necessary to consider how tobacco Master Settlement Agreement revenues can support initiatives that promote the positive development of youth, including the prevention of smoking and the adoption of healthy behaviors. The Finance Project has not conducted program evaluations of the initiatives profiled and does not endorse particular policies, practices, or programs. This Profile was developed under a grant from Underage Tobacco Prevention: Philip Morris USA, an Altria Company. For more information, visit [www.financeproject.org/tobacco](http://www.financeproject.org/tobacco) or email [tobacco@financeproject.org](mailto:tobacco@financeproject.org).