

Child Care & Early Education Community Planning Project

Missouri families are struggling because of the lack of child care and early education services, which are also causing problems for businesses and the state's economy. As the state increases investments in child care and early education, communities must find ways to address gaps, enhance strengths, and best utilize the state's investments.



6 Communities

Greene County
Jasper County
Kirksville
St. Joseph
Howell County
Cole County*

*incl. parts of Callaway County

Kids Win Missouri has selected six partner communities to engage in its inaugural cohort to develop child care and early education community plans. Through the process, communities will understand their current child care and early education landscape, fiscal resources available, and the true cost of implementing a high-quality, child care and early education system that meets the community's needs. A lead organization in each of the communities has assembled a Community Leadership Team which includes parents, providers, business and community leaders, Head Start organizations, school district representatives, economic development officials and other early childhood stakeholders.

The Child Care and Early Education Community Planning process will include:

Landscape Analysis

Quantitative and qualitative research on the local economic, family, and child care & early education characteristics of the community



Fiscal Mapping

Identify public and private resources that currently support or could support child care and early education in the community



Cost Modeling

Quantify the true cost of care associated with improving families' access to high quality child care and education and identify funding gaps

Child Care & Early Education Plan Development

Communities will be given assistance as they develop a plan of action to address their child care and early education gaps.

Kids Win Missouri plans to launch a second cohort of communities in January 2024. Through work with the inaugural six communities, we plan to develop a blueprint so other communities throughout the state can create similar plans to support their children, families, and businesses.

Child Care & Early Education Community Planning Timeline

Community Leadership Teams will be supported by a project team consisting of:

- Dr. Katie Rahn, project manager
- Kara Lubischer, Kids Win Missouri's Director of Community Planning and Research
- Illinois Facilities Fund, a community development financial institution responsible for the landscape analysis of the communities

July-August

- Go over project plan and timeline with community team leads
- Set dates for weekly meetings & four Community Leadership Team meetings
- Determine what information has been collected
- Initial data collection begins

September

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Community Leadership Team Meeting #1 (Relationship building, vision setting, outline project and expectations, discuss data collection)
- Begin landscape analysis, fiscal mapping, and cost modeling research

October-November

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Additional data collection and surveys/focus groups/interviews take place
- Landscape analysis is completed
- Cost modeling begins

December

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Cost modeling and fiscal mapping are completed
- Community Leadership Team Meeting # 2 (Share initial results and get feedback)

January-February

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Finalize data
- Community Leadership Team Meeting # 3 (Review data, determine top 3 priorities, introduce action planning process)

March-May

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Action plans are developed in each community which include strategies for achieving the goals (strategies to include many local revenue possibilities)

June

- Weekly meetings with community team lead, Dr. Katie Rahn, & Kara Lubischer
- Community Leadership Team Meeting #4 (Share final action plans, celebrate, next steps)