

Workforce Development Initiatives

Objective 6.1: Increase the percentage of providers and local MCH agencies that report increased knowledge and comfort addressing emerging MCH issues by 2% annually through 2030.

Third Thursday Webinar Series

The Kansas MCH Team, along with subject-matter experts from across the state, will continue to convene a monthly learning opportunity for MCH providers. The sessions will focus on providing information about initiatives and resources applicable to MCH work across all communities. Additionally, as new or emerging MCH issues arise, these webinars will be used to relay information and best practices. All webinar sessions will be recorded, and copies of the recordings, slide decks, and referenced resource materials will be made available to anyone who registers for the sessions following the live training.

Maternal and Child Health Action Academy

The MCH Action Academy, formerly the Title V Change Academy, is a series of training courses developed in partnership with the University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development (KU-CCHD). The trainings cover a range of public health topics, including problem and goal analysis, leadership development, advocating for change, and program sustainability. Originally piloted from Fall 2024 through Spring 2025 at local KPCC and BaM sites, the training sessions were well-received. Based on participant feedback, the decision was made to offer the training again in FY26 to a broader audience of Title V partners.

Beginning in September 2026, KU-CCHD will lead another cohort of Title V partners through the training series. The training will begin in September 2026 and run through June 2027. The cohort of participants will be selected from ATL grantees receiving funding in SFY27 (July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027). The intent is to offer these trainings initially to all interested ATL grantees beginning in late FFY26 and expand the offerings to other individuals serving the Kansas MCH population in subsequent years. The Title V Directors and KU-CCHD are currently discussing opportunities to develop a training certificate or offer continuing education credits to individuals who complete this training series.

Additionally, the feasibility of offering some or all of these trainings in person to Title V partners is currently being assessed. More training topics will be explored as participants complete the initial training.

Trauma-Informed Training for Internal and External Stakeholders

The [National Initiative for Trauma Education and Workforce Development](#) was launched at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in fall 2021, funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). NITEWD provides specialized training to mental and behavioral health service providers and social work educators to strengthen workforce capacity and address knowledge gaps in delivering effective, trauma-informed care. Childhood trauma can arise from a broad

range of adverse experiences, including abuse, bullying, human trafficking, family separation, school or community violence, and exposure to severe environmental events such as tornadoes, floods, or fires. Without appropriate training, service providers may not be equipped to recognize and respond to the complex and lasting impacts of trauma on children and families.

NITEWD has developed a free training program based on common trauma-informed practice elements found in evidence-based training for children, youth, and families. During FY26 and FY27, the Title V Director will complete the trauma-informed training program. Following completion, the Title V Director and the Behavioral Health Director will assess opportunities to extend this education to state and local partners. Based on the scope and duration of the training, the Directors may decide to develop an adapted curriculum tailored for state and local partners that aligns with resources and service delivery structures available in Kansas.

Certified Lactation Education Scholarships

Several years ago, Kansas invested in statewide training opportunities for local health department staff to become Certified Breastfeeding Educators (CBEs) as part of broader efforts to strengthen breastfeeding support services and improve maternal and infant health outcomes across the state. Since that time, changes in certification standards and reimbursement policies have led to the CBE designation no longer being formally recognized or eligible for Medicaid reimbursement in local health department settings. As a result, many local health departments face financial and workforce barriers to obtaining updated, approved lactation support credentials for staff, limiting their ability to provide sustainable breastfeeding education and support services within their communities.

To address these challenges and strengthen the statewide lactation support workforce, Kansas Title V intends to assess funding availability and explore mechanisms to provide scholarship support for local health department staff to obtain recognized lactation support certifications. This effort will help expand access to qualified breastfeeding support providers, particularly in underserved and rural communities, while supporting local health departments in building sustainable, evidence-based breastfeeding services. By investing in workforce development and credentialing opportunities, Title V aims to improve continuity of care, strengthen referral networks, and increase equitable access to culturally responsive lactation support services for Kansas families.