

Care Systems Navigation Initiatives

Objective 3.3: By 2030, increase the percentage of families who report being able to successfully navigate and obtain needed services for their child(ren) to 83%.

Community-Based Care Coordination

As part of the Help Me Grow Kansas Continuous Systems Improvement (CSI) project, Title V will continue to explore the implementation of a community-based care coordinator role within local organizations. These roles would act as trusted messengers and navigators, supporting families in understanding referral pathways, accessing appropriate services, and remaining engaged throughout the care process.

These care coordinators would be embedded in existing local partner organizations, such as Family Resource Centers, early childhood programs, and community health clinics. They would be positioned to offer responsive, relationship-based support tailored to each family's needs. Their responsibilities could include helping families understand developmental screening results, providing hands-on assistance with service navigation, and supporting long-term care coordination.

Title V will work with local organizations to explore what this role could look like in different settings, identify potential funding or staffing models, and assess readiness for implementation. This work will closely align with ongoing efforts to train MCH professionals and other frontline staff to engage families more effectively—particularly during transitions or when introducing next steps after screening or diagnosis.

Family Leaders and Family Voice

The Help Me Grow Family Leaders will serve on the Help Me Grow Kansas Core Leadership Team, ensuring that family perspectives are integrated into planning, decision-making, and evaluation processes. Family Leaders will have the opportunity to build out a community-based service project and leverage the HMG KS resources and connections to advance their goals.

Family feedback sessions will continue to be conducted regularly, with a focus on capturing diverse perspectives and using that input to inform continuous quality improvement. Together, these efforts will strengthen families' role as active partners in system design and implementation.

Establishing Partnership Opportunities with the Office of Early Childhood

Beginning July 1, 2026, Kansas will launch the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), a new state agency designed to strengthen coordination and alignment across early childhood systems and services. As part of this transition, home visiting programs currently housed within the Bureau of Family Health, where Title V resides, will move to the OEC. To ensure continuity of collaboration and integrated service delivery, Kansas Title V will prioritize intentional partnership-building efforts with the OEC and its affiliated early childhood programs. Title V leadership will establish routine coordination meetings with OEC staff to support ongoing communication, align strategic priorities, identify opportunities for collaboration, and promote shared approaches to improving maternal

and child health outcomes across Kansas. These efforts will help maintain strong cross-system partnerships and ensure families continue to experience coordinated, family-centered services throughout the transition and beyond.

Systems Navigation Training

Originally developed to support families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) in navigating complex healthcare and service systems, the Systems Navigation Training curriculum will be revised to reflect better the needs of all families interacting with medical, behavioral health, educational, and community-based systems of care. Planned revisions will expand the training's applicability and inclusivity while maintaining a focus on empowering families with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to effectively access services, advocate for their needs, and coordinate care across systems. Updated training materials will incorporate family-centered and culturally responsive approaches designed to improve access, reduce barriers to care, and strengthen family engagement across diverse populations. Additional information regarding the Systems Navigation Training initiative is provided in the CYSHCN domain section of this application.