

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:
Organizational Profiles and Project Summaries
Strengthening Child Welfare Systems to Achieve Expected Child and
Family Outcomes

HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF- CO-1360

Administration for Children and Families - Administration on Children,
Youth & Families - Children's Bureau

Award Number:

90CO1139

Project Title:

Kansas Strong for Children and
Families (Kansas Strong)

**University of Kansas Center for
Research, Inc.**

2385 Irving Hill Road
Lawrence, KS 66045

**Project Director (PD) and
Principal Contact:**

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Project Period:

60 Months

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(FPO)/Specialist:**

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Target Population:

(1) Preventing entry among
children receiving in-home
services; (2) increasing
reunifications among children in
foster care with a case plan goal of
reunification; and, (3) increasing
adoptions among children in foster
care with a case plan goal of
adoption.

Geographic Area(s) Served:

Kansas

Agency Region:

ACF Region 7

**University of Kansas Center for
Research, Inc.**

Organizational Description

The University of Kansas is a major public research and teaching institution of nearly 30,000 students and 2,600 faculty members on five campuses (Lawrence, Kansas City, Overland Park, Wichita, and Salina). The mission to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world unites KU's diverse elements.

Use of Program Funds

The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare (KUSSW) and its partners, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the state's network of privatized providers of adoption and foster care (KVC Kansas and Saint Francis Community Services, Inc.), in concert with the Court Improvement Program (CIP), proposes to develop and deliver the project, Kansas Strong for Children and Families (KS Strong). Based on the CFSR and statewide data analyses, we identified three target populations for whom specific risk factors are present for: (1) preventing entry among children receiving in-home services; (2) increasing reunifications among children in foster care with a case plan goal of reunification; and, (3) increasing adoptions among children in foster care with a case plan goal of adoption. In addition, KS Strong will target two systemic factors: Case Review System and Service Array and Resource Development. To address the identified challenges and barriers, we will implement three core components: 1) an **interagency collaborative** that integrates and uses data systems and CQI processes effectively for promoting safety, permanency, and well-being; (2) a **skills-based coaching program** for public and private agency supervisors across all child welfare programs to strengthen agency practices in four priority areas of (a) parent and youth engagement; (b) risk and safety assessment; (c) relative/kin connections; and, (d) concurrent planning; and, (3) **court engagement and innovation activities** to enhance legal and judicial practices.

Expected Outcomes

KS Strong will establish a collaborative and effective initiative that: 1) develops, implements and evaluates strategies that will improve permanency outcomes, including adoption outcomes, and safety and well-being outcomes by enhancing social work and organizational practices and eliminating systemic barriers; 2) uses strengths-based and family-centered strategies matched to the needs of the Kansas child welfare system; 3) is subject to continuous measurement to determine the quality of processes and their impact on targeted outcomes; and, 4) results in products that will be useful to other child welfare systems seeking similar system changes.