

The Business Case for Supporting the Children's Initiatives Fund



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Business Leaders Need a Skilled Workforce

Business leaders know first-hand that a skilled workforce is necessary for economic growth throughout Kansas.

- To promote a skilled workforce, we need to invest in a child's earliest years when brain development is forming the foundation for future learning.
- We understand the science. Brain development is cumulative, the foundation is laid in the earliest years, and school success (performance and high school completion) is linked to school readiness.
- To ensure that more Kansas children start school ready to learn and graduate high school college and career ready, the earliest years are the time to invest to ensure that Kansas has a skilled workforce to sustain and grow our economy.

Business Leaders Support the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF)

- Business leaders know that the Children's Initiatives Fund is key to our economic growth and sustainability.
- The Children's Initiatives Fund provides investments in our state's early childhood programs that promote family stability and the healthy development of children.
- The Children's Initiatives Fund represents a history of the Kansas state legislature in making the connection between early childhood investment and the future prosperity of our state.

Business Leaders Oppose Any Budget Games with the Children's Initiatives Fund

The Governor's budget would shift CIF funding to the Department of Education and open the door to CIF

dollars supplanting state funding, instead of supplementing state dollars as current law requires.

- Business leaders know a shell game when they see one.
- This isn't an accounting change. It's a set up for dismantling our state's investment in our children, our state's strategy to promote a skilled workforce for our future and our future economic growth.
- About 200,000 children benefit from children's programs under the CIF. These programs serve children of all ages with the primary focus on children under age 5.
- It makes no sense to dismantle a strategy that is working well. Yet, the Governor's proposal takes us off course. In doing so, it undermines what families and employers need – what communities need for economic security and future growth.

Recommendation: Oppose the Governor's proposal to put CIF funds at risk.

Programs Funded by the CIF in FY2014

- Children's Cabinet Accountability Fund
- Child Care Assistance
- Child Care Quality Initiative
- Children's Mental Health Waiver
- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Early Childhood Block Grant – Autism
- Family Preservation
- Health Start/Home Visiting
- Infants and Toddlers Program (Tiny-K)
- Judge Riddel Boys Ranch
- Kansas Early Head Start
- Kansas Preschool Program
- Kansas Reading Initiative (Lexia)
- KIDS Network Grant
- Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Smoking Prevention Grants