

KANSAS EARLY HEAD START: STRONGER CHILDREN, STRONGER FAMILIES

The Governor's budget has called for the elimination of one the state's most successful early childhood programs – Kansas Early Head Start (KEHS.) **Right now, KEHS is working across the state to keep low-income Kansans in the workforce and to help them provide their children** with the early tools they need to succeed in school and in life.

The estimated impact of eliminating Kansas Early Head Start for the most vulnerable infants and their families, include:

- **1,250 young Kansas children and their families will lose services in 50 counties across the state.** These are some of our state's most vulnerable working families who earn less than \$22,000 per year.
- These **families will be at risk for losing their jobs** because of the difficulties in finding and affording infant/toddler child care in our state.
- The availability and quality of infant/toddler child care in Kansas is already in short supply and would be greatly reduced with the elimination of KEHS. **The availability of child care plays a significant role in keeping Kansans in the workforce.**
- **More than 250 KEHS teachers and staff would lose their jobs**, many of which are living in rural communities where employment can be particularly hard to find.
- Many of the child care providers in Kansas who depend on KEHS funding, will have to close their doors. **This would result in the loss of an additional 225 jobs and the loss of child care services for an additional 1,500 children who are currently cared for in these settings.**
- **Kansas Early Head Start is a critical piece of our early learning infrastructure, providing our most vulnerable children with access to the highest quality care.** At-risk children, who have the opportunity to participate in high-quality early learning opportunities, provide the highest return on investment—as high as 10 to 1 according to Nobel Laureate and economist, Dr. James Heckman.
- Children who spend two to three years in **KEHS demonstrate higher vocabulary scores and better social emotional development.**
- **KEHS participant parents demonstrate better teaching, positive personal interaction and have higher-quality skills for dealing with their children in a constructive manner.** And, as a result of KEHS participation, parents are more likely to read to their children daily and focus on their own self-improvement (e.g. personal education and remaining in the workforce).



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