

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS SUB-COMMITTEE

February 24, 2009 - KDHE budget

Madam Chair and members of the Sub-committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Doug Bowman, and I am here as staff of the Interagency Coordination Council for Early Childhood Developmental Services. We are an advisory group based in both state and federal law, whose members are appointed by the Governor.

I would like to address funding for the Infant-Toddler Services also known as Part C of IDEA or *tiny-k*. The 36 local *tiny-k* networks identify children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities, create an individualized family service plan, and then implement it. Family members are an integral part of every team that determines who is eligible, what services are needed, where these interventions will be provided, and by whom.

There are no waiting lists. Federal law requires that every eligible child aged birth to three years be identified. Further, the law requires that all those supports and services deemed necessary by the team then be provided

We wish to note that the FY 2009 KDHE budget received an increase for *tiny-k* services. We sincerely thank you for this support.

The *tiny-k* system has historically been and continues to be under funded. Our local service programs continually need to pursue various funding sources to provide these vital early intervention services. These other funding streams are drying up in our current economy. This consumes time and energy that could more productively be used to serve children and families.

Years and years of insufficient funding cannot be made up in one year's time, but we more importantly risk losing local partners, because they are tired of subsidizing these vital services to our young families.

Through the work of these early intervention programs Kansas families are better supported and children are ultimately better prepared for entry into school and success in life. One in four children served by *tiny-k* needs no further special education services at age 3. We ask that you consider and provide funding to support our early intervention services to these vulnerable families. These investments would be paid back several times over.

Similar services provided by local school districts to many of these very same children after their third birthday are supported by state funding of one-half of the Base State Aid. Historically, we use this as our target for what we believe would be an adequate state appropriation. Take this amount times the number of children being served (up again this year to 3,425) the result would be an appropriation of \$7.5 Million.

Thank you again, for your past support of this vitally important program.  
I would be happy to stand for questions.

## AID TO LOCAL tiny -k NETWORKS

Year	state/federal funds	total funds	Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> # of children	PER CHILD Funding		
				State \$	Fed \$	Combined
FY 99	1,992,000 (SGF) 2,167,609 (fed)	4,159,609	1,649	1,208	1,314	2,522
FY 00	2,492,000 (SGF + CIF) 2,764,859 (fed)	5,256,859	1,884	1,322	1,468	2,790
FY 01	2,492,000 (SGF + CIF) 3,042,831 (fed)	5,534,831	2,187	1,139	1,391	2,530
FY 02	2,492,000 (SGF + CIF) 3,414,224 (fed)	5,906,224	2,485	1,003	1,374	2,377
FY 03	2,371,305 (SGF + CIF) 3,499,633 (fed)	5,870,938	2,738	866	1,278	2,144
FY 04	2,792,000 (SGF + CIF) 3,199,639 (fed)	5,991,639	2,828	987	1,131	2,118
FY 05	2,871,305 (SGF + CIF) 3,113,206 (fed)	5,984,511	2,749	1,045	1,132	2,177
FY 06	2,871,305 (SGF + CIF) 3,113,207 (fed)	5,984,512	2,947	974	1,056	2,030
FY 07	4,721,305 (SGF + CIF) 3,113,208 (fed)	7,834,513	2,985	1,582	1,043	2,625
FY 08	4,721,305 (SGF + CIF) 3,113,208 (fed)	7,834,513	3,117	1,515	999	2,514
FY 09	5,721,305 (CIF) 3,113,208 (fed)	8,834,514	3,210	1,782	970	2,753

FY 2009 Base State Aid was reduced to \$4,400 divided by 2 - and taken times the 3,425 children = \$7.5 M