

NEWS RELEASE
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Grant to expand parent skill-building support to Douglas County families

LAWRENCE – A new grant from the state of Kansas will allow Healthy Families Douglas County to expand services to additional families in Douglas County.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department’s Healthy Families Douglas County program and the Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County recently received a Family First prevention grant from the Kansas Department for Children and Families. Governor Laura Kelly along with Department for Children and Families Secretary Laura Howard awarded 18 agencies from across the state with \$13 million in the prevention grants.

“This is a great opportunity to support and partner with more families in Douglas County that are overwhelmed with a multitude of stressors. While this is not as far upstream as evidenced-based primary and secondary prevention recommends, it is a movement in the right direction,” said Jenn Preston, Supervisor of Support Services. “We are thankful for the partnership with Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County that lead the effort to secure this grant for Healthy Families Douglas County.”

The Family First Prevention Services Act provides new federal funding for prevention activities. The funding is available for children at imminent risk of placement in foster care as well as parents or kinship caregivers. The Act provides federal matching dollars for evidence-based services rated as “well-supported” in the areas of mental health, substance-use disorder, parent skill building and kinship navigation.

“Success By 6 is pleased to add DCF to our local partnership with Healthy Families in pursuit of our mission to ensure that all Douglas County families of children under 6 years old have what they need to successfully parent their young children,” said Rich Minder, Collaborative Projects Coordinator for Success By 6.

The DCF grant to Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County and Healthy Families will focus on parent skill building through a trust-based, ongoing relationship with their public health worker. Healthy Families is a family support and evidence-based home-visitation program that works to support early, nurturing relationships as the foundation for healthy development. Success By 6’s mission is to ensure that all Douglas County families of children under the age of 6 have what they need to successfully parent their young children by fostering positive parent-child relationships and preparing children for success in school and in life.

About the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has served the Lawrence and Douglas County community for more than 120 years. Its mission is to advance policies, practices and programs that promote health for all, prevent disease and protect the environment.

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