

City of Lawrence
Social Service Agency
Bi-annual Report
2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager, at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2016.

Agency Name:

Reporting Period (please check one): ☒ January - June (deadline July 15) ☐ January – December (deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

We deposited our first payment into our account on April 11, 2016. We have administered Classroom Assessment Scoring System to assess the quality of the early care and education programs participating in the financial aid system. Coaching and technical assistance has begun for areas targeted for improvement in specific classrooms.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Source of Funds	Number of Scholarships	Amount of Scholarships	Dates of financial aid assistance
United Way of Douglas County	19.2	\$58,401	Jan – Aug 2016
Early Childhood Block Grant – KS Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund	12	\$40,056	Jan – Dec 2016
City of Lawrence	12.8	\$25,336	January – Dec 2016

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

SB6 and the City of Lawrence have impacted the citizens of Lawrence by supporting our current and future workforce development by addressing systematically the affordability, quality and availability of early care and education opportunities. Our proposal included measures of quality using the CLASS observation and measures of child development using the Individual Growth and Development Indicators tools (IGDIs, MyIGDIs).

CLASS: In the fall of 2014, the total of our classrooms that needed to be reevaluated because they did not pass were 53% of our total child care centers and child care homes.

In the fall of 2015, the total number of classrooms that needed to be reevaluated in the spring went down to 39%.

Since the centers have had coaches working with the classroom teachers, the quality of our centers have risen by 14% overall.

MyIGDI's results for children in the scholarship program has seen a general increase in their assessments within a short time frame. Between the winter assessments and spring assessments, there has been an overall increase of assessment scores. For the entire scholarship program their scores have increased an average of 2.1. These categories span 9 different areas of Early Literacy and Early Numeracy. We predict that the next set of assessment scores will have a higher increase.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

One of the participating early care and education centers failed to comply with policies so we discontinued allowing financial aid funds from being used at this center. Also, as of July 1, 2016, we will experience a reduction in state funding for continuous quality improvements. These state Early Childhood Block Grant investments from the KS Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund support the financial aid for families. We have adjusted our quality improvement programing design and implementation so that we can continue working on quality based on CLASS observations.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

\$12,668 has been spent. However, the scholarships have been awarded to specific families for their children's tuition assistance for the remainder of the year.