

## The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Recommendations

To disrupt the flow of youth into the juvenile system, prevention and early intervention strategies are needed. We propose two targeted populations—

### Parents

- Implement universal home visiting so the family of every newborn in Kansas receives 1-2 home visits to connect new parents to services they may need.
- Implement a family-centered early response system, which provides a targeted set of trainings and public awareness events to normalize family disruptions and the need for help and educate providers and the community on the importance of reaching families as soon as a disruption occurs. (Disruptions include loss of job, family separation, health and mental health issues, housing, incarceration, etc.)

### Youth

- Convene cross-sector leaders and youth leaders to recognize when problematic youth behaviors are manifesting as normal responses to trauma. Use human-centered design process to identify alternative pathways for youth to get supports other than through child welfare and OJA.
- Launch pilot conflict resolution strategies to equip youth to use non-violent communication techniques.
- Invest in Multi-systemic Therapy or Functional Family Therapy (evidence-based family therapy models) to support youth presenting with problem behaviors that don't qualify for the mental health waiver.