Kansas Parents as Teachers Program
62 GRANTEES SUBMITTED DATA FOR PERIOD 7/1/19 – 12/1/19

Goals

The 62 Kansas Parents as Teachers programs reported goals in 29 categories. Kansas affiliates most frequently developed goals aimed at improving relationships with families. This makes sense, given that the mission of the Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) is to “promote the optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.” In fact, 25% of the goals fell into two categories: Group Connections and Recruitment and Retention of Families.

Group Connections are the events focused on parent-child interactions. Parents as Teachers National Center sets standards that affiliates must implement in order to call an event a Group Connection. However, programs have flexibility in the activities to offer. Some programs hosted parenting classes, pool parties, or meal preparation. One program hosted “Read and Ride”, which allowed children to ride in wagons, bikes, and strollers around a track, stopping at literacy booths set up along the path.

Affiliates made remarkable progress towards achieving all goals. As of December 1, 2019, affiliates reported 43% of goals as complete. Affiliates reported 32% of goals as having “moderate” progress made towards completion.

Challenges

Parents as Teachers programs should work with their community to develop their goals, recruitment strategies, and funding plans. Although the Essential Requirements and data points are identical across programs, the uniqueness of individual communities manifests a wide variety of challenges. Kansas programs reported challenges in 65 categories at local, state, and national levels.

40% of the challenges reported by Kansas programs grew from local issues, with budgets being the primary concern. Issues at the state level comprised 22% of reported concerns, with another 33% of challenges being attributed to national-level issues. 5% of programs reported zero challenges.
Kansas Parents as Teachers Program 2019 – 2020

Top 10 Challenges

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<td>Visit Frequency</td>
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<td>PATNC Monitoring Process</td>
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Local-level Challenges

Waitlists were a notable concern at the local level. Programs are unable to serve the amount of families requesting services. This issue is complicated because an individual’s service capacity is impacted by the distance between families; 1 person can serve 10 families living on the same block or 5 families living miles apart. Also, PATNC standards require two visits per month for families experiencing multiple stressors. Finally, PATNC requires the completion of multiple forms with each home visit in order to verify outcomes.

State-level Challenges

Kansas programs reported 41 instances of challenges at the state level; funding accounted for 49% of issues. Four programs reported affordable trainings as a concern, while two programs reported either systems alignment or advocacy as a challenge. Programs worry that the state team does not help educate state policymakers and district decision-makers as to what the PAT program does. All other challenge categories were reported by a single program.

National-level Challenges

The partnership between KSDE and PATNC minimizes duplication, maximizes supports, and reduces miscommunication. While PATNC invites input from KSDE, the state agency does not have direct authority to address reported challenges. Programs reported 61 challenges at the PATNC level. The primary challenge was the volume of paperwork required.

Summary of Challenges

Of the top 10 most frequently reported challenges, five occurred at the PATNC level (required paperwork, capacity by size, cost of the model, monitoring process, visit frequency), two at the state level (funding and affordable training), and three at the local level (local budgets, waitlists, and community awareness).

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