

PROGRAM UPDATES

Infant Toddler Services of Riley County 785-776-6363

SPRING 2024

Welcome to our newsletter! In this edition, we provide updates on our state and federal service delivery performance, upcoming financial adjustments, active service data, and forthcoming professional development opportunities.

1.

PERFORMANCE IN SERVICE DELIVERY



From July 2022 to June 2023, Riley County's Infant Toddler Services consistently surpassed state and federal benchmarks. We delivered on-time services to 100% of infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), beating the 95% state target. Regarding developmental progress, 81.82% of children below the expected age level showed significant improvement, surpassing the 58.60% goal. Specifically, 75% achieved their social-emotional milestones, and 87.78% reached their learning goals, both higher than the expected ranges.

Our support to families was also above expectations, with 94% to 96.67% feeling more knowledgeable about their rights and capable of supporting their children's needs, which was higher than the anticipated 88.80% to 91.65%. Additionally, we exceeded our enrollment goals with 3.16% of infants up to one year old and 5.70% of children up to three years old in our program, surpassing the targets of 1.50% and 3.20%, respectively.

Our program's evaluation and assessment process was 100% successful within the set 45-day period, and all children transitioning from our program had their next steps well planned out on time. These results confirm our program's effectiveness and show we achieved high-performance levels without needing a Continuous Improvement Plan.

ACTIVE KIDS & SERVICE UPDATE

Currently, Riley County's Infant Toddler Services is serving 147 children with active Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and has an additional 35 children in the process of receiving services. During the past quarter, we served 163 children with active IFSPs and successfully transitioned six children to preschool programs as they turned three. The referrals in the past quarter predominantly came from parents through phone calls and our website, as well as from doctor's offices and NICU hospitals. We are actively working to increase referrals from other community partners, including private clinics, school districts, and other early childhood programs, to ensure that more families can access the support and services they need.



3.

GRANT FUNDING & BUDGET UPDATES

For the 2024-2025 period, Riley County's Infant Toddler Services faces a budget challenge due to a decrease in grant allocations, which have been reduced by \$13,685. This comes at a time when the program is serving more children despite a decline in the number of live births.

In the 2023-2024 grant year, the county had 2,307 live births and served 264 children, leading to grant allocations of \$356,794. However, for the upcoming 2024-2025 period, live births decreased to 1,704, while the number of children served increased to 283. Despite this increased service demand, the grant allocations will be reduced to \$343,109.

This reduction means we need to plan carefully to ensure we can continue providing great services with less money. The grant allocations are based on a formula that considers live birth rates and the number of children served, requiring us to adapt to these financial changes while continuing to meet the needs of the children and families we serve.



4.

UPCOMING EVENTS & INITIATIVES

- **Regional Network Professional Development:** The upcoming professional development session for October 24 will feature Alesha Delgado, a feeding specialist from Infant Toddler Services of Shawnee/TARC. This collaborative training event, organized with neighboring early intervention county services, will focus on feeding strategies and techniques. Participants from Pottawatomie/Wabaunsee County, Geary County, and Pony Express Infant Toddler Services Networks will join our team for this valuable learning opportunity, enhancing skills and insights in this crucial area.
- **Lunch N Learn Series:** These monthly sessions offer a platform for continuous professional development, focusing on essential operational topics. The upcoming year's agenda includes Medicaid billing, maternal depression screening, transitions, and IFSP process improvements, providing staff with the knowledge and tools needed for effective service delivery.

