

Supporting Families Community of Practice Evaluation

Kansas State Data Brief

Evaluation Overview

In 2012, the Administration for Community Living (ACL), through the Administration on Disabilities (AoD)¹, awarded the five-year National Supporting Families Community of Practice (CoP) grant to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), which partnered with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute on Human Development (UMKC-IHD). In the first year of the grant, 15 states applied and five were selected to participate, including Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington, with Missouri serving as the mentor state. Given growing interest in the work of the CoP, NASDDDS and UMKC-IHD decided to expand and sustain the CoP outside of the initial grant. A second cohort, known as the expansion states, joined in 2016, including Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. With interest continuing to grow around the nation, the CoP welcomed five new states—Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, and New Jersey—in 2019 and created opportunities for participating states to adjust their level of participation.

Three project outcomes guide the work of the National Supporting Families CoP:

- State and national consensus on a national framework and agenda for improving supports for families with children with I/DD
- Enhanced state policies, practices, and sustainable systems that result in improved supports to families
- Enhanced capacity of states to replicate and sustain exemplary practices to support families and systems

To examine progress toward federal project outcomes and identify which activities are leading to success, ACL funded the National Supporting Families CoP evaluation. The evaluation team gathered data that align with the three project outcomes to determine how the CoP is producing outcomes of interest to ACL, which reflect the five AoD priority areas (Exhibit 1). Findings will provide ACL with outcomes data and recommendations to improve supports to families of individuals with I/DD. They will also provide information on how the CoP and CtLC framework improve support and systems delivery of services to families and individuals with I/DD.

Exhibit 1. AoD Priority Areas

The Five AoD Priority Areas
▪ Ensure the continued protection of rights of individuals with I/DD and prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation
▪ Improve and maintain effective and responsive management of responsibilities under Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the DD Act)
▪ Promote Employment First as a key strategy for individuals with I/DD to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive integrated workforce
▪ Empower individuals with I/DD and their families to access home and community based (HCBS) and supports that are self-directed and ensure opportunity for community participation
▪ Support advocacy efforts of individuals with I/DD in order to ensure their participation in system and service delivery design

¹ The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) initiated the evaluation in 2017. The Administration on Disabilities (AoD) now oversees the evaluation.

The evaluation includes all 16 states that participated in the National Supporting Families CoP for at least two years between 2012 and 2018. For evaluation purposes, evaluators stratified states into three groups based on their stage of development, as described in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2. Evaluation Participants

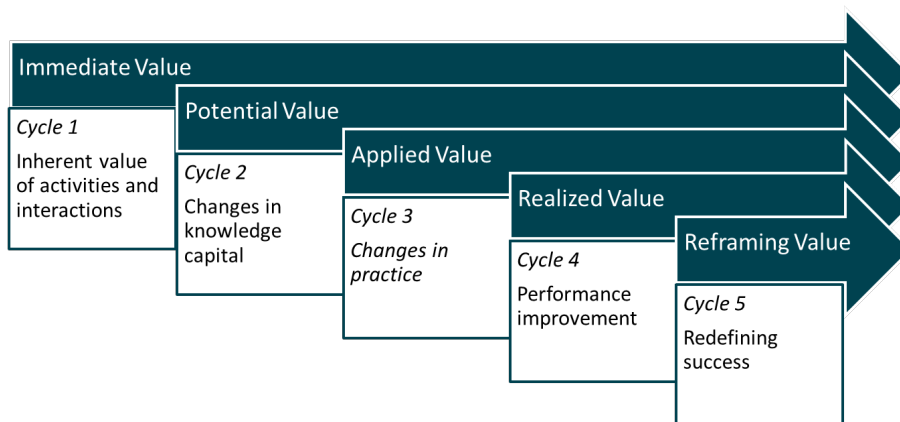
Group One	Group Two	Group Three
<p>The six original CoP states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connecticut ▪ District of Columbia ▪ Missouri (mentor state) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oklahoma ▪ Tennessee ▪ Washington 	<p>States with previous exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maryland ▪ Ohio ▪ Pennsylvania ▪ South Dakota 	<p>States with little or no exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alabama ▪ Delaware ▪ Hawaii ▪ Indiana ▪ Kansas ▪ Oregon

Evaluators collected data from states using four tools:

- *Reporting tools* (one for each state grouping) gathered descriptive data about CoP structure, activities, and impact.
- *Telephone interviews* (informed by the reporting tools) collected contextual data about CoP activities and accomplishments specific to each state.
- *Site visits* (to select states) with CoP leadership and other stakeholders provided data on the relationship between CoP activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- *Materials review* (on an ad-hoc basis) collected needed data on areas of interest.

Evaluators analyzed the collected data using a conceptual framework developed by Wenger, Trayner, and de Laat² (Exhibit 3), which assesses value creation in communities. Adapted for evaluation purposes, the framework considers five different cycles of value creation to capture the richness of value created by communities of practice. The following page describes the value generated from CoP activities and the CtLC framework within the Kansas CoP.

Exhibit 3. Value Cycle Framework

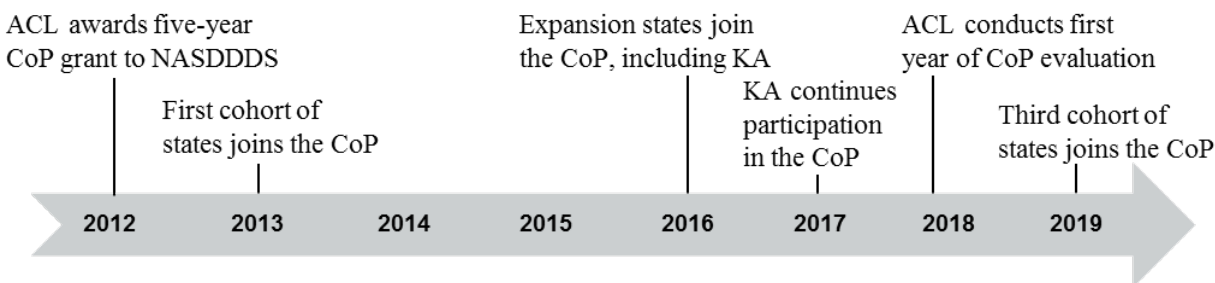


² Wenger, E., Trayner, B., and de Laat, M. (2011). Promoting and Assessing Value Creation in Communities and Networks: A Conceptual Framework. Rapport 18, Ruud de Moor Centrum, Open University of the Netherlands.

A Look into Kansas's Community of Practice

Kansas (KS) is one of the expansion states to join the National Supporting Families CoP in 2016. The KS CoP is a collaboration between the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and the Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). The timeline below (Exhibit 4) provides detailed information about KS's participation in the CoP over time.

Exhibit 4. Timeline of Kansas's CoP Participation



Using data from the most recent KS Medical Assistance Report (Fiscal Year 2019) developed by the KS Division of Health Care Finance, the number of people with I/DD known to or served by KDADS in June 2019 was 9,004, the majority of whom use waiver services. Using data from KS's I/DD waiver Renewal from July 2019, total I/DD waiver expenditures amounted to \$41,267 per recipient.³

Understanding the current state of I/DD services and supports in KS is important in better understanding how CoP activities and the CtLC framework impact families and individuals with I/DD. The evaluation team gathered valuable data from KS through administration of the reporting tool, telephone interview, and materials review. After careful analysis of the data using the value cycle framework, the evaluation team determined the following to be KS's key achievements during evaluation year one:

- KS built upon existing employment initiatives and integrated the CtLC framework into numerous efforts. KS held another Employment First Summit, an event that has been taking place in the state prior to its involvement with the CoP, in addition to other trainings. CHOICES and the Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT) teach families how to use the CtLC framework and tools for students transitioning into employment opportunities.
- KS has taken a grassroots approach to disseminating information on CtLC tools and principles. This includes conducting a series of five regional events where KS introduced the CtLC framework to different communities. A couple hundred people were trained through these efforts. Other training efforts include presentations at conferences and the LifeCourse Ambassador Series. There are now approximately 30 LifeCourse Ambassadors in the state.

³ Larson, S.A., Eschenbacher, H.J., Anderson, L.L., Taylor, B., Pettingell, S., Hewitt, A., Sowers, M., & Bourne, M.L. (in press, 2018). In-home and residential long-term supports and services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities: Status and trends through 2016. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration.

KS's continued participation in the National Supporting Families CoP shows their commitment to the CtLC framework and advancing supports for families of individuals with I/DD. The following tables includes a more comprehensive list of KS's achievements from evaluation year one.

Exhibit 5. Kansas's Achievements in Evaluation Year One, 2018-2019

Value Cycle	CoP Activities and Achievements
Cycle 1: Immediate Value <i>Value of Activities and Interactions Themselves</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The KS CoP is working in conjunction with different community partners. The DD Council is reaching out to the Department of Education and managed care organizations (MCOs) to establish formal partnerships.
Cycle 2: Potential Value <i>Changes in Knowledge Capital</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DD council advanced several ongoing partnerships, projects, and initiatives including two grants (Families Together and FEAT), Parent IEP Mentor Network (incorporates the CtLC framework), and Johnson County Developmental Services. ▪ KS uses the CtLC framework as a tool to have conversations with families and learn valuable personal stories. This is an important way that KS spreads information about CtLC and the CoP. ▪ KS uses the CtLC framework and tools to facilitate a common language for families to speak to service systems and service systems to speak with each other (e.g., in schools, managed care settings, provider settings, and across the services and supports spectrum). ▪ The CoP diffused the CtLC framework and tools across various supports and service systems in the state. ▪ The CoP supports KS in trying to pass a supported decision making bill in 2020. ▪ Education Service Centers throughout the state provide education consulting for school districts in KS. There is great buy-in from the Greenbush Education Service Center to integrate CtLC into transition services and to embed CtLC in schools. ▪ KS is undergoing a statewide school redesign. Students (not just those with I/DD) will have an independent plan of study, for which DOE is looking at the CtLC framework as a complementing tool.
Cycle 3: Applied Value <i>Changes in Practice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The state embedded CtLC into the CHOICES training in Johnson County, which is a training for self-advocates transitioning out of sheltered workshops into competitive integrated employment. Additionally, a school district in the Butler County area embedded the CtLC framework into Project Learning Independence for Future Employment (LIFE).
Cycle 4: Realized Value <i>Performance Improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result of the KS CoP using the CtLC framework as a tool in conversations, stakeholders (including providers) report overcoming fears, having more productive conversations with children about IEPs, and opening discussions on new ways to support people.
Cycle 5: Reframed Value <i>Redefining Success</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result of the CoP, new strategies have emerged in the state. This includes community stakeholders (families, self-advocates, and providers) taking a more holistic approach to supporting people.