Childcare Solutions – Invitation to Apply

Parenting Student Support Planning Grant

Purpose

The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC), housed at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), invites applications from Kentucky postsecondary institutions interested in launching a nine-month continuous improvement planning process aimed at identifying and implementing supports for undergraduate parenting students. This $60,000 grant opportunity is designed to catalyze institutional and community-level action by dedicating a portion of this funding to planning efforts and initiating early implementation of identified solutions.

The initiative seeks to eliminate systemic barriers that hinder parenting students' enrollment, persistence, and success in postsecondary education at the undergraduate level. Institutions will be supported in identifying actionable strategies and forming cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations, early childhood providers, and student support services to co-design scalable, sustainable approaches to support parenting students.

Impact

Grantees will actively commit to and engage in a structured planning period that builds institutional capacity to understand and address the needs of parenting students. Upon completion of the Childcare & Support Solutions Action Plan, funds will be disbursed to support implementation. This process will culminate in concrete, early-stage implementation of solutions that can be scaled and sustained beyond the grant period. The goal is to create lasting systemic change that ensures parenting students are no longer forced to choose between caregiving responsibilities and educational opportunity.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables

- Parenting Student Needs Assessment: A comprehensive review of current supports, barriers, and demographic data related to undergraduate parenting students on campus.
- Cross-Sector Partnership Development: Engagement of campus and community stakeholders to align resources and coordinate services.
- Childcare & Support Solutions Action Plan: A documented strategic plan outlining prioritized solutions, implementation timelines, staffing or resource needs, and sustainability models.
- Pilot Implementation Activity: At least one early-stage implementation step (e.g., establishing a parenting student task force, launching a childcare referral hub, piloting evening care, or creating dedicated study/lounge spaces for student-parents).
- Final Report and Sustainability Roadmap: A summary of planning efforts, outcomes achieved, initial implementation steps taken, and strategies to sustain and expand the work post-grant.

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Project Timeline

- Application Deadline: July 30 by 5:00 PM ET
- Notifications: Chosen applicants will be notified by August 15, 2025
- Project Timeline: October 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026
- Questions? Please plan to attend our open office hours
  - July 14 at 1:00 pm ([Zoom Link](#)) OR
  - July 18 at 1:00 pm ([Zoom Link](#))

The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative

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Application Instructions
Provide the information below and submit to tracy.teater@ky.gov. Deadline: **July 30 at 5:00 PM EST**.

1. Cover Page
Include the following information:

- Institution Name
- Project Lead Name and Title
- Contact Information (email and phone number)
- Total Funding Request (up to $60,000)

2. Project Narrative (Maximum 3 pages)
Provide a detailed narrative that includes the following sections:

- **Statement of Need:** Describe number of parenting students currently enrolled and any challenges and barriers faced by your parenting student population. Provide an overview of current strategies you use to support parent students.
- **Statement of Commitment:** Affirm your commitment to attend the Childcare Solutions Network and engage in the planning process to support the development of your action plan.
- **Proposed Activities:** Outline your approach for conducting a needs assessment, building partnerships with campus, community, and employer stakeholders in the work, and potential childcare innovations you will explore.
- **Target Population:** Define the population you aim to serve, including estimated number of parenting students impacted.
- **Sustainability:** Share how you intend to implement and scale your plan beyond the grant period.

3. Project Partners
Developing and engaging partners in the community to support parent student populations is highly encouraged. List and describe planned or existing partnerships with community-based organizations, childcare providers, or other relevant stakeholders.

4. Budget and Budget Justification
During the planning phase, chosen applicants will receive $10,000 to support the design of the childcare and support solutions action plan. At the completion of the implementation plan, the remaining $50,000 will be disbursed. A detailed line-item budget for the implementation pilot will be required once the plan is designed. A template will be provided. Campuses can choose to roll the initial $10,000 into the implementation budget.

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Selection Criteria

- Strength and clarity of proposed activities and partnerships.
- Potential for impact, scalability, and sustainability.
- Commitment to engage in the Childcare Solutions Network throughout the project for the purpose of planning and implementing the childcare solutions action plan.

Submission Instructions

Submit the full application as a single PDF to: tracy.teater@ky.gov

Subject line: KCSN Grant Application – [Institution Name]

Questions may be directed to:

Tracy Teater, Associate Director of Adult Attainment

Email: tracy.teater@ky.gov

Phone: 502-523-0963

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Kentucky Postsecondary Childcare Solutions Network (KPCSN)

Supporting Systemic Change for Parenting Students Across Postsecondary Institutions

Purpose

The Kentucky Postsecondary Childcare Solutions Network (KPCSN) will serve as a statewide learning and innovation community that supports grantees of the Parenting Student Support Planning Grant. It will facilitate knowledge-sharing, surface best practices, and build a foundation for scalable, sustainable models that address childcare barriers impacting adult learners with children.

Network Goals

- Provide technical assistance to grantees throughout the planning and implementation period.
- Foster peer learning through shared challenges, successes, and deliverables.
- Identify, document, and disseminate scalable practices and policies that improve outcomes for parenting students.
- Strengthen cross-sector collaboration between higher education, early childhood providers, and community partners.
- Inform state-level policy and funding recommendations to support parenting student success.

Network Structure and Components

1. Grantee Learning Cohort

A structured cohort of grantee institutions will meet regularly to:

- Share progress on needs assessments, partnerships, and planning efforts.
- Workshop challenges with peer and expert input.
- Align deliverables with emerging statewide priorities.
- Participate in sessions led by early childhood, postsecondary, and adult-learning experts.

2. Technical Assistance and Coaching

Grantees will receive tailored support including:

- Access to expert consultants in early childhood education, student support services, and improvement science.
- One-on-one coaching to refine plans, evaluate pilot strategies, and troubleshoot obstacles.
- Templates and tools to guide assessments, action planning, partnership agreements, and sustainability plans.

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3. Community of Practice (CoP)

An open, statewide community will expand learning beyond grantees to other Kentucky institutions and partners. Activities include:

- Quarterly webinars or forums on topics like funding strategies, cooperative childcare models, and parent engagement.
- Spotlights on high-impact pilot projects and grantee innovations.
- A virtual knowledge hub with shared resources, templates, and success stories.

4. Implementation and Innovation Showcase

At the end of the grant period, grantees will participate in a statewide showcase to:

- Present their solutions, pilot activities, and outcomes.
- Share lessons learned and challenges encountered.
- Highlight models with the greatest potential for scaling.

5. Scalability and Systems Impact

The network will synthesize findings from grantee projects to:

- Develop a state playbook of promising practices and implementation models.
- Recommend institutional policy shifts and infrastructure investments.
- Inform CPE's broader strategies to reduce adult learner barriers and promote postsecondary attainment.
- Support integration of parenting student services into institutional strategic planning and student success frameworks.