



The Kansas Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center launched the **Kansas Stepping Up Technical Assistance (TA) Center** in February 2021. The Stepping Up initiative, a national partnership between the CSG Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, aims to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. Kansas is the fifth state in the nation to launch a statewide Stepping Up initiative.

What have Kansas counties accomplished so far?

The **Kansas Stepping Up TA Center** has garnered significant interest and engagement from counties across the state. It continues to position each county in Kansas to have accurate baseline data on the number of people with mental illnesses in jails and improve their process of identifying community members who have a mental illness and are involved in the justice system. Below are some of the developments that have occurred since the TA Center launched:

- Kansas's **participation in Stepping Up** has grown from 8 to 13 counties.
- Six county jails have received support to begin implementing a **validated mental health screening** tool at booking.
- Five counties are participating in **site visits** for customized technical assistance.
- Four counties are joining the Stepping Up **Set, Measure, Achieve Community of Practice** in 2022.
- More than 90 counties have received TA, including **peer-facilitated learning** through connections with sites across Kansas and nationally, **access to national experts**, and a central **information bank** on best practices.
- Of those 90 counties, approximately 30 have requested assistance from the TA Center in customizing county **implementation plans** to scale up or implement high-impact strategies, set targets to track progress, and achieve results.

How does my county get involved?

Email KansasSteppingUp@csg.org to learn more and be added to the center's distribution list. Counties on the distribution list will receive notifications of all available technical assistance. Visit www.stepuptogether.org to learn more about Stepping Up.

Join our **Peer-to-Peer Connection Hours—informal, lightly facilitated opportunities to connect with counties across the state.** The connection hours provide a way for counties to collaborate and learn from one another on topics related to current projects, policy implementation, process improvements and data collection, and more. You will also hear county progress and news highlights from CSG Justice Center Stepping Up staff and KDADS. Please join these recurring meetings held on the last Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. CT. Register in advance at <https://csg-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkc-2srDgoHtHKtPaK5OSVcOvAl14V7q6A>.

Attend the **Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas Annual Conference for Behavioral Health.** Staff from the TA Center will be presenting at the conference, which takes place from September 13 to 16, 2022.