

# The Kansas Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) partnered with The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to launch the Kansas Stepping Up Technical Assistance (TA) Center in February 2021 with the **primary goal of assisting KS counties in adopting and implementing the Stepping Up systems change framework to reduce the number of people with serious mental illnesses in KS jails and justice system.**

**Kansas is the fifth state in the nation to launch a statewide Stepping Up initiative and the second to launch a statewide TA Center with the CSG Justice Center.**



The [Stepping Up initiative](#), a national partnership between the CSG Justice Center, National Association of Counties (NACo), and American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF), aims to address the prevalence of mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in local justice systems, providing counties with resources and tools to effect systems-level change.

## How Does the TA Center Work?

The Kansas Stepping Up TA Center aims to position each county in Kansas to (1) bolster cross-systems collaboration, (2) have accurate baseline data on the prevalence of mental illnesses in their jail, (3) use jail-based metrics to better understand the impact of community efforts and drive policy and programming decisions, and (4) build out services and supports based on best practices to address incarceration and ultimately prevent contact with the justice system in the first place.

## Key benefits and activities of the TA Center:

- Dedicated staff as a primary point of contact
- Individualized, 1:1 training and technical assistance
- Peer connections with sites across Kansas and nationally
- Access to national experts and resources on best practices
- Guidance on high-impact strategies and policies that achieve lasting results
- Open line of communication between county and state leaders to guide policy reform efforts and resource allocation

## How Does My County Get Involved?

**Get added to the TA Center's distribution list.**

Counties on the distribution list will receive notifications of all available technical assistance opportunities such as upcoming webinars, trainings, and peer-to-peer connection hours.

**Join our Peer-to-Peer Connection Hours**, informal, lightly facilitated opportunities to connect with counties across the state. Through the connection hours, counties collaborate and learn from one another about current projects, policy implementation, process improvements, data collection, and more. Counties will also learn about county progress and news highlights from CSG Justice Center Stepping Up staff and KDADS. Register in advance:



**Email Audra Goldsmith at [agoldsmith@csg.org](mailto:agoldsmith@csg.org) to learn more and get involved with the KS TA Center.**

**Watch past webinars and trainings on the [TA Center website](#).**



Justice  
Center

STEPPINGUP



**Learn more about Stepping Up.**

