PROJECT PLAN: ASSESSING THE KANSAS CHILD CARE CLIMATE

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ABSTRACT

High level description and objective of your semester project here. When you find yourself in an elevator with a potential employer, what do you tell them?

Kansas Action for Children's (KAC) mission is to shape health, education, and economic policy that will improve the lives of Kansas children and families. KAC accomplishes this goal through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues. A priority issue in the upcoming 2024 legislative session will be child care access in Kansas, as policymakers and advocates are seeking a resolution to the ongoing crisis throughout the state. The goal of this project is to develop an understanding of the current child care landscape in Kansas through state and local-level data, establish a comparable understanding of the child care landscapes in states regional to Kansas, and attempt to create a predictive outcome for Kansas based on the students' findings.

1 INTRODUCTION

More detailed and overall description of your project, relevancy, and final goals.

Kansas Action for Children is a leader in advocating for quality child care access in Kansas. This upcoming legislative session, child care is at the forefront of discussion as the state grapples with a growing concern over access to quality care for the next generation of Kansans.

This project will be able to bolster KAC's efforts in continuous child care advocacy for years to come. KAC has an understanding on the current trajectory for child care access in Kansas, this project will assist in understanding the impact policy can have on that trajectory.

The goals for this project are three-fold: (1) understand the current child care landscape in Kansas, through analysis of data provided; (2) assess the child care landscapes of states comparable to Kansas through student research and data collection of comparable datasets to Kansas; (3) draw conclusions based on the child care landscapes of Kansas and selected states, predict an outcome for Kansas through 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year trend analysis.

2 BASELINE OR INITIAL ANALYSIS

Think about how to first understand the data.

First, the Kansas data is broken up into different types of child care licensing. It would be useful to visualize the difference between the types of child care centers, and where the individual centers are throughout the state.

Second, the national and other state-level data is to be collected, or at least attempted, by the student. Refer to the Kansas data, understand how the Kansas data was collected and assessed, then the student should utilize the same sources and create similar datasets.

Finally, Kansas has a well-defined trend in regard to access to child care across the state. The student should predict what will happen in 1-year, 3-years, and 5-year intervals if policy remains the same.

3   FINAL ANALYSIS

Think about what the final analysis will entail in terms of code, visualizations, statistical models, and communication.

Kansas child care data:
- Visualization on existing data
- Map comparison of licensing data, accessibility to child care, and child care deserts map

Kansas population:
- Visualization of Kansans in need of child care
- Map of Kansas population relating to child care

National child care data:
- Visualization on existing data
- Map comparison of licensing data (if available), accessibility to child care, and child care deserts map

State child care data:
- Visualization on existing data
- Map comparison of licensing data (if available), accessibility to child care, and child care deserts map

Predictive model:
- Create a 1-year prediction of Kansas' child care landscape
  - Map of adjusted values
- Create a 3-year prediction of Kansas' child care landscape
  - Map of adjusted values
  - Trend of adjusted values
- Create a 5-year prediction of Kansas' child care landscape
  - Map of adjusted values
  - Trend of adjusted values

4   FINAL GOALS & EVALUATION

Detail the deliverable that will make a final project successful for the community partner.

Analyze current Kansas child care licensing data determining:
- How has the data changed since 2017?
- What parts of the state are "lacking" in child care centers?
- How has the map changed over the years?

Analyze current Kansas child care access data:
- What does the data show about access to child care in Kansas?
- How has this related to data available in the last 5-years?

Analyze the Kansas population:
- How many Kansans could be in need of child care?
- How does the location of these Kansas interact with existing child care centers?
- How would increased child care centers impact this population?

Analyze the child care desert maps and determine:
- What parts of the state are most vulnerable to lack of child care access?
- What population-based conclusions can be made on why accessibility is varied?
- Has this trend adjusted in recent years?
- How can this map be compared to licensing and access data?

What data is available at the national-level?
- Is comparable data, as seen in Kansas, available at the national-level?
- Were there any limitations in acquiring data?
- If comparable data was acquired, what conclusions can be drawn from it based on Kansas data?
  - Are there any similar trends?

What data is available for other states?
- Is comparable data, as seen in Kansas, available for these states?
- Were there any limitations in acquiring data?
- If comparable data was acquired, what conclusions can be drawn from it based on Kansas data?
  - Are there any similar trends?

Create a predictive model if Kansas continued as is:
- o If nothing changed, how would the Kansas landscape look?
- o In 1-year? 3-years? 5-years?

5 RELATED WORK

*Please cite research papers, reports, blog posts, projects, and other works you have consulted or plan to consult later. Please provide a sentence or two description that conveys the sources relevance to your project. You should have at least **5** sources.*

6 DATA & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Provide expected technical requirements and relevant datasets so the course staff can best support your project needs. What software libraries do you plan to use? What datasets are you using or need access to? Anything else we (the course staff) should know?

Kansas

Population data is available through the Census API. Students should define relevant populations based on research on child care usage and impacted individuals.

Child Care licensing data is provided through the Kansas KIDS COUNT project, on the KIDS COUNT Data Center, available here. Indicators: Family Child Care and Child Care Centers.

Accessibility to child care-related data in Kansas is provided through Child Care Aware of Kansas, available here.

The Kansas Child Care desert map, intended for students to use to compare with licensing data, is through the Institute of Social Policy and Research (IPSR) at KU, available here.

The United States Child Care desert map, intended for students to use to compare with licensing data, is through the Center for American Progress, available here.

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A goal for this project is for students to collect and develop a dataset comparable to the ones listed above for National and other State-level data. Part of the project is to properly assess and validate additional data resources.

If there are issues with collecting data, the students should explain roadblocks to collection.

Potential resources include:

- KIDS COUNT Datacenter

- Child Care Aware of America, and state equivalents

- Colorado Department of Early Childhood

- Oklahoma Department of Human Services

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education