We have completed our 6th year of serving 4-year-olds, their families and pre-k programs in Kalamazoo County!

53 programs actively participated with KC Ready 4s, or 62% of the potentially eligible programs in Kalamazoo County.

221 4-year-olds at 27 high-quality pre-k programs received some level of tuition support.

Over 1058 on-site classroom guidance hours and 812 training & resource hours were provided by 4 KC Ready 4s’ Teacher Mentors, for a total of over 1870 hours of mentoring support. Approximately 987 children, 53 program directors and 116 teachers were impacted this year!

396 participants attended 21 Professional Development opportunities (57 hours).

Over 492 screening & classroom support hours and 301 training & resource hours were provided by 2 KC Ready 4s’ Speech Pathologists, for a total of over 794 hours of speech support. 124 children were screened for speech concerns and 88 were referred for services. 21 children received direct on-site therapy from KC Ready 4s’ Speech Pathologists who supervised 4 WMU graduate students.

30 children participated in OT screenings with WMU graduate students at 2 pre-k sites.

1 Clinical Therapist from Family & Children Services consulted on 31 challenging behavior referrals from 15 sites, resulting in 61 child observation hours, 91 family/director/teacher support hours and 33 meeting & intern support hours.

156 family members and 89 pre-k staff participated in 6 Parent Engagement Workshops addressing Learning Activities at Home, Socio-Emotional Development, and Counting Down to Kindergarten.

70 Board & Committee Members, Staff, Interns and Volunteers worked together to make a difference for children & families in Kalamazoo County!

Joyful, Intentional, Life-Changing: The Power of Pre-Kindergarten!
Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
~ Helen Keller

One of the strengths of Kalamazoo County Ready 4s has been our interest and willingness to partner with other organizations throughout Kalamazoo County who also serve children and families. During the past six years, we have been very intentional about connecting with service providers who have the expertise and resources necessary to assist the families and children connected with KC Ready 4s. We are proud to be associated with the following community partners:

**Educational Partnerships with Western Michigan University**
KC Ready 4s is pleased to partner with numerous departments within WMU, and both organizations view this as a win-win! WMU undergraduate and graduate students benefit as they are able to gain a better understanding of early childhood education and complete required clinical hours; KC Ready 4s benefits as the students, interns and residents are able to provide direct on-site supports to children and families.

- **Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences** ~ provide speech, language and hearing screenings and on-site therapy
- **Occupational Therapy Department** ~ assess children’s fine and gross motor development
- **School of Social Work** ~ provide social work interns with field experiences
- **Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine Pediatric Residency Program** ~ provide pediatric residents with field experiences

**Community Partnerships**
- **53 Private Pre-kindergarten Providers located throughout Kalamazoo County** ~ Private providers, who are local employers and contribute to the vitality of the community, play an important role in preparing children for kindergarten.
- **Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency** ~ KRESA provides oversight to the federally funded Head Start program and the state funded Great Start Readiness Program. In collaboration with KC Ready 4s, we are building a seamless high-quality pre-kindergarten system for Kalamazoo County.
- **K-12 School Districts** ~ We are partnering with K-12 school districts to improve the transition between pre-K and kindergarten by providing assessment information on incoming kindergarten children.
- **Family & Children Services** ~ Private providers are seeing an increase in the number of children who enter their programs who have experienced some level of trauma. As a result, we have partnered with FCS to provide a clinical therapist who is working with our providers, families and children.
- **Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services** ~ Numerous departments at KCHCS provide assistance to families and children with identified needs.
- **Northside Preschools** ~ Three sites located on Kalamazoo’s north side offer high-quality preschool for 3-year-olds. KC Ready 4s provides direct oversight of the programs to support high-quality learning experiences. Participating children are then enrolled in a pre-K program the following year so they are able to have a two-year preschool/pre-K experience prior to entering kindergarten.

**On the Horizon**
**Urban Alliance/Momentum Program and Michigan WORKS!** ~ The majority of the families associated with KC Ready 4s are employed, but they do not have incomes adequate enough to support the cost to enroll their child in a high-quality pre-K program. We are exploring ways to connect our families with training and employment opportunities so they are able to obtain employment in occupations that provide a living wage.