In August 2015, Wichita State was awarded a seven year GEAR UP statewide grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU), serves students in foster care and state custody. KKGU assists this target population to reach high school graduation and prepare for postsecondary education. Six service regions provide support services and summer programming across the state.

KKGU goals include supporting students through after-school programming, college tours, career exploration, and family nights designed to educate foster families on the requirements for postsecondary programs. The KKGU summer programs help students choose careers and explore the educational requirements of careers.

KKGU also awards financial need-based scholarships to program students. Scholarships are used as incentives to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates and efforts towards setting career goals.