

CHILD CARE CAPACITY ACCELERATOR

Summary and Funding Recommendations for Approval
June 23, 2023



Overview of Review Process and Timeline

ACCELERATOR PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- Total Proposals Received: **105** Full Accelerator Submissions plus **40** Innovation Community Add-on Proposals
- Total Funding Requested: **\$124 million total**
(*\$117 million for full Accelerator projects plus \$7 million for Innovation Community proposals*)
- Total Funding Available: **\$43.5 million**
(*\$20 million SPARK, \$20 million CCDF-ARPA, \$1 million PDG Planning plus \$2.5 million in collaboration support from the Patterson Family Foundation*)

This exciting grant opportunity was made possible by funding allocations from four sources: \$20 million in SPARK allocated by the state legislature, \$20 million in CCDF-ARPA made available by DCF, \$1 million in PDG Planning grant funds awarded to KCCTF, plus \$2.5 million in collaboration support from the Patterson Family Foundation.

As stated in the RFP, the Child Care Capacity Accelerator grants are intended to support communities in creating sustainable, high-quality child care. Funding is intended for communities positioned to make transformational investments in child care and early learning solutions that will impact generations to come. In doing so, it will support economic growth, meet the needs of local businesses, create new jobs with better compensation (living wages) for early educators, and support workforce participation by families with young children.

The Child Care Innovation Communities was a competitive add-on to the full Accelerator Grant opportunity to specifically pilot targeted approaches and strategies to expand child care capacity in six innovation categories: Infant/Toddler Incentives, Child Care Plus Models, Workforce Recruitment and Retention, Non-Traditional Service Hours or Targeted Populations, Rural Child care, and Public/Private Funding Partnership. Grantees will participate in a 12-month cohort program from July 2023–June 2024 that involves co-creation and peer learning sessions, regular data reporting and evaluation efforts, and monthly coaching sessions.

The north star throughout the process – both in advising applicants and in reviewing applications – was the use of these dollars to create more sustainable, licensed child care seats across the state and accelerate the capacity-building and innovative efforts of Kansas communities. Our review process included working to ensure that the projects recommended for funding would be viable and successful; that outside reviewers had brought their individual expertise to bear; and that the slate before you reflects a diversity of strategies to respond to the child care crisis in communities across Kansas.

In addition, the KCCTF team worked closely with DCF, KDHE, KSDE, Kansas Commerce, and the team at Child Care Aware of Kansas, to ensure all available funding across the state was being leveraged and award recommendations are appropriate based on allowable expense guidelines.

Timeline

Feb 20, 2023	Letter of Interest Due
Mar 10	RFP Released and Kansas CommonApp portal open
Apr 4	Information released on Innovation Community Add-on
Mar-Apr	Technical Assistance Webinars
May 15	Application Deadline
May 16 - Jun 9	Application Review Period
Jun 23	KCCTF Board Approval
Jun 26-30	Grantee Notification Following Cabinet Board Approval
July 1	Grant Year Begins

Funding Recommendations

Green = Innovation Community Add-On Proposed Award.

Some applicants applied for and are being recommended to receive both an Accelerator and Innovation Community grant. To be eligible for an Innovation Community Add-on, an applicant needed to meet criteria and apply for a full Accelerator grant.

North Central Region				
Applicant	Funding Request	Proposed Funding	Slots Added	Proposal Overview
Herington Community Child Care Center	\$267,872	\$267,872	24	Center expansion on USD property
Solomon Early Learning Center	\$386,760	\$346,716	21	Led by USD, 3 additional classrooms with staff as KPERS employees
Solomon Early Learning Center	\$55,620	\$55,620	NA	Adding Infant/Toddler Slots through targeted staff training and a substitute pool.
Abilene Child Care Learning Center	\$248,880	\$248,880	55	3 centers collaborating on workforce supports and finishes on renovation
Abilene Child Care Learning Center	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Expand existing substitute program for child care programs.
Salina Area United Way	\$2,027,100	\$1,872,100	187	United Way as fiscal lead; expanding size of three existing centers to serve more children
Cloud County Community College – Children’s Learning Center	\$14,500	\$14,500	19	Recruitment bonuses to grow an existing center
North Central	Region Total	\$3,055,688	306	
South Central Region				
Applicant	Funding Request	Proposed Funding	Slots Added	Proposal Overview
Little’s Early Learning - E9 Properties	\$372,690	\$336,469	54	Private Center expansion with close relationships with USD; near future Integra computer chip facility
Reno County Collaboration - CrossAlign Consulting	\$2,173,887	\$2,145,834	308	County Task Force as lead supporting a collaborative effort involving 6 organizations and 8 distinct projects/facilities to expand child care.
Reno County Collaboration - CrossAlign Consulting	\$247,600	\$247,600	NA	Infant/Toddler incentives for local providers and workforce training efforts.

Advancing Barton County Children, Inc.	\$3,466,872	\$2,238,630	177	Construct 2 of 3 new child care facilities across 3 communities in Barton County.
Walnut Valley Learning Center – Creekstone Farms Premium Beef	\$500,000	\$500,000	116	New center operating expanded hours to support Creekstone employees and surrounding community.
Branches Nurture Center	\$953,000	\$953,000	24	Renovation of existing facility to expand child care options for infants and toddlers
Flint Hills Child Care Coalition	\$377,280	\$377,280	28	New child care facility with support from USD and space provided by the city.
Kids World Child Care Learning Center	\$1,746,426	\$1,746,426	60	Expansion of current child care facility into 7,000 sq. ft. facility serving low income families.
USD 331 Daycare Center	\$720,122	\$674,027	24	Licensing unused space in USD for two separate day care homes (commercial setting).
McPherson County Child Care Task Force	\$1,145,000	\$245,000	152	Multi-phase approach to expanding the workforce, adding shared services, and supporting new facilities
McPherson County Child Care Task Force	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	CTE supports, shared services among county providers, and exploration of public/private partnership for sustainability.
South YMCA Learning Center	\$251,000	\$251,000	13	Increase space to serve more infants and toddlers.
Hillsboro Community Child Care Center	\$855,216	\$855,216	83	Adapting church building to create new child care facility
Tri County Child Care Coalition	\$1,725,004	\$1,725,004	198	Renovate and expand five new child care facilities across 3 counties (Barber, Harper, Kiowa)
Tri County Child Care Coalition	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Tri-county service and resource sharing, including toy bank, professional development, substitutes, etc.
Mindful Minis	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Special health care services (focused on mental health) for children and families in child care facility.
Early Childhood Impact Center	\$225,250	\$225,250	NA	Multi-payer Share Care Fund Model (modeled after Michigan Tri-Share)
South Central Region Total		\$13,270,736	1,237	

Northwest Region				
<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Proposed Funding</i>	<i>Slots Added</i>	<i>Proposal Overview</i>
USD270 – Little Nests	\$319,212	\$236,120	12	Multi-phase initiative adding licensed group homes strategically throughout the community
USD 270 – Little Nests	\$138,865	\$138,865	NA	Establish substitute program for child care programs.
Sheridan County Community Foundation	\$200,000	\$200,000	24	Support expansion of a duplex facility purchased specifically for two licensed child care spaces
USD 294 – Decatur County Child Care Coalition	\$73,829	\$73,829	12	Support new build close to USD; staff will receive KPERS benefits as USD staff.
Rawlins County Economic Development	\$671,741	\$671,741	24	Renovated dental clinic to add two licensed facilities
Phillipsburg Child Care Center	\$200,162	\$200,162	30	Increasing capacity of existing center to serve more children
The Grove Child Care Center	\$2,000,000	\$170,000	77	New facility connected to a new multi-generational community center within a housing development
Northwest Region Total		\$1,690,717	179	

Southeast Region				
<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Proposed Funding</i>	<i>Slots Added</i>	<i>Proposal Overview</i>
Coffeyville Area Child Care Coalition	\$882,103	\$882,103	291	24-hour, 6 day/week care for second and third shift families
Erie Community Child Care	\$748,207	\$748,207	48	Opening second center with 4 large classrooms
The Growing Place – Humboldt Daycare & Preschool, Inc.	\$1,237,017	\$1,162,017	48	Expansion of existing child care facility to serve more children, 81% of which will be infant/toddler slots
West Elk Early Child Center	\$1,182,268	\$1,182,268	60	Building new child care center in partnership with USD and SEK-CAP
Family Resource Center	\$1,637,795	\$1,637,795	58	Expansion of FRC space and wrap-around services to serve more families
Grow at Eden LLC	\$1,931,636	\$204,982	48	Expansion of existing child care facility to serve more children and add professional development
The Tree House Early Education Foundation	\$387,905	\$387,905	52	Support completion of a renovation to expand an existing child care facility serving low-income families

SugarCreek Child Care Center	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	206	Creation of new child care facility with mix of schedule to accommodate multiple shifts; ongoing business support
SugarCreek Child Care Center	\$80,370	\$80,370	NA	School district CTE and EC Pathway program. Will also offer PD and substitute pool for local providers.
USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center	\$2,491,053	\$2,491,053	99	New child care facility in Wilson County, in the works since 2017.
USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	HS collaboration for internship/work-study/community-based training with local providers

Southeast Region Total \$11,026,700 910

Southwest Region

Applicant	Funding Request	Proposed Funding	Slots Added	Proposal Overview
LIFT Minneola	\$530,300	\$530,300	24	Renovate existing building into two licensed child care facilities.
Grow & Learn Child Care Center	\$229,032	\$229,032	10	Worker recruitment to expand capacity
Jays Nest Day Care	\$412,756	\$412,756	11	Small center pilot approach to enable expansion of existing child care facility
Garden Academy Early Learning Center - Finney County Child Care and Early Learning Network	\$621,825	\$621,825	60	Support launch of new child care facility and expansion of early learning network

Southwest Region Total \$1,793,913 105

Northeast Region

Applicant	Funding Request	Proposed Funding	Slots Added	Proposal Overview
The Learning Experience Blue Valley	\$457,500	\$457,500	159	Final funding to support the opening of a new facility.
Hilltop Child Development Center, Inc.	\$2,500,325	\$2,500,325	138	Support Hilltop expansion with new facility and operational supports.
The Kids Place - Integrated Behavioral Technologies, Inc.	\$220,442	\$220,442	12	Minor renovation and staff recruitment to add slots to existing infant/toddler capacity.
Hope Chapel Legends	\$944,094	\$944,094	92	New facility with shared staff and training leveraged from sister facilities

Shawnee County Collaboration - Greater Topeka Partnership	\$2,836,613	\$2,762,113	451	New construction, renovation, and operational support to expand child care across 9 projects in the county
Shawnee County Collaboration - Greater Topeka Partnership	\$249,875	\$249,875	NA	HR and other shared resources for staffing supports across programs in the collaboration.
Little Learners Early Childhood Center – Early Childhood Consultants	\$4,010,819	\$700,000	155	Expansion of existing facility to support community with high economic development growth
Little Learners Early Childhood Center – Early Childhood Consultants	\$72,611	\$72,611	NA	Professional Development/pathway supports for early childhood professionals in the area.
Children’s Treehouse Learning Center	\$272,000	\$272,000	158	New facility build to expand capacity of an existing provider
Doniphan Darlings, Inc.	\$467,520	\$467,520	15	Completion of renovation on a center from former school building
Greater Manhattan Community Foundation	\$2,250,000	\$2,172,954	100	New building for a Child Care Business Incubator with shared professional development and business growth opportunities
Greater Manhattan Community Foundation	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Incubation model for child care, including cost sharing
Bright Beginnings Child Care Center	\$385,884	\$385,884	40	New 4-room center in Nemaha Co.
Delightful Village & Delight Ahead	\$113,498	\$108,698	85	Support completion of renovations to recently-purchased facility to expand child care
Community Children’s Center	\$2,237,808	\$628,421	69	Community center renovation to add non-traditional hours and wraparound services
Community Children’s Center	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Non-traditional services hours w/ drop-in and scheduled care options. Employer sponsored child care fund and spot securing.
Success by Six	\$63,103	\$63,103	NA	Targeted Family Navigation supports to help BIPOC families access child care
USD 367 and United Way of Miami County	\$250,000	\$250,000	NA	Mentorship program for new hires; staff training; compensation package exploration
Northeast Region Total		\$12,755,540	1,478	
Total Proposed Funding and Slots		\$43,593,294	4,211	

Herington Community Child Care Center

Overview

The Herington Community Child Care Center is one of several projects in Dickinson County, all of which are considering their impact on each other and the total care system. This project will add 24 needed seats. The project is led by the school district and will be on district property. The Herington Community Child Care Center has a goal of having all their staff either degreed or credentialed with a CDA by August 2024. The leadership and commitment shown by the School District to ensure the success of the project provides assurance of long-term viability. (Application # 3793)

- City: **Herington**
- County: **Dickinson**
(North Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$354,245**
- Accelerator Request: **\$267,872**
- Accelerator Award: **\$267,872**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **8% total child care slots needed**

Solomon Early Learning Center

Accelerator Overview

One of several projects in Dickinson County, all of which consider their impact on each other and the total care system. The Solomon Early Learning Center is led by USD 393, with a goal of working together with the other Dickinson County projects to meet the needs of their communities. Their 3 classrooms will serve 24 children or more, depending on ages of children enrolled. They have made the decision to employ staff as KPERS employees with the attached benefits. (Application # 3800)

Innovation Communities

Training opportunities to increase provider qualifications for providing infant and toddler care. Additionally, the center will explore the development of a center substitute pool and leverage mentorship opportunities through a local high school career pathways program.

- City: **Solomon**
- County: **Dickinson**
(North Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,018,444**
- Accelerator Request: **\$386,760**
- Accelerator Award: **\$346,716**
- New Slots Added: **21**
- Project Impact on County: **7% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$55,620**
- Innovation Categories: **Infant/Toddler Incentives and Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Abilene Child Care Learning Center

Accelerator Overview

This is a collaboration between three child care centers in Dickinson County (2 in Abilene and 1 in Herington) with a total capacity of 209. These centers have a long-standing commitment to quality child care in Dickinson County. Discovery Child Care Learning Center has started an additional project and operational support will help purchase required equipment and supplies for when the project is complete. Project will also increase wages for all existing teachers through a bonus retention program. An important innovation of this project team is their regional sub-pool, "Customized Early Education". (Application # 3837)

Innovation Communities

Abilene Child Care Learning Center established a child care substitute pool model in 2022. They will expand this model to other communities through the project funding in partnership with Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas. They will continue outreach for additional partnership opportunities during the project period to reach more communities around the state.

- City: **Abilene & Herington**
- County: **Dickinson**
(North Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$331,840**
- Accelerator Request: **\$248,880**
- Accelerator Award: **\$248,880**
- New Slots Added: **55**
- Project Impact on County: **18% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Salina Area United Way

Overview

The Salina Area United Way is applying on behalf of the Salina Family YMCA McAdams Center, which is opening a brand new location in an existing Montessori School. The project requires final funding to complete renovations. Additionally, they are also applying for St John's Kid Kare and Love N Learn child care centers that are doing renovations to expand their current facilities and child care capacity. With the renovations made to these 3 existing facilities, Saline County will be creating 187 new child care slots for the community. Partners include Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Schwan's, several churches, and the Salina Regional Hospital Foundation. (Application # 3844)

- City: **Saline**
- County: **Saline**
(North Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$3,163,965**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,027,100**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,872,100**
- New Slots Added: **187**
- Project Impact on County: **18% total child care slots needed**

Cloud County Community College – Children’s Learning Center

Overview

The Cloud County Community College Children's Learning Center is a high impact facility with nearly four decades of experience in building a thriving and sustainable child care ecosystem. The Center will recruit and retain child care professionals with sign-on and retention bonuses and paid professional development opportunities. Additionally, the purchase and implementation of new, evidence-based curriculum will better serve children and improve teacher satisfaction. (Application # 4115)

- City: **Concordia**
- County: **Cloud**
(North Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$243,326**
- Accelerator Request: **\$14,500**
- Accelerator Award: **\$14,500**
- New Slots Added: **19**
- Project Impact on County: **13% total child care slots needed**

Little's Early Learning – E9 Properties

Overview

Little's Early Learning is a private center with a strong partnership with Circle School District. This partnership includes providing wrap around child care for children in the district preschool from three elementary schools, as well as a career pathway for high school students. They provide care for children birth through after-school care. From a statewide economic development perspective, it is noteworthy that their facility is 4 miles from the planned Integra computer chip facility in Bel Aire. (Application # 3801)

- City: **Benton**
- County: **Butler**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$740,190**
- Accelerator Request: **\$372,690**
- Accelerator Award: **\$336,469**
- New Slots Added: **54**
- Project Impact on County: **3% total child care slots needed**

Reno County Collaboration – CrossAlign Consulting

Accelerator Overview

Under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, The Reno County Child Care Task Force has worked since 2017 to develop a collaborative, countywide project involving six partnering organizations and eight distinct projects to address child care capacity challenges in Reno County. Four of these projects are located in communities with less than 1,500 people, where licensed, quality child care providers are most scarce. The initiative includes five renovations and three new facilities, with the majority being existing providers offering expanded services and would serve over 300 children. (*Application # 3852*)

Innovation Communities

The Reno County Task Force will develop infant/toddler incentive and workforce training programs to help address gaps in local child care for young children. Local providers will be offered financial incentives to increase the number of infants in their facility or home. Additionally, local providers will have access to subsidized training opportunities to increase access to educational opportunities outside of business hours and reduce the financial burden of meeting training requirements on providers.

- City: **Hutchinson, Buhler, Haven, Pretty Prairie**
- County: **Reno**
(*South Central Region*)
- Total Project Budget: **\$5,042,477**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,173,887**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,145,834**
- New Slots Added: **308**
- Project Impact on County: **16% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$247,600**
- Innovation Categories: **Infant/Toddler Incentives and Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Advancing Barton County Children, Inc.

Overview

Advancing Barton County Children, Inc. is seeking to fully address Barton County child care and early childhood development needs. ABCC, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization comprised of community members and has developed their strategy in response to evidence that child care is one of the most challenging obstacles for employers and employees to overcome. Their long-term plan is to construct (3) new, high quality child care centers in the communities of Great Bend, Hoisington, and Claflin. These centers will focus on providing the highest level of care, an elevated center appearance, a commitment to employee training and culture and, finally, care based on support, encouragement, and educational engagement for the youngest members of their community. The funding proposal will fund 2 of the 3 sites. (*Application # 3932*)

- City: **Hoisington, Great Bend**
- County: **Barton**
(*South Central Region*)
- Total Project Budget: **\$5,461,104**
- Accelerator Request: **\$3,466,872**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,238,630**
- New Slots Added: **177**
- Project Impact on County: **14% total child care slots needed**

Walnut Valley Learning Center – Creekstone Farms Premium Beef

Overview

The Walnut Valley Learning Center will serve primarily employees of Creekstone Farm’s Premium Beef. With a dedicated staff of approximately 25, the center will operate from Monday to Friday starting at 5 am and closing at 6 pm, and occasionally on Saturdays. Creekstone employees can take advantage of a discounted tuition arrangement that enables seamless payment through payroll deduction. The center’s staff members will receive highly competitive wages, along with a comprehensive benefits package that includes health insurance and paid time off. Designed to be a state-of-the-art facility, the Walnut Valley Learning Center aims to provide a child’s “Home away from Home.” In addition to its experienced staff, the center boasts an educational curriculum that guarantees high-quality care and learning opportunities. Creekstone Farms has invested \$3.6 million in the development and construction of the facility. *(Application # 3969)*

- City: **Arkansas City**
- County: **Cowley**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$3,604,946**
- Accelerator Request: **\$500,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$500,000**
- New Slots Added: **116**
- Project Impact on County: **12% total child care slots needed**

Branches Nurture Center

Overview

The Nurture Center will bring center based, affordable and nurturing child care to the heart of El Dorado, Kansas. With focus on serving the most vulnerable children in their community, they will offer care for children age 2 weeks to 2.5 years. Reduced-fee coupons may be earned by taking classes on parenting, safety or Life In Community. The Nurture Center will be sustainable by employing innovative staff and space sharing models. Their Adopt-a-grandparent program will encourage supporters to donate a portion of child care costs for an unknown family, receiving holiday notes and other communications from those families throughout the year. Corporate Sponsorship programs will provide opportunities for local businesses and churches to sponsor classrooms or offer volunteer support. *(Application # 4059)*

- City: **El Dorado**
- County: **Butler**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,039,935**
- Accelerator Request: **\$953,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$953,000**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **1% total child care slots needed**

Flint Hills Child Care Coalition

Overview

The Flint Hills Child Care Center will open in Florence, KS to provide quality child care services for children aged 3 months to school-aged in the under-served area of the Flint Hills. Centrally located along Highways 77 and 50, the Center will offer child care services to residents from Marion, Chase, and northern Butler counties. The Center expects to open with an initial target of 15 students in Fall 2023 and expand to up to 28 students by the following year. This project has been developed with broad community support, including support from USD 408 and space provided by the City. (Application # 4074)

- City: **Florence**
- County: **Marion**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$503,586**
- Accelerator Request: **\$377,280**
- Accelerator Award: **\$377,280**
- New Slots Added: **28**
- Project Impact on County: **8% total child care slots needed**

Kids World Child Care Learning Center

Overview

For the last 14 years, Kids World has played a vital role in the Northeast Wichita area by providing high quality child care services to low-income families. Their current facility will be expanded to 7600 sq. ft and is located in a high need, low-income community. This will add an additional 60 new seats which will allow them to support the needs in that area of Wichita. Kids World educational child care philosophy is based on the Reggio Emilia approach, which believe that children are filled with natural curiosity and bursting creativity. These attributes form the basis for learning journeys that are accomplished in a warm and collaborative environment and strong relationship with teachers and peers. (Application # 3953)

- City: **Wichita**
- County: **Sedgwick**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: : **\$2,383,426**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,746,426**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,746,426**
- New Slots Added: **60**
- Project Impact on County: **0.5% total child care slots needed**

USD 331 Child Care Center

Overview

USD 331 plans to convert unused classroom space in Kingman Elementary School into a full-time child care center, which will be licensed as two (2) separate home programs in a commercial setting based on the advice of KDHE. They plan to offer prioritized and discounted child care services to school district and hospital employees with a focus on lower-income employees such as paraprofessionals, CNAs, and dietary staff. After these prioritized slots are filled, any remaining slots will be available to community members on a first-come, first-serve basis. Based on surveys of current employees they estimate 7-10 children outside of the healthcare and school system will be served. Community partners include Kingman Healthcare Center Foundation, USD 331, Kingman County Economic Development, and the Kingman Recreation Commission. (Application # 4111)

- City: **Kingman**
- County: **Kingman**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$998,079**
- Accelerator Request: **\$720,122**
- Accelerator Award: **\$674,027**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **10% total child care slots needed**

McPherson County Child Care Task Force

Accelerator Overview

The McPherson County Child Care Task force has outlined a four-phase approach to expand capacity and increase quality child care in McPherson County. These include career pathway engagement efforts, mentorship for professionals, shared services, and additional facilities. The increase of practitioners will allow the county, without any additional capital projects, to increase enrollment up to the desired capacity. (Application #3903)

Innovation Communities

The McPherson County Task Force will focus on workforce recruitment and retention by developing a career pathway for local high school and college students interested in early childhood. They will also work collaboratively with partners throughout the county to offer a shared services model for child care professionals to increase business efficiencies and professional development opportunities. Lastly, they will explore public/private partnerships to increase the sustainability of child care locally.

- City: **Moundridge, Lindsborg, Galva, Marquette**
- County: **McPherson**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,870,320**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,145,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$245,000**
- New Slots Added: **152**
- Project Impact on County: **36% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention and Public/Private Funding Partnerships**

South YMCA Learning Center

Overview

The Wichita YMCA South Branch Early Learning Center renovation and expansion will increase high-quality full day, full year child care services for infants and toddlers. The targeted demographic is low-income families in south Wichita and the surrounding area. Currently, enrollment is comprised of working families, primarily low income with some moderate income. Based on income reported on federal income eligibility documents (CACFP) 84% of the participants at the South Early Learning center qualify for free/reduced lunches, 62% in the "free" category. This project will reconfigure space to provide 13 needed infant and toddler spots. The YMCA is funding most of project from their capital fund. (Application #4124)

- City: **Wichita**
- County: **Sedgwick**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,751,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$251,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$251,000**
- New Slots Added: **13**
- Project Impact on County: **0.1% total child care slots needed**

Hillsboro Community Child Care Center

Overview

The goal of this child care facility is to provide a safe learning environment to those who need it in Hillsboro. Having additional child care spots open will help parents work, growing the economy and improving the city's tax base. Parents who wish to attend classes at the local college or wish to work have not been able to find open child care positions to be able to do so. The cost of the project has been reduced by identifying a church building that can be adapted. This is a community wide effort that includes strong engagement with the City, Tabor College, Circle D Corp, Hillsboro Community Hospital, USD, and Barkman Honey. (Application # 4155)

- City: **Hillsboro**
- County: **Marion**
(South Central Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,368,050**
- Accelerator Request: **\$855,216**
- Accelerator Award: **\$855,216**
- New Slots Added: **83**
- Project Impact on County: **24% total child care slots needed**

Tri County Child Care Coalition

Accelerator Overview

The Tri County Child Care Coalition will create a collaboration of three rural counties (Barber, Harper and Kiowa) to create five new child care facilities adding 198 child care spots by July 2024. The County Commissioners and City Officials in all three counties and all five cities are supportive of the project. Child care centers play an important role in supporting families in the community. By providing a safe, nurturing environment for children, they help to ensure that children are given the best possible start in life. Additionally, these centers can provide families with a variety of services and activities designed to strengthen family relationships and promote healthy development. (Application # 4162)

Innovation Communities

The Tri County Coalition will partner to share child care resources such as a toy bank, professional development opportunities, and floating substitutes across Barber, Harper, and Kiowa counties. In addition to cost savings for participating providers, this approach will also strengthen support and connection among local child care providers.

- City: **Medicine Lodge, Attica, Greensburg, Kiowa, Anthony**
- County: **Barber, Harper, Kiowa (South Central Region)**
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,301,631**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,725,004**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,725,004**
- New Slots Added: **198**
- Project Impact on County: **63% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Rural Child Care**
- Innovation Categories: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention and Public/Private Funding Partnerships**

Mindful Minis

Innovation Communities

Mindful Minis will implement mental health informed approaches into their child care facility. They will incorporate sensory-friendly activities as well as speech and mental health therapies into their services, as well as engagement opportunities for families through parenting groups and modeling sessions. Additionally, Mindful Minis will work to increase broader awareness of mental health needs and informed approaches in the community through collaboration and outreach efforts. (Application # 4108)

- City: **Wichita**
- County: **Sedgwick (South Central Region)**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Category: **Child Care Plus Models**

Early Childhood Impact Center

Innovation Communities

Cowley County will pilot a multi-payer model that includes employer contributions and community donations to a community child care fund. The Share Care fund model is like a public/private funding partnerships established in other states in recent years. As part of engagement efforts with employers to encourage participation in the pilot, the Legacy Foundation and Cowley First will establish a learning cohort of employers interested in implementing child care incentive programs for their employees. (Application # 3958)

- City: **Winfield**
- County: **Cowley**
(South Central Region)
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$225,250**
- Innovation Category: **Public/Private Funding Partnerships**

USD 270 – Little Nests

Accelerator Overview

The Nests project is a multi-phase initiative, designed to address early learning and child care needs in the community, by creating multiple child care group homes, with locations strategically placed in the community. During 2022, the district opened the first child care group home, The Nest #1, on the USD 270 campus. This year, construction is underway for a second child care group home, The Nest #2, located on the Rooks County Health Center (RCH) campus. Funds from the Child Care Capacity grant will be used to support operational costs of the new child care facility, including staffing and "soft" costs to equip the new facility. The facility will have capacity for 20 families, with a maximum of 12 children at any given time. They make a concentrated effort not to undercut pricing of private family child care providers, which is key to the sustainability of the system of care in their community. (Application # 3811)

Innovation Communities

USD270 will establish a Child Care Staff Reserve Pool leveraging local high school and community college students, retired individuals and part-time and full-time workers looking to increase hours and/or training opportunities. In addition to addressing local staffing needs, they hope to establish a model that can be leveraged by other rural communities facing workforce shortages.

- City: **Plainville**
- County: **Rooks** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$436,290**
- Accelerator Request: **\$319,212**
- Accelerator Award: **\$236,120**
- New Slots Added: **12**
- Project Impact on County: **7% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$138,865**
- Innovation Category: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Sheridan County Community Foundation

Overview

The Sheridan County Community Foundation broke ground in the fall of 2022 on a child care duplex facility. The Foundation agreed to sponsor the project and will maintain ownership of the facility. To assist in the upfront costs typically required of new child care providers, the duplex units will be furnished with many of the major start-up supplies, equipment, furniture, etc., and rented at discounted rates to help address the county's child care needs in an immediate fashion. Two private child care providers operating within the duplex will be able to provide care for up to 20 children full-time combined. (Application # 3849)

- City: **Hoxie**
- County: **Sheridan** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$608,680**
- Accelerator Request: **\$200,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$200,000**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **75% total child care slots needed**

USD 294 – Decatur County Child Care Coalition

Overview

Decatur County Child Care Coalition was formed February 2022 following a Strategic Doings presentation. The Building Blocks Child Care facility will operate under the umbrella of USD 294, providing KPERS benefits to employees. The Building Blocks Child Care facility has adopted the mission statement of USD 294, "Our mission. Their journey. Where kids come first!" Their facility will focus on the individual learning journey of each child enrolled in their program. They are in the process building a new facility located near the elementary school, for the convenience of their growing community. (Application # 3933)

- City: **Oberlin**
- County: **Decatur** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$394,715**
- Accelerator Request: **\$73,829**
- Accelerator Award: **\$73,829**
- New Slots Added: **12**
- Project Impact on County: **9% total child care slots needed**

Rawlins County Economic Development

Overview

The Building Blocks Child Care Initiative will increase the number of child care slots by almost 50% in Rawlins County with the addition of 24 slots in two licensed group child care facilities in a renovated dental clinic. The initiative will serve as a model for child care in frontier communities with investments from residents, large employers, community organizations, and philanthropic organizations, to sustain operations. The project plans to be inclusive and provide support for current and future child care providers for perpetuity in Rawlins County, and counties that surround it. (Application # 4109)

- City: **Atwood**
- County: **Rawlins** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$839,741**
- Accelerator Request: **\$671,741**
- Accelerator Award: **\$671,741**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **41% total child care slots needed**

Phillipsburg Child Care Center

Overview

The Phillipsburg Child Care Center opened in 2019. This funding will allow the center to take a step forward, increasing capacity by 30 children to 85 total. The Phillipsburg center is well known across the state for their community-driven approach to the development and execution of their child care plan. They partner with USD 325 to provide internships for high school students. Funding partners include the Dane G. Hansen, Morgan, and Cole Foundations, as well as a new employer to the region, Amberwave. (Application # 4121)

- City: **Phillipsburg**
- County: **Phillips** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$272,242**
- Accelerator Request: **\$200,162**
- Accelerator Award: **\$200,162**
- New Slots Added: **30**
- Project Impact on County: **27% total child care slots needed**

The Grove Child Care Center

Overview

Grow Hays, Inc. is a nonprofit organization aimed at economic development. They will construct a community center in a new housing development called The Grove. The Grove Community Center will be a +14,000 sq. ft. facility housing both the Hays Senior Center and The Grove Child Care Center. The latter will cater to the needs of up to 77 children from infancy to preschool, providing quality child care services in Ellis County. The Grove Child Care Center will offer KDHE-approved field trips to an on-site multi-generational classroom, providing children with unique and shared experiences that foster intergenerational connections. (Application # 3792)

- City: **Hays**
- County: **Ellis** (Northwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$5,424,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,000,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$170,000**
- New Slots Added: **77**
- Project Impact on County: **14% total child care slots needed**

Coffeyville Area Child Care Coalition

Overview

ABC is proposing 24-hour care, 6 days a week. This is a need across the state, to provide care for children of adults who work second and third shift. There will be capacity to provide care for 97 children. Their approach to a whole-community effort, including active engagement with family child care and their support of another entity which will move into provide ABA therapy services to children and families impacted by autism and intellectual development disabilities is impressive, as are their efforts to engage with the needs of the growing Spanish-speaking population in their community. (Application # 3821)

- City: **Coffeyville**
- County: **Montgomery** (Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,176,137**
- Accelerator Request: **\$882,103**
- Accelerator Award: **\$882,103**
- New Slots Added: **291**
- Project Impact on County: **32% total child care slots needed**

Erie Community Child Care

Overview

Erie Community Child Care is working to build a second child care center in their town. The center will have 4 large classrooms as well as a multi-purpose room to respond to their current waitlist, as well as to the needs of employers and the parents who need child care in order to remain in the workforce. They also identify child care as a key part of helping young working adults feel welcome in Erie, ensuring the future prosperity of the community. (Application # 3822)

- City: **Erie**
- County: **Neosho** (Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$998,207**
- Accelerator Request: **\$748,207**
- Accelerator Award: **\$ 748,207**
- New Slots Added: **48**
- Project Impact on County: **13% total child care slots needed**

The Growing Place – Humboldt Daycare & Preschool, Inc.

Overview

In the last 17 years, The Growing Place (TGP) has undergone two building expansions and increased its licensing to 124 seats. TGP is shovel ready to expand close to 6000 more sq ft to significantly close that gap and increase another 48 seats; 81% of those specifically in infant to toddler rooms. TGP will hire ten new full-time and five part-time staff that will be offered competitive wages, benefits, and professional development opportunities. They work with USD 258 to provide a CTE pathway for students, and B & W Custom Truck Beds, a major employer in Humboldt, is a strong funder of the project. (Application # 4085)

- City: **Humboldt**
- County: **Allen** (Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,649,501**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,237,017**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,162,017**
- New Slots Added: **48**
- Project Impact on County: **62% total child care slots needed**

West Elk Early Child Center

Overview

The West Elk USD 282 Early Child Center will provide additional early childhood learning opportunities for families who reside and/or work within the West Elk-282 communities. Funding will create 60 KDHE licensed child care slots. Establishing an Early Child Center will be under the supervision of the USD 282 school district in collaboration with the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP). This partnership will allow for blended funding to serve children who qualify for Head Start and provide care for the most economically disadvantaged children while infusing much-needed federal funding into the child care center. (*Application # 4119*)

- City: **Howard**
- County: **Elk** (*Southeast Region*)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,576,358**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,182,268**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,182,268**
- New Slots Added: **60**
- Project Impact on County: **68% total child care slots needed**

Family Resource Center

Overview

The Family Resource Center Expansion Project renovation will create 58 new 0-5 child care slots in southeast Pittsburg. Families will receive multiple family support services, including Part B and Part C special education; primary, dental, and behavioral health. Children will not be accepted or denied based on income, and children served will reflect the community's population. This is a collaboration between the Ascension Via Christi Hospital, the Family Resource Center (FRC), and others. (*Application # 4122*)

- City: **Pittsburg**
- County: **Crawford** (*Southeast Region*)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,526,388**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,637,795**
- Accelerator Award: **\$ 1,637,795**
- New Slots Added: **58**
- Project Impact on County: **6% total child care slots needed**

Grow at Eden, LLC

Overview

Grow at Eden is an early learning child care center licensed for 74 children and is preparing to create and sustain an additional 48 high quality child care seats. The expansion will create space with adequate equipment to offer more community classes. Grow at Eden will co-host or allow use of their space for educational classes through KDHE, KCCTO, K-State Extension Agents, Parents as Teachers, and Greenbush. The classes offered will support Labette County Child Care Network's (LC3) mission to grow child care capacity in Labette Co. and provide access to high-quality, affordable child care. Grow at Eden will be the host site for LC3's educational provider courses. (Application # 4024)

- City: **Parsons**
- County: **Labette**
(Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,653,966**
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,931,636**
- Accelerator Award: **\$204,982**
- New Slots Added: 48
- Project Impact on County: **15% total child care slots needed**

The Tree House Early Education Foundation

Overview

In February 2020, a project commenced to expand a home-based child care, accommodating 9 children, into a center capable of hosting 52 children alongside a wider range of resources for families. Originally expected to take 4-5 months, the project faced setbacks due to the pandemic, which caused delays, as well as unforeseen building-related challenges coming up repeatedly. The Tree House Early Education Foundation was established by Tamisha Sewell to secure additional funding options and enhance the center's ability to support the community. Much of the work has already been accomplished, and final push is needed to complete the project. The center's services will cater to children from birth to 5, including before and after-school care for school-age children. (Application # 4051)

- City: **Independence**
- County: **Montgomery**
(Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$675,203**
- Accelerator Request: **\$387,905**
- Accelerator Award: **\$387,905**
- New Slots Added: **52**
- Project Impact on County: **6% total child care slots needed**

SugarCreek Child Care Center

Overview

SugarCreek, through a community partnership with USD 249 and New Foundations, seeks to add a licensed child care center in the Frontenac Regional Industrial Park. The project will add 200+ seats to a community with significant child care shortages. Their intention is to provide a new facility that can accommodate a variety of work schedules at their facility and other local employers and to make seats available to the community as well. This project will increase workforce participation, improve early childhood development, and school readiness in their community. SugarCreek plans to use these funds along with its own capital to oversee construction and take on the ongoing maintenance of the center. This will allow the licensed provider to operate with no building cost, increasing focus on providing education and care to the children while paying premium wages and keeping costs at or below current enrollment costs in the area. The partnership is designed to ensure sustainability that none of the partners—New Foundations and USD 249—could provide alone. (*Application # 4147*)

Innovation Communities

SugarCreek Child Care Center will partner with USD 249 to increase the local early childhood workforce by leveraging the district's career pathway program. High school students who complete this program will graduate with a CDA, increasing the pool of qualified applicants in the community. Additionally, the Center will offer professional development opportunities to local providers and offer a substitute pool to cover short-term staffing shortages.

- City: **Frontenac**
- County: **Crawford** (*Southeast Region*)
- Total Project Budget: **\$8,863,876**
- Accelerator Request: **\$3,000,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,000,000**
- New Slots Added: **206**
- Project Impact on County: **20% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$80,370**
- Innovation Category: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center

Accelerator Overview

USD 461 Neodesha, has been working since 2017 on a project to construct and sustain a licensed Early Learning Center for children aged birth to five years living within the district's catchment area. Neodesha has roughly 2,000 jobs; nearly 65% of that workforce travels into town each day. Employees often leave as soon as a job is available closer to their home and child care. (Application # 3839)

Innovation Communities

USD 461 Neodesha will work with local high school students interested in early childhood through an internship model, work-study, and/or community-based training. This model is based on a successful existing approach within the district and will now be tailored to early childhood career opportunities. Participating students will gain hands-on experience and training in local child care settings.

- City: **Neodesha**
- County: **Wilson** (Southeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,916,053**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,491,053**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,491,053**
- New Slots Added: **99**
- Project Impact on County: **25% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Category: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

LIFT Minneola

Overview

This project is designed to renovate an existing building into a "turn-key" ready facility for 2 Licensed Child Care Home - Commercial Setting operations able to handle 20 to 24 children while meeting KDHE regulations. Child care has been identified by local community leaders as one of the top two community needs for children, their families & the local economy. By providing the infrastructure for child care, the focus will be on mitigating operational start-up costs in aid of more affordable quality care. The health organization, school and other employers all voiced support in this endeavor as it will greatly assist with recruitment and retention. As the community grows stronger, the health & education of the children will grow with it. (Application # 3850)

- City: **Minneola**
- County: **Clark** (Southwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$734,200**
- Accelerator Request: **\$530,300**
- Accelerator Award: **\$530,300**
- New Slots Added: **24**
- Project Impact on County: **24% total child care slots needed**

Grow & Learn Child Care Center

Overview

The Grow & Learn Child Care Center opened in 2022 and will use Accelerator funding to expand their capacity to serve 10 more full-time children. The project will recruit five full-time highly qualified professionals and five qualified substitutes and retain these staff via sustainable strategies that decrease the chance of burnout and ensure competitive wages. Located on the USD 467 campus, they have a work study program for high school students, and broad community support with funding coming from community foundations, economic development agencies, the school district, and local industry. (Application # 4104)

- City: **Leoti**
- County: **Wichita** (Southwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$470,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$229,032**
- Accelerator Award: **\$229,032**
- New Slots Added: **10**
- Project Impact on County: **19% total child care slots needed**

Jays Nest Day Care

Overview

Jays Nest Daycare will utilize the KDHE Small Center Pilot model to expand capacity and serve 11 more kids in their small community. The Small Center Pilot aims to bridge the regulatory gap between the license type 'group daycare' which can be licensed for 12 children, and centers. (Application # 4145)

- City: **Ashland**
- County: **Clark** (Southwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$500,248**
- Accelerator Request: **\$412,756**
- Accelerator Award: **\$412,756**
- New Slots Added: **11**
- Project Impact on County: **11% total child care slots needed**

Garden Academy Early Learning Center – Finney Co. Child Care Network

Overview

This project will ensure the successful launch of one child care center with an initial capacity of 60 (8 infant and toddler slots) and a possible expanded capacity to 84 (with spots for 16 infant/toddler slots). Finney County has established itself as a leader in child care through their community led approach and unique model; this ongoing commitment speaks to the sustainability of the project. Partners include USD 457, Finney County, Garden City, Western Kansas Community Foundation, KHF, and employers. (Application # 4156)

- City: **Garden City**
- County: **Finney** (Southwest Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$2,003,825**
- Accelerator Request: **\$621,825**
- Accelerator Award: **\$621,825**
- New Slots Added: **60**
- Project Impact on County: **3% total child care slots needed**

The Learning Experience Blue Valley

Overview

The Learning Experience - Blue Valley is a new facility which will be licensed for 159 children from 6 weeks - 6 years old. These are all brand new spots, as the facility is brand new to Overland Park. They intend to be open to the public by summer/fall 2023, with a staff of 30-40 staff members once they are fully staffed. They utilize curriculum developed with the whole child in mind, helping children to advance intellectually, socially, and cognitively. (Application # 3893)

- City: **Overland Park**
- County: **Johnson** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,598,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$457,500**
- Accelerator Award: **\$457,500**
- New Slots Added: **159**
- Project Impact on County: **1% total child care slots needed**

Hilltop Child Development Center, Inc.

Overview

Hilltop Child Development Center will build and operate a new facility, developed in response to requests from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, KU, and KU Endowment. Hilltop West will have ten classrooms serving 138 students, and will open its doors 8/2024 with enrollment beginning Spring 2024. Hilltop has implemented an industry-leading wages and benefits package and utilizes a sliding scale fee structure to balance the need to fund their program with the need for affordable child care. 75% of project is funded with a reduced rate loan through KU Endowment. (Application # 3918)

- City: **Lawrence**
- County: **Douglas** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$8,006,945**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,500,325**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,500,325**
- New Slots Added: **138**
- Project Impact on County: **5% total child care slots needed**

The Kids Place - Integrated Behavioral Technologies, Inc.

Overview

Operating since 2012, this project will allow The Kids Place to bring its early child care program and physical plant to full capacity. 12 slots will be added in the infant and toddler rooms. Project activities include the recruitment and training of four lead teachers and minor renovations to the TKP facility to restore full functionality and sustainability, including kitchen equipment, HVAC and generator system. 61% of the children served by The Kids Place represent an underserved population and their facility includes an autism clinic and operates in close relationship with USD 342. (Application # 4048)

- City: **McLouth**
- County: **Jefferson** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$340,308**
- Accelerator Request: **\$220,442**
- Accelerator Award: **\$220,442**
- New Slots Added: **12**
- Project Impact on County: **4% total child care slots needed**

Hope Chapel Legends

Overview

Hope Chapel Legends will be the second facility operated by Hope Church in Olathe. It also allows the sharing of staff, which will begin with the movement of several key staff from the Olathe facility to the Legends facility. There is substantial need for child care investment in Wyandotte County, and these 92 seats will be directly accessible to a major employment center in the county. (Application # 4110)

- City: **Kansas City (KS)**
- County: **Wyandotte**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,769,085**
- Accelerator Request: **\$944,094**
- Accelerator Award: **\$944,094**
- New Slots Added: **92**
- Project Impact on County: **1% total child care slots needed**

Shawnee County Collaboration - Greater Topeka Partnership

Accelerator Overview

Spearheaded by Greater Topeka Partnership, and taking a community-driven, collaborative approach to adding child care capacity in Topeka/Shawnee County, this project will create 442 new child care slots in the community. A combination of new construction, major renovation of child care buildings previously licensed for child care, expansion of physical space dedicated to child care in existing child care facilities to increase capacity, and workforce strategies to open closed classrooms in currently licensed programs brings a broad array of partners together to address the complex needs of employers, families and early childhood practitioners. (Application # 4128)

Innovation Communities

Improve workforce recruitment and retention through a human resource shared services model for child care providers. Proposed activities include piloting a shared centralized intake process for local child care applicants, an awareness initiative to promote center-based employment opportunities and exploration of competitive wage and benefits options throughout the county. Additionally, the collaborative will work to create a network of business "Champions for Child Care" to develop and strengthen public/private funding partnerships.

- City: **Topeka**
- County: **Shawnee**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$3,887,076**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,836,613**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,762,113**
- New Slots Added: **451**
- Project Impact on County: **8% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$249,875**
- Innovation Categories: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention and Public/Private Funding Partnerships**

Little Learners Early Childhood Center – Early Childhood Consultants

Accelerator Overview

Little Learners Early Childhood Center recognizes that the majority of under-served care is currently for infants and school-aged children, Little Learners are excited to bring a quality program serving infants and school-aged children as well as continuing their program of serving toddlers and preschoolers. They currently have a waiting list at their Olathe locations and with the growth expected in the area, they know the need will continue to increase. They are excited to be able to fill this need in their community with uncompromising quality in child care and early childhood education. This \$700,000 grant will enable this private child care provider to add 41 spots. They employ a substitute lead teacher, which is an exceptional practice and a possible model for other facilities; they also work closely with the DeSoto School District. (Application # 4134)

Innovation Communities

Little Learners Early Childhood Centers will offer a CDA program for its staff as well as local high school seniors and home and center-based professionals. The goal is this approach is to reduce barriers for prospective and current child care professionals access and complete training opportunities. Qualified program participants may be referred for local child care openings to help address staffing shortages.

- City: **Olathe**
- County: **Johnson**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$5,338,267**
- Accelerator Request: **\$4,010,879**
- Accelerator Award: **\$700,000**
- New Slots Added: **41**
- Project Impact on County: **0.5% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$72,611**
- Innovation Category: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Children’s Treehouse Learning Center

Overview

Children’s Treehouse Learning Center is opening a new facility in Leawood. They have operated their current well-regarded facility in Lenexa since 2015. This grant will cover approximately 15% of the total project cost, reducing the barrier to opening a new facility. Their experience staffing their first location has helped them to build a culture that has low turnover compared to the industry at large. They also have industry-leading benefits including medical, retirement, and longevity bonuses. (Application # 4154)

- City: **Leawood**
- County: **Johnson**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$1,872,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$272,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$ 272,000**
- New Slots Added: **158**
- Project Impact on County: **1% total child care slots needed**

Doniphan Darlings, Inc.

Overview

Doniphan Darlings is a non-profit child care center created following local investment after the closure of over 4 in-home child cares in the county. With the help of Doniphan West USD 111, the old grade school building was converted into a child care center thus making Doniphan Darlings the first and only day care center in Doniphan County. Doniphan Darling's will use funds to make necessary improvements, finishes, and workforce supports to expand capacity. (Application #4102)

- City: **Highland**
- County: **Doniphan** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$801,320**
- Accelerator Request: **\$467,520**
- Accelerator Award: **\$467,520**
- New Slots Added: **15**
- Project Impact on County: **5% total child care slots needed**

Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

Accelerator Overview

Create a Child Care Business Accelerator focused on increasing the amount of child care providers and child care workforce which increases the amount of licensable spots community wide. Facility infrastructure focuses on in home or group home providers to start their business who face barriers of physical space requirements or wish to start a business in a collaborative and supportive environment. Upon the business unit's graduation from the Accelerator Facility, a new cohort of business owners can begin, creating an additional 96 of licensable spots annually while retaining the previous cohort's licensable child care spots out in the community. Operational infrastructure housed in the facility extends programming to all providers in Riley County enabling additional training and mentoring, outreach activities, recruitment, active management of a substitute and volunteer pool to also function from this program to limit burnout and help child care businesses remain successful. (Application #3826)

Innovation Communities

The Flint Hills Accelerator Program will offer shared space, training and support for child care providers, including the development of a volunteer and substitute network for local child care programs to access. Training will also be offered to local medical and wellness professionals that interact with families during pre and post-natal care to help build connection points to child care opportunities. The program will also partner with a local technical college and health care provider on career pathways and cost sharing initiatives to support the local workforce.

- City: **Manhattan**
- County: **Riley** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$6,200,000**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,250,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$2,172,954**
- New Slots Added: **100**
- Project Impact on County: **7% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Child Care Plus Models and Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Bright Beginnings Child Care Center

Overview

Bright Beginnings Child Care Center will be a newly constructed center in Centralia, which is in the USD 380 School District and Nemaha County. We will provide additional child care seats for 40 children ages 2 weeks to 6 years old. Our center will have 4 rooms including infant, toddler 1, toddler 2, and pre-school. (Application # 3946)

- City: **Centralia**
- County: **Nemaha**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$712,692**
- Accelerator Request: **\$385,884**
- Accelerator Award: **\$385,884**
- New Slots Added: **40**
- Project Impact on County: **12% total child care slots needed**

Delightful Village & Delight Ahead

Overview

Delight Ahead recently purchased a facility for expansion. The center they secured had recently closed due to the pandemic and has been under renovation for the past year. In efforts to partner and create sustainability, they are collaborating with the community to establish a long-lasting business that is supported by diverse funding sources. Their Village Initiative was recently established in 2022 in response to the growing need for child care and the expansion of Delight Ahead rebranded into Delightful Learning Center. The new location will increase spaces available to the nearby businesses and government offices from 23 to 108 with the option for employer sponsored child care and extended care for children ages 6 weeks - 12 years of age. Delight Ahead has been engaged with the county-wide Raising WyCo child care systems work and is a Head Start provider. (Application #: 4158)

- City: **Kansas City, KS**
- County: **Wyandotte**
(Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$453,996**
- Accelerator Request: **\$113,498**
- Accelerator Award: **\$108,698**
- New Slots Added: **85**
- Project Impact on County: **0.5% total child care slots needed**

Community Children's Center

Accelerator Overview

The Douglas County Early Childhood Community Center includes a child care facility that will be licensed for 69 children with both a day and night shift for a total of up to 138 children cared for each day, 7 days a week. Our focus is serving infants and toddlers to help meet our community's greatest child care need. Drop-in and occasional care are also available to meet the needs of those who are not enrolled in regular care or have a gap or closure with their primary care site. Wraparound services through our Family Resource Center (including navigation and basic needs support, case management, programming and health services) are value-added through co-location to reduce barriers to support and to meet families and children where they are. (Application # 4081)

Innovation Communities

Community Children's Center, Inc. and its partners will expand service hours through drop-in, occasional, and scheduled care options for families. This will increase opportunities for families to access care in the evenings and/or on weekends. Additionally, they will pilot a public/private funding partnership model with employers to help employees secure infant/toddler child care.

- City: **Lawrence, KS**
- County: **Douglas** (Northeast Region)
- Total Project Budget: **\$9,596,965**
- Accelerator Request: **\$2,237,808**
- Accelerator Award: **\$628,421**
- New Slots Added: **69**
- Project Impact on County: **2% total child care slots needed**
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Non-Traditional Service Hours or Targeted Populations and Public/Private Funding Partnerships**

Success by Six

Innovation Communities

Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County will work to increase culturally responsive supports for child care through intentional outreach and engagement with BIPOC and Spanish speaking families. Douglas and care coordinators will work with families as they identify and navigate access to the early childhood resources that they need. (Application # 3945)

- City: **Lawrence**
- County: **Douglas** (Northeast Region)
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$63,103**
- Innovation Categories: **Workforce Recruitment and Retention and Non-Traditional Service Hours or Targeted Populations**

Innovation Communities

USD 367 and United Way of Miami County will implement several workforce strategies to increase recruitment and retention. First, they will establish a mentorship program to pair experienced child care providers with recent hires to provide training and support. They will also conduct several outreach efforts to increase awareness of employment opportunities within child care facilities and develop a comprehensive training program to provide opportunities for professional growth and advancement. Lastly, the partners will conduct community outreach and a needs assessment to better understand and develop solutions for the unique challenges of providing child care in rural communities. Through these outreach programs, they will work to identify potential partnerships to strengthen child care efforts. (*Application # 4139*)

- City: **Osawatomie**
- County: **Miami** (*Northeast Region*)
- Innovation Communities Award: **\$250,000**
- Innovation Categories: **Non-Traditional Service Hours or Targeted Populations and Public/Private Funding Partnerships**