

# CHILD CARE CAPACITY ACCELERATOR

Summary and Funding Recommendations for Approval  
October 6, 2023



## Overview of Review Process

### SUMMARY INFORMATION

- **\$11 million** – additional funding from CCDF (operations-only) ARPA Discretionary Funds made available by DCF on 9/7/2023.
- **9/13/2023** – Invitation to all existing CCCA applicants to submit projects that meet CCCA original RFP operations-only criteria via abbreviated application process.
- **9/25/2023** – Deadline for existing CCCA applicants to submit projects via the online portal.
- **37 applicants** responded (18 previously funded with CCCA grant).
- **\$16.6 million** in total requests with **\$8.9 million** in community match.
- **6/30/2024** – Spend deadline for additional CCCA operations grant funding.
- **Recovered SPARK Funding** – \$425,500 available in recovered SPARK funds from previous grantee who declined award.

This grant opportunity was made possible by an additional funding allocation from DCF through their CCDF-ARPA funding. The funds are for operations expenses ONLY. All other elements of the Child Care Capacity Accelerator as outlined in the RFP remained the same, including the requirement that projects add licensed child care slots and have a 25% community match. In addition, one previously funded grantee declined their original award which made an additional \$425,500 available in SPARK funding for construction projects.

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.”*

KCCTF staff notified all original Accelerator applicants of the opportunity and provided an abbreviated application process via the Kansas CommonApp. Technical assistance was provided to all applicants who requested it. KCCTF staff reviewed these additional submissions and made funding recommendations.

## Funding Recommendations

**Blue = Received CCCA funds from the original Funding Round**

**Green = Did not receive funding from the original Funding Round**

All applicants responded to the invitation to submit an abbreviated application for the additional \$11 million Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant opportunity that closed on September 25, 2023. Existing grantees (those in blue) are being awarded additional funds beyond their previous funding awarded on Jun 23, 2023. New Grantees (those in green) did not previously receive funding and are recommended for funding awards in this round.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>	<b>Slots Added</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Previous Funding</b>
<b>Abilene Childcare Learning Center</b>	\$ 181,493	\$181,493	8	Existing Grantee	\$248,880
<b>Advancing Barton County Childcare</b>	\$ 422,699	\$422,699	21	Existing Grantee	\$2,238,630
<b>Alford Kids Academy</b>	\$370,000	\$370,000	52	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Bethany Lutheran Early Childcare Center</b>	\$109,054	\$109,054	32	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>E9 Properties LLC</b>	\$612,800	\$612,800	32	Existing Grantee	\$336,469
<b>Early Childhood Consultants, Inc.</b>	\$761,000	\$756,000	41	Existing Grantee	\$772,611
<b>Emporia Area Chamber Foundation</b>	\$551,936	\$551,936	136	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Erie Community Child Care Center</b>	\$216,600	\$216,600	48	Existing Grantee	\$748,207
<b>Great Adventures LLC</b>	\$1,279,400	\$1,279,400	180	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>KidZone Learning Center of Overland Park, Inc.</b>	\$490,528	\$490,528	88	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>McPherson County Child Care Expansion</b>	\$1,116,272	\$639,108	29	Existing Grantee	\$495,000
<b>Mindful Minis</b>	\$368,962	\$368,962	58	Existing Grantee	\$250,000 (Innovation only)

<b>Open Minds Child Development Center, LLC</b>	\$897,060	\$847,060	53	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Outlook Academy</b>	\$465,000	\$409,000	90	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Parkwood Day School Eudora</b>	\$983,731	\$983,731	54	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Parkwood Day School of KCK</b>	\$696,750	\$696,750	55	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Rainbow Academy, LLC</b>	\$65,310	\$65,310	18	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Raising Wildflowers</b>	\$150,000	\$150,000	83	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Reno County Child Care Task Force</b>	\$146,180	\$146,180	64	Existing Grantee	\$2,393,434
<b>Salina Area United Way</b>	\$316,500	\$316,500	39	Existing Grantee	\$1,872,100
<b>Sonshine Childcare</b>	\$385,168	\$385,168	48	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>The Heritage Home</b>	\$270,000	\$270,000	38	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>The Learning Experience - Blue Valley</b>	\$275,000	\$275,000	13	Existing Grantee	\$457,500
<b>USD 252</b>	\$292,000	\$207,000	10	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>USD 331 Daycare Center</b>	\$316,016	\$316,016	19	Existing Grantee	\$674,027
<b>USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center</b>	\$403,450	\$199,204	99	Existing Grantee	\$2,741,053
<b>USD 491 Eudora</b>	\$175,000	\$160,000	60	New Proposed Grantee	--
<b>Total Proposed Funding and Slots</b>		<b>\$11,425,500</b>	<b>1,468</b>		

## Abilene Childcare Learning Center

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### Overview

Abilene Childcare Learning Center will see some much-needed improvements when it comes to ADA accessibility thanks to additional operations funds. They also plan to offer retention and professional development bonuses to staff while increasing total capacity by eight slots. (Application # 3837)

- City: **Abilene, Herrington**
- County: **Dickinson**  
(North Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$181,493**
- Accelerator Award: **\$181,493**
- New Slots Added: **8**

## Advancing Barton County Childcare

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### Overview (Plus SPARK)

With additional operating funds, Advancing Barton County Childcare will be able to add additional slots to the two centers currently underway. This funding allows them to speed up their timeline and add much needed capacity sooner. (Application # 3932)

- City: **Hoisington, Great Bend**
- County: **Barton**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$422,699**
- Accelerator Award: **\$207,699 – CCDF**  
**\$215,000 – SPARK**
- New Slots Added: **21**

## Alford Kids Academy

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### Overview (New Grantee)

Wichita based Alford's Kids Academy is increasing their overall capacity including new slots for infants, and toddlers. This program aims to serve their community by providing care during non-traditional hours in a well-equipped setting staffed by quality staff with access to personal and professional development resources. (Application # 4022)

- City: **Wichita**
- County: **Sedgwick**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$370,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$370,000**
- New Slots Added: **52**

## Bethany Lutheran Early Childcare Center

### Overview (New Grantee)

Current renovations are underway to add an additional infant classroom. This will provide 9 new infant child care slots to the Wichita area. In addition, with additional staff, licensed capacity could be utilized to add 23 slots for three- to five-year-olds. (Application # 4053)

- City: **Wichita**
- County: **Sedgwick**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$109,054**
- Accelerator Award: **\$109,054**
- New Slots Added: **32**

## E9 Properties LLC

### Overview

With additional operating funds, Littles Early Learning can begin the process of moving care across six locations from part time care to year-round care. In addition, this funding will create 32 new infant and toddler slots while strengthening the existing partnership and latchkey program with Circle Public Schools. (Application # 3801)

- City: **Benton**
- County: **Butler**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$612,800**
- Accelerator Award: **\$612,800**
- New Slots Added: **32**

## Early Childhood Consultants, Inc.

### Overview

Little Learners is a center currently licensed in the lower level of their building in Olathe, KS. They are currently remodeling the upper level to add more spaces to their license. Once completed, a total of 41 new slots will be available to their community. (Application # 4134)

- City: **Olathe**
- County: **Johnson**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$761,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$756,000**
- New Slots Added: **41**

## Emporia Area Chamber Foundation

### Overview (New Grantee)

A transformative effort to change access to childcare is underway in Emporia, KS. Spring 2024' will bring new child care slots to the Emporia area at Little Lyons Childcare. Accelerator Operations funding will support recruitment of personnel and acquisition of necessary supplies and materials. (Application # 4034)

- City: **Emporia**
- County: **Lyon**  
(Southeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$551,936**
- Accelerator Award: **\$551,936**
- New Slots Added: **136**

## Erie Community Child Care Center

### Overview

Early childhood educators at Erie Community Childcare will see competitive wages and fuller classrooms as a result of Accelerator funding for operations. They look forward to the addition of new infant, toddler, and preschool slots while bringing conscious discipline techniques to the children and families they serve. (Application # 3822)

- City: **Erie**
- County: **Neosho**  
(Southeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$216,600**
- Accelerator Award: **\$216,600**
- New Slots Added: **48**

## Great Adventures LLC

### Overview (New Grantee)

Great Adventures, LLC is constructing a new building that will increase current licensed capacity from 173 to 180. Operational funding will accelerate the opening date and provide additional slots in Shawnee, KS. (Application # 4163)

- City: **Shawnee**
- County: **Johnson**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,279,400**
- Accelerator Award: **\$1,279,400**
- New Slots Added: **180**

## KidZone Learning Center of Overland Park, Inc.

### Overview (New Grantee)

KidZone Learning Center of Overland Park, Inc. plans to open a new child care center that will be licensed to provide care for 88 children birth thru school age. Operational funding will enable classrooms to be opened at the time of enrollment. (Application # 4140)

- City: **Overland Park**
- County: **Johnson**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$490,528**
- Accelerator Award: **\$490,528**
- New Slots Added: **88**

## McPherson County Child Care Expansion

### Overview

This funding will support 3 centers in McPherson County, all of which are actively planning renovations, expansions, or the construction of entirely new facilities. Once these projects reach completion, they are projected to significantly enhance the availability of child care slots in McPherson County, including increases in the infant and toddler categories. This funding will fund 29 more slots than their original plan. (Application # 3903)

- City: **Moundridge, Lindsborg, Galva, Marquette**
- County: **McPherson**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$1,116,272**
- Accelerator Award: **\$639,108**
- New Slots Added: **29**

## Mindful Minis

### Overview

Located in Derby, Mindful Minis is currently in the process of remodeling their current building. Operational funding will allow them to provide full day full year care for 58 children. Previously, Mindful Minis was only awarded an Innovation Grant. (Application # 4108)

- City: **Derby**
- County: **Sedgwick**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$368,962**
- Accelerator Award: **\$368,962**
- New Slots Added: **58**

## Open Minds Infant and Toddler Center

### Overview (New Grantee)

Open Minds Child Development Center, LLC is a privately owned center in Johnson County. They are constructing a new center that will have slots for 53 infants and toddlers. They are requesting funding to support start-up of the center. (Application # 3796)

- City: **Olathe**
- County: **Johnson**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$897,060**
- Accelerator Award: **\$847,060**
- New Slots Added: **53**

## Outlook Academy

### Overview (New Grantee)

Located within walking distance of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, Outlook Academy is in the final phase of a three-year renovation project. Once completed, 90 licensed child care slots will be available to the Kansas City, KS community. (Application #4133)

- City: **Kansas City**
- County: **Wyandotte**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$465,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$409,000**
- New Slots Added: **90**

## Parkwood Day School Eudora

### Overview (New Grantee + SPARK)

Parkwood Day School LLC operates three inclusion based early childhood centers and plans to open 54 additional B-5 child care slots across these programs operating in Leavenworth, Douglas, and Johnson Counties. SPARK funding will enable them to renovate outdoor play space and add classroom space to expand capacity (Application #4161)

- City: **Eudora, Leawood, Overland Park**
- County: **Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth** (NE Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$983,731**
- Accelerator Award: **\$916,482 - CCDF**  
**\$67,250 - SPARK**
- New Slots Added: **54**



## Parkwood Day School of KCK

### Overview (New Grantee + SPARK)

This project includes two inclusive licensed programs for infants through age 5. Parkwood Day School Garnett and Little Learners of KCK will both be expanding B-5 slots to increase capacity by 55 overall. SPARK funding will enable them to renovate outdoor play space and add classrooms to expand capacity. (Application # 4172)

- City: **Kansas City**
- County: **Wyandotte**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$696,750**
- Accelerator Award: **\$553,500 - CCDF**  
**\$143,250 - SPARK**
- New Slots Added: **55**

## Rainbow Academy, LLC

### Overview (New Grantee)

Operational funds for Rainbow Academy, LLC will allow three centers to be fully enrolled. Norton, KS will have an additional 18 licensed child care slots for infants thru age 5. (Application # 3901)

- City: **Norton**
- County: **Norton**  
(Northwest Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$65,310**
- Accelerator Award: **\$65,310**
- New Slots Added: **18**

## Raising Wildflowers

### Overview (New Grantee)

Raising Wildflowers plans to open two new centers located in Junction City and Manhattan. Once fully operational, total licensed capacity will be 83 child care slots for infants thru 5 years old. (Application # 3886)

- City: **Manhattan**
- County: **Pottawatomie**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$150,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$150,000**
- New Slots Added: **83**

## Reno County Child Care Taskforce

### Overview

Reno County Child Care Taskforce will collaborate with USD 309 to establish new child care slots for infants and toddlers and extend care to full day for three-year-olds. In addition, this funding will increase child care slots at Central Christian Preschool and Child Care, an existing licensed center. A total of 64 new slots will be added to Reno County. (Application # 3852)

- City: **Hutchinson, Buhler, Haven, Pretty Prairie**
- County: **Reno**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$146,180**
- Accelerator Award: **\$146,180**
- New Slots Added: **64**

## Salina Area United Way

### Overview

With current accelerator funding, three centers are utilizing funding for construction and renovation to add 187 new slots. Operational funding will be utilized to assist with start-up costs at three centers and the addition of 39 new slots at a fourth center. (Application # 3844)

- City: **Salina**
- County: **Saline**  
(North Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$316,500**
- Accelerator Award: **\$316,500**
- New Slots Added: **39**

## Sonshine Childcare

### Overview (New Grantee)

Sonshine Childcare is excited about their two phased approach to bring new child care slots to the Pittsburg community. They have constructed a 10,000 sq. foot facility in response to the overwhelming need for child care in their community. Accelerator operations funding will support staffing needs to add 48 more slots to their existing capacity. (Application # 3819)

- City: **Pittsburg**
- County: **Crawford**  
(Southeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$385,168**
- Accelerator Award: **\$385,168**
- New Slots Added: **48**

## The Heritage Home

### Overview (New Grantee)

In Alma, KS, construction is underway to renovate and update a prior nursing home facility to be transformed into an intergenerational facility for child care and senior living. The new child care will provide licensed care for 38 children age B-5 in the community with a unique intergenerational component. (Application # 4170)

- City: **Alma**
- County: **Wabaunsee**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$270,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$270,000**
- New Slots Added: **38**

## The Learning Experience - Blue Valley

### Overview

The Learning Experience -Blue Valley is in the process of opening a center with 159 slots. As they have gotten further into their project and been issued a temporary licensing permit, they have capacity for an additional 13 child care slots. Operations funding will support start-up and staffing needs to ensure they can operate at full capacity.  
(Application # 3893)

- City: **Overland Park**
- County: **Johnson**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$275,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$275,000**
- New Slots Added: **13**

## USD 252

### Overview (New Grantee)

Early childhood centers in Olpe and Neosho Rapids will see increased capacity in the infant and toddler age slots and some movement between the centers to better leverage staff and increase capacity. They'll also receive much needed environmental upgrades for outdoor play and indoor classroom spaces. (Application # 3818)

- City: **Olpe, Neosho Rapids**
- County: **Lyon**  
(Southeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$292,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$207,000**
- New Slots Added: **10**

## USD 331 Daycare Center

### Overview

USD 331 Daycare Center is in the process of opening two Small Center Pilots, in collaboration with KDHE. Original plans were to renovate two classrooms to have licensing capacity for 24 but shifting to two Small Center Pilots will increase total capacity by an additional 19 child care slots in Kingman, KS. (Application # 4111)

- City: **Kingman**
- County: **Kingman**  
(South Central Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$316,016**
- Accelerator Award: **\$ 316,016**
- New Slots Added: **19**

## USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center

### Overview

USD 461 Neodesha Early Learning Center recently broke ground on a center for 99 children birth to five. They were previously awarded funding for construction only so these operational funds will be utilized to prepare the center for opening once construction is complete. (Application # 3839)

- City: **Neodesha**
- County: **Wilson**  
(Southeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$403,450**
- Accelerator Award: **\$199,204**
- New Slots Added: **99**

## USD 491 Eudora

### Overview (New Grantee)

With the addition of operational funds, USD 491 will be able to extend program hours and provide year around child care in Eudora. Total capacity will provide full day full year child care for 60 children ages three to five. (Application # 4113)

- City: **Eudora**
- County: **Douglas**  
(Northeast Region)
- Accelerator Request: **\$175,000**
- Accelerator Award: **\$160,000**
- New Slots Added: **60**