

What is Cooking in Early Learning?



2022 Annual Report



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas supports the healthy development of young children by improving access to high-quality child care options and educational resources for families and early childhood professionals.

Recipe for love



Ingredients:

- 1 Table of Contents & Service Area Map
- 2 Letter from the Executive Director
- 3 Child Care Providers
- 6 Communities & Businesses
- 7 Public Policy
- 8 2022 Board of Directors
- 9 2022 Staff Directory
- 10 2022 Financials, Agency Funding

Tips:

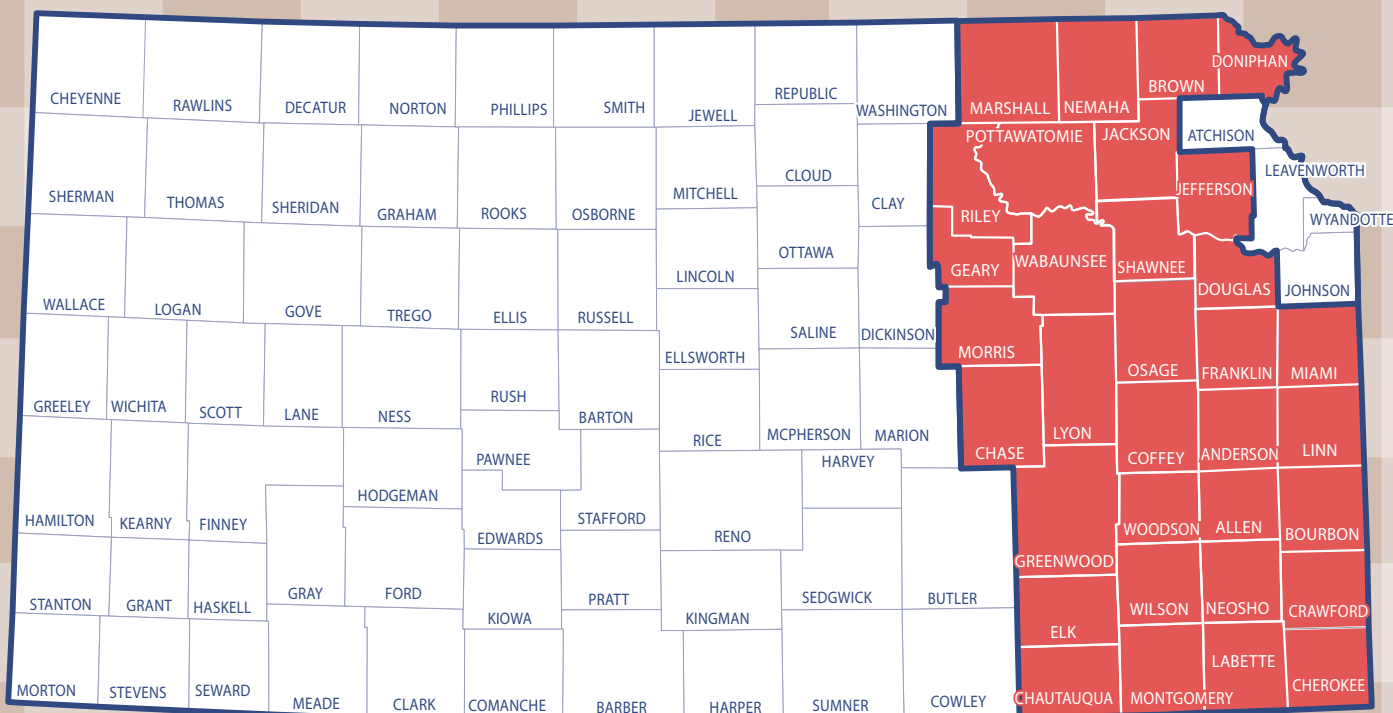
- 1 cupful of aspiration
- 1 tablespoon of kindness

Directions:

Mix well and serve with passion!



WHO WE SERVE



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas operates the statewide Parent Resource Center, as well as serves child care providers, families, businesses and communities in the 33 counties highlighted in red.

A Letter From Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello, friends!

This annual report shares some highlights from 2022. As always, you will see that the Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas team worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission: supporting the healthy development of young children by improving access to high-quality child care options and educational resources for families and early childhood professionals.

The shifting landscape of child care created new challenges. While child care has always been in short supply in some communities, in 2022 the issue became widespread in ways it never had before. Child care supply simply did not begin to meet the demand or needs throughout our region. Program closures outpaced the opening of new child care facilities in spite of incentives and support offered to support the launch of new programs. Many established child care programs struggled to function at their full licensed capacity due to difficulties in hiring and

retaining qualified teachers. In response, specific outreach efforts to engage community and business leaders in identifying and implementing local solutions to the child care crisis were launched in partnership with Child Care Aware® of Kansas. These efforts continued into 2023.

In spite of the challenges, we have much to celebrate. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas has always been known for providing support and guidance to anyone we serve at just the right point in time, and we continued that commitment to excellence throughout this year. The incredible staff of this agency is like no other, with their collective expertise and passion for the work we do. All that was accomplished was done through our partnerships with volunteers, donors, local businesses, community agencies and area foundations. These strong relationships, combined with the agency's longstanding reputation for high-quality programs and services and solid fiscal oversight, resulted in the organization continuing to offer support and solutions to all who requested assistance throughout the year.

Please know how grateful we are for all the ways our donors and friends continue to show support for the agency and our mission. As always, please reach out if you would like to hear more about our programming, projects and needs. We look forward to working with you as we move ahead together, meeting the needs of the children, families and child care providers we serve!

Sincerely,

Reva Wywadis
2022 Executive Director

What is Cooking with... CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

In 2022...



1,410 child care programs through the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.

Professional development classes in 2022 were continued to be offered by three formats: in-person, virtual by Zoom, and online. Having this variety allowed participants to choose classes that best met their needs and learning styles. In 2022, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas offered **73** classes by Zoom, **58** classes in-person and **26** online.

For over 15 years, the agency has offered professional development specifically for child care center directors and administrators. As staffing concerns elevated in 2021, the agency responded by offering the **Director's Toolbox** classes in a blended delivery model. Topics included helping teachers develop powerful interactions with young children, community engagement and marketing, conflict in the workplace, the director's role in supporting positive behavior, and theories of change. The Director's Toolbox had **two** classes held in-person, **two** were held virtually by Zoom and **one** was an online class.

With funding provided by United Way of Greater Topeka, the **Get Set for Success** program in Shawnee County had **nine** early learning classrooms participate with **91** children served in total. These classrooms received components of the Learning Without Tears curriculum, on-site coaching and professional development. The overall focus was on supporting classrooms serving at-risk preschool-aged children and ensuring they have the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

Capital Area Successful Start (CASS) is a collaborative that brings together **eight** community partners that make up the Shawnee County Early Childhood Block Grant. This collaborative is funded through the Kansas

Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas joins with community agencies to serve children prenatally to age five years and their families. Partners included: TARC's Tiny-K and PACT programs, Shawnee County Nurse-Family Partnership, USD 501 Parents as Teachers, Kansas Children's Service League's Healthy Families and Fatherhood Involvement initiatives, Family Service & Guidance Center, Community Action Head Start and Early Head Start, and the United Way of Greater Topeka (serving as the fiscal agent). In 2022, agency staff provided services to **62** early childhood classrooms in Shawnee County through on-site coaching, professional development, and access to resources. All services were focused on supporting at-risk children and their families to prepare them for success in school. Through this effort **259** children were served.

Child Care Quality Initiative (CCQI) is funded through Child Care Aware® of Kansas and wrapped up in June of 2022. The year-long quality improvement focused on working with family child care providers to offer a high-quality learning environment to children ages 0-5. Participants were evaluated with the **CLASS** (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) tool and set goals from the assessment to increase the quality of care. Participants received professional development and coaching related directly to teaching strategies that support emotional and behavioral growth, classroom organization, and instructional methods to grow children's executive functioning skills. In 2022 **16** programs participated from Bourbon, Cherokee, Crawford, Douglas, Geary, Lyon, Jefferson, and Neosho counties. A total of **135** children were served through this project.

Child Care Quality and Improvement System Support (CCQIS)

transitioned from the CCQI grant in July of 2022. This initiative is funded through Child Care

Continued...

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Aware® of Kansas from funding provided by the Department of Children and Families. The main focus of this initiative is to increase the quality of care in the child care environment. Regional Community Consultants are hosting Learning Community meetings for providers which are provider-driven and provider lead. Each meeting offers an opportunity for providers to network, share resources, and brainstorm for future meeting topics. Providers can utilize the coach for help with accreditation, children screenings, goal setting, or anything that will increase the quality of care.

Conscious Discipline E-Course: Start Strong-SEL Foundations and Resiliency in Infants and Toddlers was funded through the CCQI initiative through Child Care Aware of Kansas. In this self-paced course, participants received 30 hours of video training, hands-on application activities, and monthly group support meetings. Through this series, **56** providers were served, reaching **336** children ages 0-3 years. This comprehensive Conscious Discipline Infant/Toddler e-Learning experience provides caregivers, educators, mental health professionals and families with the relationship-based competencies necessary to create a strong foundation for optimal brain development, mental health, resilience, and social-emotional development

Thanks to a **Preschool Development Grant (PDG)** through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, in 2022 activities continued to address child care access in three communities: Chanute, Ottawa, and Hi-Crest Topeka. In Chanute and Ottawa, grants and coaching assistance was offered to child care programs to increase their infant and toddler enrollment capacity and classroom quality. Support in Hi-Crest Topeka focused on support to the SENT Prep Academy, located in the Hi-Crest area of Topeka which was known as a "child care desert" because of the lack of child care. PDG funding also supported efforts to update the agency's resource lending library, and a child care provider wage and benefit survey conducted in Shawnee and Riley Counties.

Anti-Bias Preschool Development Grant
During the spring of 2022, with funding from a Preschool Development Grant, Googols of Learning in Lawrence collaborated with the agency to provide training, observation, coaching and goal setting for **seven** center-based classrooms

and **two** family child care programs on anti-bias teaching strategies. Each classroom also received anti-bias learning materials. In the fall of 2022, **five** additional family child care programs enrolled in the project and completed in February of 2023.

The **Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC)** network is funded by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment through Child Care Aware® of Kansas. In 2022 CCHC consultants completed an online health and safety course that provided them with knowledgeable information and resource for the providers they are serving. The goal of CCHC is to offer potential child care providers consultation and support as they navigate the licensing process, working in tandem with child care licensing surveyors. Small start-up stipends are available through CCHC to help offset some of the costs of becoming licensed, and larger health and safety grants can be accessed to address barriers to licensing. To date, the consultants have provided **195** technical assistance help to potential providers in **31** counties in our region. They have assisted **108** providers in receiving their temporary license and **121** have moved to receive their permanent license from KDHE. Once providers have a permanent license, the CCHC network refers the providers to different quality initiatives throughout the network.

Nemours Project is funded through Child Care Aware® of Kansas. The agency was able to offer a training called Act Naturally which encourages participants to discover nature in their environment including how to set up an indoor and outdoor environment that encourages exploration of nature. The training was offered twice with an online and in-person option and has had **24** participants completed the training and received follow up support on the topic.

What is Cooking with... FAMILIES

In 2022...



A total of **16,014** child care referrals were completed through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center Operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.

8,325 families used the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or utilizing the online service.

Families received referrals to licensed child care programs and information on things to look for and questions to ask. Referral services benefitted **9,415** children.

Families who contacted the Parent Resource Center also received information about community resources, and support services, including information about home visitation programs, child screenings, and health agencies.

A **Preschool Development Grant (PDG)**, federal funding through US Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, focused on outreach and support activities to families in the Hi-Crest neighborhood in Topeka. From October- March, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas partnered with SENT Prep Academy to offer an evening story time, Begin with a Book, for families of children ages birth to 5 living in the Hi-Crest neighborhood. Each month children were read an interactive book and completed a theme related activity with their family. Families also received a take home packet with books, activities and developmental information to support their child's learning at home.

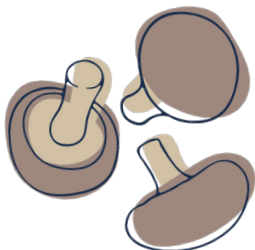
Kindergarten Transitions support through PDG was a collaborative effort bringing together representatives from all **six** public school districts in Shawnee County, private schools, the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, child care providers, and other community partners together to support this vital time in the lives of children. The shared vision is that every family in Shawnee County, no matter where they live or where their child will attend school, has access to support and information around kindergarten transitions. The website, www.kindergartenready.org shares information with families to help them prepare their child care success in school as well as access important information about school enrollment and community events.

The **Successful Connections program** in Shawnee County supports pregnant women and families with new babies by offering community resources to assist them in becoming more successful parents. In 2022, Successful Connections offered support services to **795** families, offering them free resources including parenting programs. Families received a hand-made cuddle blanket, a child development calendar and information about area home visitation programs, child development, choosing child care and other valuable community resources. The Successful Connections Program is funded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.



“This is the third time we’ve utilized Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas to identify and secure a provider. The staff has always been very helpful. Would recommend to anyone seeking child care. Much gratitude. Thank you.”

-Parent Resource Center Client



What is Cooking with...

COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES

In 2022...



In 2022, child care capacity in local communities continued to be a concern to business and civic leaders who found themselves in unfamiliar territory as they tried to determine how to address this critical piece of infrastructure needed to grow the local economy. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas continued responding to requests for information and data for community and business leaders. Through the **Community Outreach & Engagement** work funded by the Kansas Department for Children and Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas, presentations were prepared for delivery to business and civic groups upon request. The continued work of the **Child Care Health Consultant** network in 2022 supported local community efforts around child care provider recruitment events to build local child care capacity. (Read more about the Child Care Health Consultant work on page 4 of this report.) Agency staff continued to participate in a variety of community events including health fairs, back-to-school fairs, job fairs and other events throughout the region to share information regarding high-quality early education topics. These events served as outreach and education opportunities for local communities as well as opportunities to encourage child care as a career as appropriate.

During the spring of 2022, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas had the opportunity to begin hosting **Communities in Action** workshops, following a model created by Child Care Aware® of Kansas. These sessions brought community partners and stakeholders together to examine the child care needs of their communities and to create community-led solutions. The first Communities in Action event was held March 4th in Paola, with representation from four counties: Miami, Linn, Franklin and Anderson. A session was held in Topeka on March 24, and the Manhattan session (which include Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley county representatives) was held March 25. Throughout the year, staff provided support to local coalitions as they launched their action plans to address child care capacity in their communities.



What is Cooking with... **PUBLIC POLICY**

In 2022...



Public policy is defined as a purposeful and consistent course of action produced as a response to a perceived problem of a constituency, formulated by a specific political process, and adopted, implemented, and enforced by a public agency. Everyone has a role in shaping public policy through advocacy efforts.

Public Policy Statement:

ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., dba Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, is committed to:

- Advocating for federal, state and local policies that support working families with young children, including child care resource and referral services for every family.
- Working collaboratively with other entities to define the issues and challenges facing families with young children in today's society.
- Sharing information about national, state and local policy issues that have an impact on families with young children with families, child care providers, businesses, and community leaders
- Showing support for accessible, affordable, high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of families with young children.

Public Policy Principles:

Our organization...

- Recognizes parents as their child's first and most important teacher.
- Connects families with resources in their community that support their child's development, supporting family choice.
- Promotes high-quality early education in every setting including family child care, center-based care, preschools, Head Start, and license-exempt programs including schools.
- Embraces the belief that learning starts at birth and what happens in a child's earliest years lays the foundation for all later learning, strongly impacting their success in school and beyond.



2022 Child Care Aware® OF EASTERN KANSAS Board of Directors



Liz Steffen
President



Cherie Sage
President-Elect



Jamie Stafford
Secretary



Dawn Bicknell-Reiser
Treasurer



Erin Lewis
Treasurer-Elect



Jane Tilghman
*Immediate
Past President*



Lucinda Anstaett



Amy Bauer



Deb Crowl



Catherine Deters



Donna Doel



Matthew Godinez



Paige Jones



Lindsey Munson



Catherine Shafer

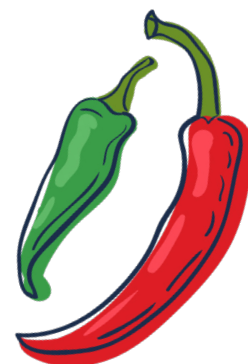


Kelly Trussell

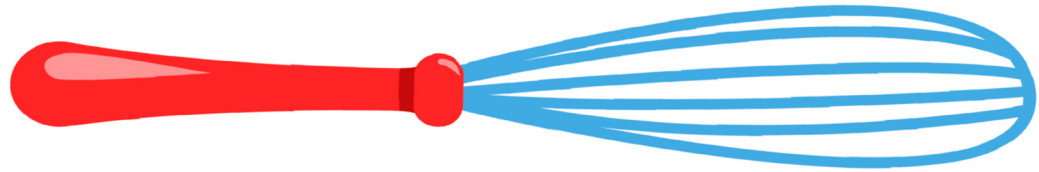


"I am so grateful for Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas who know and have been there where I am today. Thank you for always helping teachers and encouraging, and always lending a helping hand. Child care Aware is awesome!"

- Child Care Provider

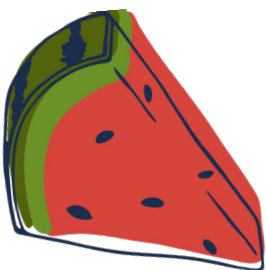


Child Care Aware® OF EASTERN KANSAS STAFF In 2022...



Reva Wywadis, *Executive Director*;
Diana Ingram-Cantrell, *Accountant*;
Julie Scott, *Marketing & Communications
Coordinator*;
Holly Wehner, *Data Specialist*;
Earlina Faurot, *Administrative Assistant*;
Rhianna Nelson, *Community Outreach and
Engagement Manager*;
Nancy Rohr, *Family Services Manager*;
Lori Boos (*Team Leader*), Jasmin Cortes,
Resource Specialists;
Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Renee Wohletz,
Provider Services Managers;

Dawn Brown, *Professional Development
Specialist*;
Breanna Gellings, *Grants Navigator*;
Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Susan Drewelow,
Debbie Hildebrandt, Susan Rodman, *Early Care
& Education Specialists*;
Deb Danielson, Kristina Griffee, Tia Wright, *Child
Care Health Consultants*;
Jane Redger (*Team Leader*), Jennie Heim,
Ashley Buss, *Successful Connections Parent
Resource Specialists*;
Stephanie Prue, *Library Resource Specialist*
Marie Treichel, *Special Projects & Initiatives
Coordinator*.



“Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas staff has helped me by giving my staff and me skills by the trainings. Personally, the staff I work with at Child Care Aware are always there to help with classroom ideas or as a director, staffing help. They are all so knowledgeable or will find ways to support our needs if they can.

- Shawnee County Provider





Statement of Financial Position

Year Ending December 31, 2022

Assets	2022
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 510,790
Receivables	227,463
Investments	135,193
Property Held for Sale	433,325
Operating Lease Right of Use	431,825
Other	49,159
Total Assets	1,787,755
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Accounts & Notes Payable	22,018
Operating Lease Liabilities	87,731
Accrued Expenses	105,995
Unearned Revenue	53,660
Total Liabilities Current	269,404
NonCurrent Operating Lease Liabilities	345,277
Total Liabilities	614,681
Without Donor Restrictions	1,106,259
With Donor Restrictions	66,815
Total Net Assets	1,173,074
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,787,755

2022 AGENCY FUNDING

The agency is supported through a variety of grants, contracts and fund-raising efforts, including:

- Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas
- Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Child Care Aware® of America
- City of Topeka
- United Way of Greater Topeka
- Kansas Health Foundation
- Topeka Community Foundation
- Individual Donor Support
- Support from Area Businesses & Corporations
- Agency fundraising activities

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2022

Without Donor Restrictions

Revenues

Grant & Contract Income

Child Care Aware of Kansas	\$ 736,980
County CARES Act Funding	\$ -
Capital Area Successful Start	756,662
Preschool Development Grant	128,234
United Way	20,698
Other Grants or Programs	33,502

Other Revenue

Showhouse & Other Special Events-net of expenses	80,077
Provider Training	21,246
Donations and Contributions	31,306
Other Revenue	(5,940)
Total Revenues	1,802,765

Net Assets Released from Restrictions

1,802,765

Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains

& Other Support

Expenses

Program Services	1,511,687
Fundraising Expense	25,030
All Other Operating Expense	216,509
Total Expenses	1,753,226

Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

\$ 49,539

With Donor Restrictions

Contributions and Program Revenue	1,050
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	(1,000)

Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

50

Change in Total Net Assets

49,589

Net Assets at Beginning of Year

1,123,485

Net Assets at End of Year

\$ 1,173,074