

Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT



www.nwkeici.org



Early childhood education plays a pivotal role in the quality of life and economic health of a community. Our tomorrows will be brighter with an adequate number of high-quality childcare slots available in Northwest Kansas communities. Northwest Kansas Cares for Kids initiatives will not only attract and retain quality staff in childcare centers, but also provide tools to give children the skills to start school ready to learn.

SUPPORTING CHILDCARE PROFESSIONALS:

Fewer staff changes are a quality factor for children attending the centers. The Early Childhood Education Staff Support program provides financial recognition for early childhood staff; reduces costs associated with staff turnover and stabilizes the workforce.

Longevity Grant: This grant enables full time (at least 30 hours/week) staff members to earn a bonus for every six months he or she stays employed at the same center. Bonuses range from \$250 to \$800 every six months, based on longevity. This grant can be reapplied for each year.

Discretionary Fund Grant: This grant provides merit bonuses for staff members who exemplify excellence in the field of childcare. The amount of discretionary funds is calculated based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff at the center. For each FTE, \$150 in discretionary funds are available annually, during this 5-year pilot. This grant can be applied for each year.

CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS:

Quality care provides the emotional and academic support children need to be ready for kindergarten. The first three years of a child's life are critical in brain development since these early years form the foundation from which all learning will grow. Curriculum and materials for quality early childhood learning are often difficult to find and too costly for many centers. EICI is pleased to offer two initiatives to help childcare providers foster learning through rich, evidence-based curriculum and materials.

Montesorri Curriculum Grant: This grant covers the cost of a Montesorri curriculum kit, which includes training videos, instructions, high-quality learning tools and manipulatives. This grant is limited to one award per provider.

Book Grant: This grant provides up to \$1,000 a year, for up to 5 years, for high-quality children's books to create or enhance the center's library. This grant can be reapplied for a total of five years for each provider.



CHILDCARE RECRUITMENT AND ADVOCACY:

Access to quality childcare is a priority in Northwest Kansas. NWKEICI offers the following services to help recruit new providers and educate the public about childcare issues.

Business Loan Program: This program provides funds to potential and current providers who are not able to obtain funds from conventional commercial sources.

Childcare Presentations: We provide presentations about the state of childcare in Northwest Kansas for your group or organization.

ELIGIBILITY:

NWKEICI grant initiatives are limited to licensed childcare centers located in the 26-county area served by NWKEICI. Qualifying applicants must be licensed by the State of Kansas for at least 13 children, accept children ages 2-weeks to 6-years of age and be open at least 3 and less than 24 hours a day. Licensed day care homes, group day cares or preschools are not eligible for grant or loan assistance. Non-profit centers that meet the above criteria can apply for similar assistance through the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Contact us with questions about any childcare program or for direct assistance with grant or loan applications.

Dana Jo Stanton

Childcare Program Director

785-623-2457

danajstanton@nwkeici.org

Additional Information, including grant templates, tools & applications are available at:
www.nwkeici.org/programs/childcaresupport

