



2013/2014 Annual Report



ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., d/b/a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas
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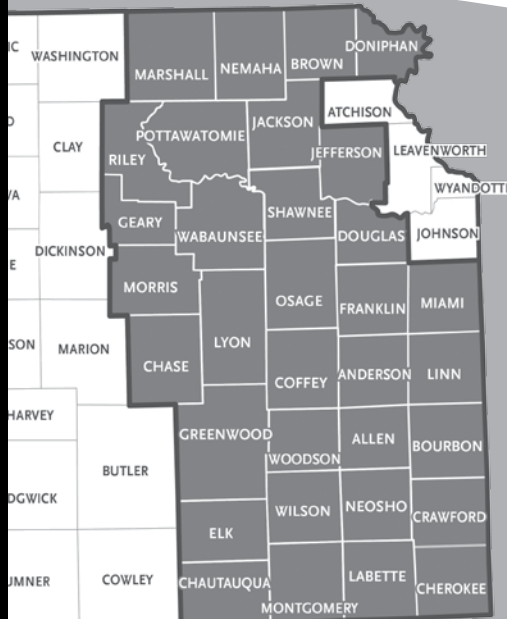
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Child Care Aware[®] of Eastern Kansas serves the 33 highlighted Kansas counties.

Services to Child Care Programs

Child Care Aware[®] of Eastern Kansas serves approximately 1,800 child care programs in the service delivery area, offering professional development and consultation services. Special initiatives include:

Literacy Connections is a program available to child care programs to assist them in better preparing children for school. This program became available starting in January of 2013 to programs with children, ages infant to 5 years old, who will attend a Topeka USD 501 school. Literacy Connections served 29 programs in the USD 501 area of Shawnee county, with a total of 65 classrooms participating.

Literacy Connections 2 is a program available for child care providers who have previously participated in the Literacy Connections program and are ready to take on more of a leadership role. In 2014, there were 7 participants in the program. This program focuses on how the provider can build their own leadership within the realm of early literacy and school readiness. Participants take the lead in early literacy events, allowing them to share ways to incorporate early literacy in a child care program with other Literacy Connections participants.

Kansas Quality Rating Improvement System (KQRIS),

is currently available in Douglas County. Its mission is to improve early learning experiences for children, birth to age 5, by creating an ongoing quality improvement system that promotes high-quality, child-centered care. A total of 16 programs from Douglas County participated. Each program received a rating, coaching and professional development on the topics of early literacy, family engagement and inclusion. From the participating programs, 10 have maintained their quality scores and 6 increased their quality ratings. Over 421 children received developmental screenings to assist parents and early educators in preparing children for school readiness.

Quality Steps is a year-long program designed to assist new and experienced providers in increasing infant/toddler enrollment and improving the quality of infant and toddler learning environments. This program is available throughout the service delivery area. In 2014, the agency served 18 early learning programs.

1,384
early childhood educators attended training focusing on early literacy/school readiness or engaging families from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

509

child care programs participating in a wellness-oriented program offered by the agency benefited from 1,147 hours of coaching to improve the quality of life for families from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

The **Strengthening Families Project** is a statewide and national initiative committed to reducing child abuse and neglect by implementing the *Five Protective Factors*. These factors are parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. Research studies support the common-sense notion that when these protective factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. Research shows that these protective factors are also “promotive” factors that build family strengths and a family environment that promotes optimal child and youth development. Strengthening Families is available throughout the entire service delivery area and had 21 programs enrolled.

Early Childhood Wellness is a year-long program focusing on promoting healthy habits for children and families. Professional development and on-site coaching services focus on improving nutrition, increasing activity and reducing screen time, as well as increasing overall quality of care. This program is available throughout the service delivery area and there were 18 child care programs participating.

The agency provides **Short-Term Technical Assistance** throughout the entire service delivery area by offering on-site visits, and support by phone and email to assist programs in increasing the quality of child care. This past year, the agency facilitated technical assistance opportunities on a variety of subjects including program management, parent partnerships, safe sleep for infants, nutrition, dental health, safe toys and fire safety.

Community Collaborations & Partnerships

Capital Area Successful Start

Capital Area Successful Start funding comes from the state’s tobacco settlement and flows through the Kansas Children’s Cabinet. Capital Areas Successful Start’s focus is preparing children for success in school with a special emphasis on promoting healthy development, strong families and early learning. In Shawnee County, Successful Start funding supports two specific areas: services for early childhood programs and parent education services (offered by the agency), and home visitation services to families (offered through various home visitation programs that include KCSL’s Healthy Families program, the Shawnee County Health Agency’s Bright Beginnings/Healthy Futures program, TARC’s Infant/Toddler and PACT programs, Topeka Public Schools Parents as Teachers program, Topeka Public Schools Pine Ridge Prep, Community Action Inc. Early Head Start, United Way Successful Connections, and Family Service and Guidance Center).



From July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, the program offered 54 professional development trainings to child care providers, for a total of 171 in-service hours. These classes offered strategies to improve classroom practices and positively impact the quality of care offered. Successful Start assisted 826 providers/early childhood educators through professional development, and 64 classrooms received technical assistance through 384 visits. From January 1 to June 30, 2014, the agency participated in multiple family events sponsored by this program that had 405 adults and 405 children, ages birth to 5 years old, in attendance.

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development & Leadership

In July 2013, the agency received a Recognition Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation and established the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development & Leadership. This effort brought Results Driven Training to approximately 60 early childhood instructors. An intensive two-day workshop aimed at improving training practices for those offering professional development for providers was attended by 30 instructors. Participants learned basic adult learning principles, how to structure a training that appeals to all learning modalities, and how to help ensure that information learned in training gets transferred into a change in workplace practices. Additionally, 30 seasoned instructors received a one-day workshop over how to incorporate technology into their training and technical assistance offerings to providers.

5,623

child care providers & early childhood educators accessed training & technical assistance from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

This funding also allowed the agency to partner with 20 community-based instructors to increase the range of classes offered and to bring new classes to less served areas. In April 2014, the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development & Leadership hosted the first ever “Leadership Summit.” The original goal for this event was to reach 20 early childhood professionals. Nearly 50 participants attended, representing center-based teachers and directors, family childhood providers, early childhood consultants and community partners.

In June 2014, 20 participants received mentor training to kick off a peer mentoring program. This funding was renewed in July 2014, allowing the agency to continue these initiatives into 2015.

United Way

The **United Way of Greater Topeka** focused on increasing school readiness of children in two targeted zip codes in Topeka, 66605 and 66607. The agency partnered with United Way and offered child care programs in the defined area Literacy Connections, a quality improvement program that combines professional development and on-site coaching. This program served 9 child care providers in 2013, and 11 in 2014. Providers conducted developmental screenings on each child enrolled in their program. Program quality improved as early literacy materials were added to the environment to help providers incorporate the skills learned during the coaching visits received throughout the year.

90%
of child care providers
accessing short-term
technical assistance or
resources reported
receiving meaningful
information about
high-quality
child care.

Services to Families

The Child Care Aware® of Kansas Referral Center, operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, assists families throughout Kansas with their child care needs by providing referrals to regulated child care programs based on the criteria supplied by the family. Agency staff also provides support to families through the “help line” with answers to parenting questions and through referrals to other community resources.

82%
of parents reported
between July 1, 2013, &
June 30, 2014, that they
feel more informed
about quality care
because of the information
they received from
the agency.

From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, the Referral Center:

- Assisted 9,852 families statewide seeking child care referrals. Of the families, 14,639 children were assisted.
- Sought program information from 1,796 child care programs in the 33-county service delivery area and were able to maintain information for 1,622 programs.
- Provided 306,736 referrals to early learning programs for families seeking child care across the state of Kansas.
- Offered child care referrals for 6,942 children that received assistance from the Department for Children & Families (DCF).

Services to Businesses

Child care is a necessity for working families. The agency provides support to businesses interested in helping employees with their child care needs, as well as providing data regarding the supply and demand of child care in a community. In the fall of 2014, a promotional piece was created to help business and community leaders better understand the correlation between child care and economic development. The piece included general information over this topic and how the agency can assist businesses in this area. The piece was distributed to local businesses, including to multiple businesses in attendance at the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce’s Business to Business Expo in Topeka, Kansas.

**Program statistics shown are for the period July 1, 2013,
through June 30, 2014, unless otherwise stated.**



Agency Funding



The agency is supported through a variety of sources including the Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas, the Kansas Children's Cabinet, the Topeka Community Foundation, the Kansas Health Foundation, the United Way (Topeka and Lawrence), the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, individual donors, grants and special projects. The Designers' Showhouse, a grassroots fundraiser in Topeka where area designers and craftsmen transform a selected home each year for public tours, also provides critical support for the agency. In 2014, a public auction benefiting the agency was held in Topeka and included a "white elephant" sale, silent auction and live auction. The agency established an endowment through the Topeka Community Foundation in 2011.

For a complete list of community partners or funding partners, visit the website at <http://east.ks.childcareaware.org>.

Significant Accomplishments in 2013/2014

Over the past year, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas has accomplished much, including:

- The annual Capital City Learn & Share workshop in Topeka for 209 child care providers and early child educators. This full-day conference offered a variety of session topics all focused on early literacy development, allowing attendees to increase their knowledge and receive in-service hours. Event sponsors included Capital Area Successful Start and Rasmussen College.
- The agency continued to reach out to families and connect them with activities and child development information to enhance their parenting skills and prepare their children for school. This was done through the distribution of many materials, including the updated "All About Me" child development calendar and the new "Child Care Adventures" coloring book. Events were also held, including "Sing, Move & Learn" in Topeka, "Rock, Rhyme & Read" in Lawrence, and BLOCKFest™ events. "BLOCK Fest™ is a research-based exhibit that helps raise awareness of early math and science learning by offering hands-on block play experiences to families with young children." (<http://www.blockfest.org/>)
- A benefit auction was held in the fall of 2014, a new strategy for generating funding to support agency programs and services. A live auction, silent auction and "white elephant" sale were held on a Saturday, with the event open to the public. For a first-time effort, staff and volunteers deemed the event a success and learned a lot that will be incorporated into a similar event in the future.
- The agency was awarded a technology grant through the Capitol Federal Foundation with the requirement that the agency raised \$15,000 in funding to match the Capitol Federal award of \$15,311. A targeted campaign was conducted and the agency met the fundraising goal in August 2014! The technology grant included funding for a much-needed software upgrade, replaced aging computer and printers, upgraded a copier at the Lawrence office, and installed software that allows the agency to record incoming phone calls from parents seeking child care as a quality assurance and training tool. These enhancements increase the ability to provide high-quality services by improving effectiveness and efficiency through the proper use of technology.
- To assure the best customer service possible, the agency continues to maintain three offices---- the main (corporate) office in Topeka, and satellite offices in Pittsburg and Lawrence. Additionally, staff work from home-based offices in Emporia and Blue Rapids, serving child care programs in those areas. The staff now totals 30. Ongoing programs include operating the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Referral Center, providing access to curriculum resources, offering professional development/ training classes for child care providers, and on-site coaching to help improve child care quality. Special initiatives bring added focus in the areas of early literacy, wellness and building strong partnerships with families.

Looking Ahead

This annual report, published in December of 2014, provides financial information for 2013 and program statistics through June 2014. The agency's mission is to support the development and learning of young children by offering programs and services that improve the quality and accessibility of child care for working families. Looking forward, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas will draw upon the strength of its staff, board of directors, volunteers and supporters to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and their families.

Get Involved...

Because much of the funding for child care resource and referral services is federal and state funding, it is important that parents, child care providers, community stakeholders and business leaders understand their role in shaping public policy through advocacy efforts. Additionally, local government's decisions can also impact the availability and accessibility of child care for working families.

Research-Based Uniform Messages

K-12 Education

Studies show that early childhood programs are the BEST way to support improved academic outcomes in K-12. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs are far more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, read at grade level by third grade, and graduate from high school or even college. (*Gormley et al, 2005; Belfield et al, 2006; Barnett & Masse, 2007*)

Brain Development

Ninety percent of a child's brain development occurs before age 5. High-quality early childhood services reach children during a crucial period when foundational brain architecture is formed and experience shapes social competency, cognitive ability and mental health. (*Mustard, 2008*)

Return on Investment

Decades of research have shown that for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood programs, society will save \$7 down the road in the form of reduced demand on the social welfare system, decreased juvenile crime and improved participation in the economy. (*Calman & Tarr-Whelan, 2005*)

Public Policy & Advocacy Agenda

At the national level:

- Continue to dialogue with legislators regarding the importance of high-quality child care options for all families.

At the state level:

- Work collaboratively with other early childhood partners and stakeholders to protect the Children's Initiative Fund.
- Participate in opportunities to shape the state's plan for implementing new guidelines and requirements established through the federal reauthorization of the Child Care & Development Block Grant.

At the local level:

- Protect county investments in child care licensing, advocating for improved ratios of licensing surveyors to child care programs as recommended by Child Care Aware® of America.

Other policy issues affecting Kansas children and families and child care issues may arise beyond those included on this list. Please visit the website, <http://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, for updated information on public policy and advocacy issues.



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2013

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 100,475
Receivables	181,291
Investments	183,417
Other	<u>157,487</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>622,670</u>

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts & Notes Payable	\$ 62,281
Accrued Expenses	<u>95,412</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>157,693</u>

Unrestricted	385,308
Temporarily Restricted	17,873
Permanently Restricted	<u>61,796</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>464,977</u>

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$ 622,670**

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2013

Unrestricted Revenue

Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support	\$ 1,497,337
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>8,152</u>
Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support	<u>1,505,489</u>

Unrestricted Expenses

Program Services	1,309,847
Supporting Services	<u>234,307</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,544,154</u>

Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets **\$ (38,665)**

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions, Program Revenue & Memberships	5,234
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>(8,152)</u>

Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets **(2,918)**

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	<u>4,821</u>
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Increase in Permanently Restricted Net Assets **4,821**

Decrease in Net Assets **(36,762)**

Net Assets at Beginning of Year **501,739**

Net Assets at End of Year **\$ 464,977**

2013 Income & Expenses by Individual Program

Grant & Contract Income

Child Care Aware® of Kansas	\$ 757,709
Capital Area Successful Start	416,836
Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County	70,108
United Way	56,522
Other Grants or Programs	<u>31,774</u>

Other Revenue

Showhouse & Other Special Events-net of expenses	79,993
Provider Training	48,393
Individual Donations	32,532
Other Revenue	<u>13,525</u>

Total Income **\$ 1,507,392**

Grant & Contract Expenses

Child Care Aware® of Kansas	
Quality Outreach	\$ 213,518
Referral Center	212,539
Community Outreach	123,895
Strengthening Families	97,003
Early Childhood Wellness	91,111
Other Child Care Aware® & Special Projects	19,643
Capital Area Successful Start	416,836
Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County	70,108
United Way	56,522
Other	<u>8,672</u>

Other Expenses

Administrative & General	170,229
Other Fundraising Expenses	<u>64,078</u>

Total Expenses **\$ 1,544,154**