

**Contact Name:** Rebecca McFarland

**Contact Title:** District Extension Agent, Family and Child Development

**Name of Organization:** Frontier Extension District

**Contact email address and phone number:** [rmcfarla@ksu.edu](mailto:rmcfarla@ksu.edu); 785-229-3520

### **For Immediate Release**

## **Ottawa receives grant to fuel local solutions to early childhood care and education challenges**

More than \$2.1 million in grant funding has been awarded to fuel 59 *All in for Kansas Kids* Quality Subgrants.

Ottawa was among those that received a grant submitted by Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas. Ottawa is working collaboratively with Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas, Chanute and the Hi-Crest neighborhood of Topeka. Ottawa received over \$22,000 to support existing providers to offer high-quality care for infants and toddlers and create 10 additional slots for children birth to three during non-traditional hours.

Local efforts are being coordinated by Paul Bean, Franklin County Economic Development; Kimber Corn, ECKAN Head Start; Paola Alarcon, Ottawa Police Department; Kelly Jorgensen, Division for Early Childhood and Rebecca McFarland, Frontier Extension District.

“We are really excited about the opportunities this funding provides for child care providers, families and businesses/industries in Ottawa. The funds will be used to provide mini-grants for child care providers to purchase age-appropriate items and equipment for infant and/or toddler quality improvements or the creation of infant/toddler slots, especially during non-traditional hours (before 7:00 am, after 6:00 pm, and weekends)”, McFarland stated, who is managing the grant locally.

Grantees from organizations and child care providers large and small from all across the state will use their awards to develop and implement new approaches that help children and families in their communities thrive. More than 140 applications were submitted, each focusing on addressing gaps in access, availability, and quality of child care, as well as community-level supports for families. The work is addressing gaps identified in the 2019 Needs Assessment and is being guided by the *All in for Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan, which maps the state’s future direction for early childhood.

To learn more about specific funded programs and activities, and to connect with the *All in for Kansas Kids* Strategic Planning efforts to strengthen the Kansas early childhood care and education system, please visit the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website at <http://AllinforKansasKids.org>.

Funds for All In For Kansas Kids activities are partially provided through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The **Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal** 90TP0078-01-00 (\$8,943,000) was awarded to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. The Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are leading this work with the Children's Cabinet. This information or content and conclusions should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by, HHS, ACF, or the U.S. Government. Any food or refreshments are not paid for by federal funds.