

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Child Care Health Consultant Network Launches to Ensure CDC  
COVID-19 Guidance Implemented in Child Care Programs

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Child Care Aware of Kansas, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Office of Recovery, launched a new Child Care Health Consultant Network to provide technical assistance to licensed child care providers as they implement COVID-19 health and safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). After working directly with a consultant to assess the environment, child care programs are eligible to apply for grant funding to purchase supplies or make adaptations to home or center-based facilities.

The Child Care Health Consultant Network comes at a critical time for Kansas' child care system. A recent [study by Yale University](#) showed that child care settings were not associated with increased risks of COVID-19 infections provided that appropriate health and safety measures were taken. Kansas' Child Care Health Consultants work with child care providers to implement the most current guidance from the CDC and KDHE.

With the first phase of implementation for the Child Care Health Consultant Network nearing completion, Child Care Aware of Kansas and state partners are now shifting their attention to long-term sustainability of the Network. In addition to supporting healthy and safe child care settings, Child Care Health Consultants will play a crucial role in protecting and promoting the health growth and development of children and their families.

*"The Child Care Health Consultant Network is a critical support for child care programs that are working hard to ensure that children are safe and healthy in the midst of the pandemic. We work with providers to assess the child care environment and ensure that health and safety measures are in place. Child care is essential to a thriving Kansas economy, and families want to know that their children are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment. We're doing everything we can to ensure that this support continues to be available for child care programs,"* said Kelly Davydov, Executive Director.

*"The global pandemic placed a considerable amount of uncertainty into my day-to-day that I had not expected at the beginning of the year,"* said Dawn Chapman, owner and operator of The Nature and Nurture Spot in Gardner, Kansas. *"With the help of the Child Care Health Consultant Network, I've been able to purchase the supplies I need to help ensure the safety of the children I care for every day."*

To date, 415 child care programs have requested consultations. Child Care Aware of Kansas anticipates providing \$3.5 million in grants and supplies to assist child care programs in meeting health and safety guidelines.

For more information about the Child Care Health Consultant Network, visit <https://ks.childcareaware.org/child-care-health-consultant-network/>.

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**About Child Care Aware® of Kansas**

Our vision is that all communities across Kansas value and support early childhood development. It is, therefore, our mission that high-quality early education is available to all Kansas families and children. Child

Care Aware of Kansas is known as a strong advocate for children, their families and the early childhood profession. We work to:

- Ensure families have access to affordable, high-quality child care across the state.
- Support child care providers with ongoing professional development training and information/coaching support about how to improve the quality of child care.
- Network with employers and community partners on how to support high-quality child care in their communities.

To learn more about Child Care Aware® of Kansas and how you can join us in ensuring access to high-quality child care for all families, visit us at [www.ks.childcareaware.org](http://www.ks.childcareaware.org).

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