

Great Bend Economic Development

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Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC) Secures \$2.2 Million Grant from Kansas Children's Cabinet Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant

GREAT BEND, KS – The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has announced the approval of an impressive \$43,593,294 in grant funding awards, benefiting 52 organizations and partnerships across the state. Among the top recipients, Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC) proudly ranks in the elite top 4 awards for Kansas communities, receiving a substantial grant of \$2,238,630. This remarkable achievement propels ABCC's mission to establish affordable and accessible childcare facilities within Barton County.

ABCC's aims to address the escalating demand for childcare capacity within our community, while also catering to the workforce needs of the region. Spearheaded by Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), ABCC has assumed the crucial responsibility of securing funding and constructing cutting-edge group daycare centers in Barton County. With the pressing demand for reliable and accessible childcare services in mind, this significant grant will propel ABCC forward in realizing their vision of establishing the first two premier daycare centers in Barton County.

The first facility, which will be located at Farmer's Plaza on the corner of 10th Street and K-96 Highway, is now fully funded, thanks to this substantial grant. ABCC will mark this momentous milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for July 11th at 9 am. The event promises to be a moment of celebration and anticipation, as ABCC unveils exciting developments surrounding their endeavor.

The Accelerator Grant, awarded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, will enable ABCC to collaborate with community-based teams, including early childhood providers, champions, employers, and economic development leaders. Together, they will forge ahead in their collective efforts to create affordable and accessible childcare seats throughout the region.

GBED and ABCC is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, whose recognition of this project's importance will significantly contribute to the fulfillment of the organization's mission.

About GBED (Great Bend Economic Development):

The Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. is a public/private partnership focusing on the economic development efforts in Barton County, KS. Our mission is to improve the economic quality of life for working families in our community. We do this by creating jobs, through retention, recruitment, and expansion of businesses, strengthening the workforce through recruitment, education and training, improving and increasing the number of living wage jobs, and expanding the tax base through increase capital investment. For more information about GBED visit: www.gbedinc.com, call 620-796-2407. Sara Arnberger, President of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc., can be reached via email at director@gbedinc.com.

About ABCC (Advancing Barton County Childcare):

Advancing Barton County Childcare, Inc.'s mission is to provide quality, reliable and sustainable childcare solutions to the citizens of Barton County. This organization was born from conversations with our businesses where they expressed that lack of childcare was a major barrier to hiring employees. As a partner of Great Bend Economic Development, we always strive to keep our businesses informed and at the table. For questions about ABCC, Inc., our partnership with GBED, please reach out online: www.gbedinc.com/abcc, call 620-796-2407, or email Sara Arnberger, President of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc., at director@gbedinc.com.

