

Annual Report

Great Bend Economic
Development, Inc.

2023-24 \$0,000

2023-24

www.gbenedinc.com



Our organization
is focused **on the
betterment of Barton
County as a whole.**

**Click on the QR Code for
our year in review!**

“Positive community growth is not just about progress; it’s about empowering every member to thrive together.”

About Great Bend Economic Development

A County-wide Partnership for Growth



Mission

To improve the quality of life for the working families of the community by: improving and increasing living wage jobs, strengthening workforce, expanding the tax base, and creating jobs.

Priorities

1. Workforce
2. Entrepreneurship
3. Downtown Development
4. Business Recruitment and Expansion
5. Quality of Life



The Great Bend Economic Development is a county wide development organization whose team is made up of two staff members and seven executive board members. Our board members are selected by application process and then a selection committee comprised of City, County, Chamber, and GBED Chair and Vice Chair. This committee interviews and subsequently votes on the new member(s). Each member serves a three year term. The board is diversified in industry, giving our economic vision a wide view as we consider new projects, recruitments, programs and the like. The GBED board is committed to the mission of “improving the economic quality of life for the working families of the community.” This board has and will continue to focus efforts towards workforce, housing, business recruitment and expansion, quality of life, and entrepreneurship as we look forward to the next phases of GBED.

We collaborate closely with our city and county counterparts, alongside local businesses, fostering a partnership aimed at driving economic growth.

Great Bend Economic Development Board of Directors



Paul Snapp

President/CEO First Kansas Bank



Ryan Fairchild

IT Specialist at ILS/Co-Founder at Dry Lake Brewing



Dennis Neeland

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Sales Associate



John Worden

Interim Great Bend Campus Administrator and Executive Director System Integration for Clinical Operations at UKHS



Kevyn Soupiset

Owner at Advanced Therapy and Sports Medicine



Shawn Hutchinson

Owner at Satellite Pros and CPS Security



MelEesa Stueder

Owner/Corporate Officer at Stueder Contractors

Interested in joining our board of directors team? Scan the QR code to view our application. New members are considered in the fall of each year.



Meet Our Staff



Sara Arnberger

"Economic development isn't just about numbers; it's about the transformation of lives and communities. It matters because it empowers individuals, strengthens families, and builds the foundation for sustainable progress and prosperity. I'm honored to have the opportunity to drive progress in Barton County, Kansas"



Lee Ann June

"Economic development creates new opportunities for residents and strengthens our community"



Charley Sander

"I'm excited to be a part of something so big and have the opportunity to give back to my hometown"



"Small teams with big dreams have the power to defy limits, break barriers, and achieve remarkable feats."

A Letter from the President

Reflecting on 2023-2024

As we approach the fifth anniversary of Great Bend Economic Development, it's powerful to reflect on the economic transformations we've witnessed and the opportunities that lie ahead. Over

and childcare provisions, crucial for expanding our resident base and reinforcing our workforce, we also celebrate the victories we've attained in these vital areas. The commencement of downtown

In 2023, we achieved noteworthy milestones in securing vital funding resources for our community's advancement..

the past year, our concerted efforts have yielded achievements in our mission to attract external investment and foster local prosperity.

In 2023, we achieved noteworthy milestones in securing vital funding resources for our community's advancement. From crucial childcare funding to substantial contributions towards our innovation center project, alongside generous sponsorships bolstering downtown revitalization initiatives, our organization's capacity to augment our foundational resources for the betterment of our community has been exhilarating.

While we acknowledge the pressing need to further bolster housing



housing developments and the establishment of new childcare facilities underscore our unwavering commitment to addressing these fundamental needs.

Moreover, the burgeoning landscape



The commencement of downtown housing developments and the establishment of new childcare facilities [works to address fundamental needs]...



... the arrival of new retailers, startups, and business expansions, signifies a vibrant business environment.



of our commercial corridor, marked by the arrival of new retailers, startups, and business expansions, signifies a vibrant business environment. It's a testament to our region's economic vitality and resilience, setting a promising trajectory for sustained growth throughout 2024 and beyond.

As we stand on the cusp of another year filled with promise and potential, I am filled with optimism and anticipation for the successes that await our county. With a year of change and growth behind us, we eagerly await the opportunities and triumphs that the new year holds in store.

Together, let us continue to chart a path towards prosperity, innovation, and inclusivity, ensuring that Great Bend/Barton County continue momentum towards becoming a beacon of economic opportunity and community vitality for generations to come.



Sara Arnberger

Sara Arnberger
President

Housing



“Housing development is vital for rural communities, fostering growth and ensuring a vibrant future.”

Loft Grant Project As the Loft Grant project continues to gain momentum, Great Bend anticipates the operation of 28 residential units and the addition of a new downtown event space by 2025. With several other grant applications currently pending, we anticipate this number to escalate further by the conclusion of the program.

The infusion of \$1,000,000 in ARPA funds has been instrumental in catalyzing these transformative projects, resulting in an estimated \$7,000,000 in capital investment to bring them to fruition. This substantial increase, nearly 7 times the initial investment, underscores the profound impact of strategic allocation of resources in revitalizing our housing and business sectors.

This impressive return on investment not only signifies prudent financial stewardship but also reflects a strategic focus on stimulating economic growth and fostering vibrant community development. With each dollar judiciously directed, we are forging a path towards a more prosperous and resilient future for Great Bend.



Housing remains a central challenge to our growth agenda, making it a top priority for Great Bend Economic Development.

Despite the enduring effects of COVID-19, we're witnessing a silver lining as young families and professionals continue to seek the charm of rural living. While this trend is encouraging, it highlights the urgent need for housing developers to address our growing demand.

Our foremost objective is expanding housing capacity, closely followed by initiatives to modernize our aging housing stock. With two programs in place, we are dedicated to driving positive change in our housing landscape.



▶ **4 Houses**

▶ **\$3,148.43
granted**



Brush Up BC.

Brush Up BC exists to assist property owners in the cost of exterior paint for their homes. By enabling exterior upkeep, we are allowing

homeowners the ability to protect their homes from extra deterioration.

This program was used to support four properties this year.

BC ReNEW.

This new program allows property owners to give their older home a major upgrade and receive a rebate grant of up to 10% for material purchases.



Workforce

Apprenticeship

In 2023, in collaboration with Barton Community College, we proudly recognized Medical Lodges with our Apprenticeship Champion Award. Apprenticeship programs stand as vital pillars for businesses committed to nurturing and

"Apprenticeships are the cornerstone of cultivating skilled talent and bridging the gap between education and industry."

The Value of APPRENTICESHIPS



What is Apprenticeship?

Structured training programs which give you a chance to work towards a qualification. They help you gain the skills and knowledge you need to succeed in your chosen industry. Getting into employment earlier means there's lots of potential for you to progress in your career quickly.

Think of an apprenticeship as an opportunity for employers to invest dedicated time and expertise in their new hires, and an opportunity for the apprentice to gain the qualifications or expertise to finish and enter the company in a skilled position.

Great Bend
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
www.GBEDinc.com/gbwc

Reasons to APPRENTICE

5

- 1 Obtain company-specific training to enable you to enter the company at a higher level of employment.
- 2 Earn college credit towards your degree. Several colleges and tech schools may participate.
- 3 You are more likely to be paid more after the successful completion of an apprenticeship.
- 4 Build a network within the company.
- 5 Gain more marketable skills.

enhancing their workforce. With the invaluable assistance of Barton Community College, the State of Kansas Apprenticeship team, and our dedicated GBED team, we tailor programs to your unique requirements, ensuring they're full of milestones, mentorship, and celebratory business culture added additions. We extend a warm welcome to Medical Lodges, as they join our local apprenticeship lineup.





HireWorks

In 2023, we continued our second annual Grow Workforce Summit: HireWorks, an event aimed at fostering connections and advancing career opportunities within our community. Despite condensing the event into a single day, it remained a hub of learning and networking for both employers and job seekers.

The day commenced with an array of break out sessions designed to empower job seekers in their pursuit of employment excellence. From expert guidance on 'The Top 10 Ways to Get and Keep a Job,' led by Barton Community College Staff, to the inspirational leadership insights shared by Kim Becker of Move Your Mountains Coaching in 'Lead at Any Level,' and the invaluable hands-on practice offered in 'Speed Mock Interviews' led by Logun Dizmang of Kansas WorkforceONE, participants were equipped with practical tools and strategies for success.

Following the morning sessions, a business panel discussion ensued, delving into critical topics such as retention, recruitment, and company culture. Panelists including Khris Thexton,

Lynda Jamison, Tucky Allen, Nick Strecker, and Ty Brunswig provided invaluable perspectives and engaged in a question and answer session, offering attendees insights into optimizing workforce dynamics.

Culminating the event was a job fair, providing 22 local businesses with a platform to showcase job opportunities and engage with prospective candidates. With around 25 attendees for breakout sessions and a strong participation from businesses, the second annual HireWorks Summit was deemed a success.

As we look ahead to 2024, we remain committed to nurturing workforce opportunities and facilitating meaningful connections that drive economic growth and prosperity within our community.

****Workforce Summit 2024 is scheduled for November 13.***

Childcare



Quality childcare plays a pivotal role in shaping the fabric of our community, not just as a place to live but also as a thriving environment for businesses to flourish. Recognizing the integral connection between childcare and economic development, Great Bend Economic Development embarked on a mission to address the childcare deficit within our county.

Understanding that childcare is essential to support the local economy by meeting the needs of both employers and their workforce, we established Advancing Barton County Childcare, Inc. (ABCC, Inc.) under the auspices of Great Bend Economic Development. ABCC, Inc. operates with a diverse board comprising public and private partners, representatives from the education sector, major employers, and childcare providers. Together, this collaborative effort aims to enhance childcare capacity, ensure competitive wages and benefits for childcare employees, pursue sustainable practices, and deliver high-quality care to the youngest members of our community.

The impact of quality childcare on the local economy cannot be overstated. Research has consistently shown that



access to quality childcare not only facilitates workforce recruitment but also reduces turnover rates, minimizes absenteeism, boosts productivity, and fosters a more promising educational outlook for our children.

In line with our commitment to meeting the growing childcare needs of our community, we are proud to announce the development of multiple childcare centers across the county. The inaugural project, Bright Beginnings in Great Bend, commenced construction in July



“There’s no question that more Kansas families need access to child care to support their child’s development, enter the workforce, and contribute to our economy,”

Governor Laura Kelly

2023, marked by a keynote address from Governor Kelly. As we near completion, Bright Beginnings is set to welcome the public to see the center on May 2, 2024 and welcome its first cohort of 59 children in June of 2024, with plans for expansion to accommodate up to 80 children in the subsequent year.

Looking ahead, our sights are set on the establishment of the second ABCC center in Hoisington, slated to break ground in mid-2024 and open its doors to 59 children in 2025. Simultaneously, fundraising efforts are underway for the

third center in Claflin, underscoring our unwavering commitment to providing accessible, high-quality childcare options for families across our county.

In fostering the growth and development of our youngest community members, we not only invest in their future but also cultivate a stronger, more vibrant community for generations to come. ABCC, Inc. remains steadfast in its dedication to advancing childcare initiatives that enrich the lives of families and contribute to the economic vitality of Barton County.

Advancing Barton County Childcare Board of Directors



Sara Arnberger

Chairman

Sara Arnberger is President at Great Bend Economic Development and serves on the ABCC Board as Chairman.



Laura Maneth

Vice Chairman

Laura Maneth is the Human Resources Business Partner for University of Kansas Health Systems Great Bend Campus and serves on the ABCC Board as Vice Chairman.



Matt Patzner

Treasurer

Matt Patzner is the Barton County Administrator and joins the ABCC Board as Treasurer.



Mary Foley

Secretary

Mary Foley is the Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development at Barton Community College and joins the ABCC board as Secretary.



Aaron Andrews

Board Member

Aaron Andrews is a Real Estate Broker at MPIRE Realty Group and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Phil Metro

Board Member

Phil Metro is the Manufacturing Manager/Sustainability at Superior Essex and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Jim Blackwell

Board Member

Jim Blackwell is Regional Vice President at Great Plains Health Alliance and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Khriston Thexton

Board Member

Khriston Thexton is the Superintendent at USD428 and joins the ABCC board as a board member.

ABCC Board of Directors Continued



Patrick Crowdis

Board Member

Patrick Crowdis is the Superintendent at USD431 and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Cody Schmidt

Board Member

Cody Schmidt is Mayor of Great Bend and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Larissa Graham

Board Member

Larissa Graham is the Director at the Barton Community College Child Development Center and joins the ABCC board as a board member.



Debbie Stephens

Board Member

Debbie Stephens is the Director at GPS Kids and joins the ABCC board as a board member.

Bright Beginnings Staff



Kelsie Baxter

Bright Beginnings Site Director

"I'm here to create a place in Kansas where families and friends always know they can come to enjoy their time together and make lasting memories."



"Childcare is the cornerstone of community growth, providing parents the freedom to pursue education, training, and employment opportunities. By supporting families and nurturing the next generation, childcare fosters economic stability, enhances workforce participation, and cultivates a vibrant, thriving community for all."



16

01

**BUILD THE TEAM**

ABCC, Inc. is a separate board from that of GBED. To create the best possible model, we put together board members from the public and private sectors, major employers, childcare providers and school district partners.

FORM OUR MODEL

The team spent time exploring different models across Kansas before partnering with Finney County Economic Development to build a similar, self sustaining model.

02



03

**RAISE THE FUNDS**

Part of 2021 and all of 2022 were spent educating on the need for childcare and finding the funding partners to progress this opportunity for high quality, sustainable childcare throughout Barton County.

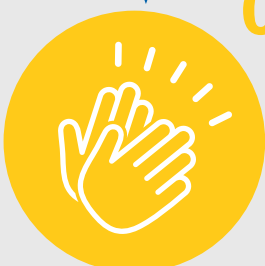
BUILD IT

After a long planning period to ensure we are creating a lasting model for the Barton community, ABCC, Inc. broke ground on the Great Bend Center in July 2023.

04



05

**OPENING DAY**

After a 9 month construction period , our Great Bend center, Bright Beginnings , opened its doors to the public on May 2, 2024 and opens to children on June 4th. ABCC is set to break ground on our Hoisington center in June of 2024.

Funding for Great Bend ABCC Center One		Secured
Community Service Tax Credits Sold		\$357,143
GBED/City of Great Bend Funding		\$150,000
Barton County		\$435,714
Patterson Family Foundation		\$500,000
CCAKS Community Partnership		\$106,000
Children's Cabinet Capacity Accelerator		\$2,661,329
Total		\$4,210,186

Supply	Demand	Need
788	1699	911

* Childcare Aware Sept. 2022 data for Barton County with population correction

Total spent on Childcare	Total if Childcare capacity was met	Value of Childcare Supply/Demand gap
\$5,180,500*	\$9,763,000	\$4,582,500



Entrepreneurship

Learning Opportunities

In 2023 and the beginning of 2024, our entrepreneurship committee dedicated efforts to enriching the entrepreneurial landscape of our region through expanded learning initiatives. A notable milestone was the successful launch

"Small businesses are the heartbeat of rural communities, injecting vitality, fostering local pride, and creating pathways for economic resilience.."



of ICE House, an innovative entrepreneurial mindset class, in January 2024. Led by acclaimed expert Jim Correll and local facilitator Shelly Peacock, this course attracted 13 eager participants. This initiative was realized through a valuable partnership with Network Kansas.

Following ICE House, we introduced the Core program, guided by local facilitators Regan Reif and Jeremy Elliott. This program, based on Co.Starters programming, is part of our ongoing commitment to provide diverse learning opportunities tailored to our community's needs.



By offering these classes locally, we ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs in Barton County and beyond receive the essential knowledge and support crucial for startup success. Through these initiatives and our mentorship pairings, we've witnessed numerous success stories emerging, further solidifying our commitment to fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Stats

19



Business Planning

27 community members participated in business planning services.

\$1,135,000

Amount loaned from Network Kansas, CKDI, and Great Plains Development loan funds.

9



Barton County students participated in the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2023 - 24

143



Community members showed up to support the youth competitors in 2023 - 24



Funding for Start Ups

9 businesses were supported with loan or grant funding.

Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

In 2024, we proudly celebrated the fourth annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC), an event in partnership with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, supported by Network Kansas and the Fraternal Order of the Masons. This collaborative effort underscores our shared commitment to nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit within our community.

YEC serves as a platform to introduce Barton County middle and high school students to the world of entrepreneurship. Guided by their teachers and business mentors, participants craft innovative business concepts, develop business plans, and hone their presentation skills.

At the culmination of the competition, students showcase their entrepreneurial endeavors through tradeshow displays and four-minute speeches, impressing a panel of esteemed judges. Recognizing their efforts, the top three student businesses are awarded prize money, providing tangible recognition and encouragement for their entrepreneurial aspirations.





IGNITE Rural Business

The IGNITE Rural Business Competition aims to empower entrepreneurs and promote innovation in Barton County, Kansas. The competition provides a platform for emerging businesses to showcase their ideas or start up, receive mentorship, support with business planning, win grants, and contribute to the local economy.

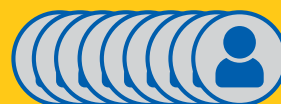


Chance Bailey
10-39 Cafe

"The IGNITE competition provides invaluable experiences to prepare new business owners for the challenges ahead."

1805

Tuned in to the Live Stream of the 2023 IGNITE Finale



Scan the QR Code to hear each of the Top 3 Winners

1st Place & \$50K



Led by a team deeply rooted in Great Bend, **The Greystone** is the realization of a decade-long dream, transforming the historic "Masonic Lodge" into an exquisite event space. Follow their journey on Facebook for memorable celebrations in the heart of the city!

2nd Place & \$30K



10-39 Cafe emerged from a shared vision among the owners, who recognized the need for a local eatery in Ellinwood. Named after the code for lights and sirens, reflecting their involvement in Law Enforcement, Fire, or EMS. Open date scheduled for May 6th. Find them on Facebook to see hours, specials, and upcoming events.

3rd Place & \$10K



Hatchet Axtion is more than just an axe throwing venue—it's an evolving entertainment experience in Great Bend's downtown district. Connect with them on Facebook or visit their website for an unforgettable time!

These videos are also available on GBED's Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok

56%

10-39 Cafe won People's Choice and \$5,000 with the 921 votes cast for their business during the live finale.



From Dream to Open for Business

Igniting Entrepreneurial Success in Barton County

The competition began with entrepreneurs vying for a chance at the \$50,000 grand prize. With each round, participants received support and feedback. As the competition progressed, the IGNITE Selection Committee narrowed the field from 28 original entries to the top 10 for the 3rd Round. To advance to the finals, these entrepreneurs had to present in person to the selection committee, from which the top 5 were chosen.

The IGNITE Rural Business Competition Grand Finale took place at the iconic Crest Theater in downtown Great Bend, Kansas. The live event featured intense competition among the top 5 businesses, culminating in the crowning of the winners and the awarding of \$95,000 in prize money.

To relive the excitement of the 2023 Competition Grand Finale, visit www.igniteks.com to watch the live-stream finale in its entirety. The website also provides details about this year's competition.

Great Bend Alive Board of Directors



Sara Arnberger

Director

"Some of my greatest memories from growing up in Great Bend stem from downtown. I'm looking forward to being a part of creating those memories for the next generations."



Lee Ann June

Communications Director

"Downtown is the heart of Great Bend and the place I frequent the most. I enjoy being a part of the positive changes happening to enhance this community asset"



Molly Bailly

Chairman

"I want to help ensure that those who come here to visit, live, and pass through, get to experience the excitement that we have for our town, downtown, and community."



Ryan Fairchild

Vice Chairman

"A healthy, thriving Main Street is a key for civic pride and growth"



Justin Engleman

Treasurer

"Great Bend has such a rich history, I value the importance of the preservation and vitality of downtown for future generations, making it a viable attraction to those visiting to create lasting memories."



Allene Owens

Board Member

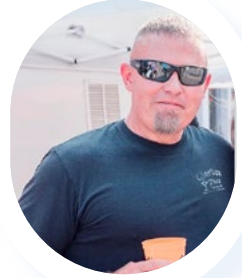
"I'm apart of the Main Street group because I love Great Bend and want to preserve our history and make our downtown come alive once again!"



Logan Burns

Board Member

"Progress is never finished, having an inspired group focused on a vibrant Main Street is important for our community."



Joe Andrasek

Board Member

"Having owned a downtown business for many years, I see the value in continuing to invest in our downtown to create new opportunities for our community."

Great Bend Alive Board of Directors Continued



Mark Bitter

Board Member

"Progress is never finished, having an inspired group focused on a vibrant Main Street is important for our community."



Mark Calcara

Board Member

"People initially measure the economic vitality of your community by the appearance of your downtown. We have a vibrant, thriving community, so we need to make sure we have a downtown that reflects that."



Sean Gleason

Board Member

"My goal is to help improve the quality of life for the residents of Great Bend."



Sheryl Cheely

Board Member

"When I got involved in the My Town group 15 years we collectively created a vision for downtown. I'm thrilled to be a part of this organization and see so many of those visions coming to life"



Tory Blew

Board Member

"I'm here to create a place in Kansas where families and friends always know they can come to enjoy their time together and make lasting memories."



Melanie Maneth

Board Member

"I'm serving on the Main Street board to help better our community and make it a great place to live for the now and for the future generations to come."

Great Bend Alive Committee Members

Development Committee

- Mark Bitter
- Mark Calcara
- Matt Hiss
- Patrick Cowan
- Shelby Zuniga
- Sheryl Cheely
- Tina Mingenback
- Tory Blew

Design Committee

- Amy Herrera
- Korby Boswell
- Mark Bitter
- Mark Calcara
- Mark Rondeau
- Melanie Maneth
- Molly Bailly
- Ryan Fairchild
- Sean Gleason
- Sheryl Cheely

Events Committee

- Allene Owens
- Amy Herrera
- Deklyn Craven
- Dena Hiss
- Jessica Milsap
- Joe Andrasek
- Judy Duryee
- Ryan Fairchild
- Sally Mauler
- Sarah Maneth
- Shannon Stafford
- Sheryl Cheely
- Toni Murphy

Preservation Committee

- Allene Owens
- Deklyn Craven
- Justin Engleman
- Melanie Maneth
- Patrick Cowan
- Ryan Fairchild
- Sheryl Cheely

Main Street



“Downtowns are rural communities’ vibrant cores, uniting history, commerce, and community spirit.”

In the landscape of 2023-24, Great Bend Alive embarked on a journey of groundwork, community engagement, and visionary ideation. Amidst the meticulous planning, the collaborative efforts of the Great Bend Alive board team and committee members yielded transformative enhancements to our downtown area.

The design committee’s ingenuity blossomed as they conceptualized and installed vibrant banner frames along Forest Avenue, serving as a vivid testament to the pulsating vitality of the Great Bend downtown corridor.

Simultaneously, the preservation committee delved deep into our city’s rich history, crafting an immersive downtown tour app slated for launch in May 2024. This innovative tool promises to captivate both residents and visitors alike, offering a glimpse into Great Bend’s storied past.

Meanwhile, the events committee orchestrated yet another triumphant season of Fridays on Forest, drawing over 2,000 individuals to revel in the community spirit, live music, food trucks, and refreshing drinks from local vendors.



Not content to rest on their laurels, the events committee forged a partnership with the City of Great Bend City Coordinators office to introduce the inaugural “Snowball Drop” event alongside the established “Beat the Winter Blues Sale.” Despite frigid temperatures, the event attracted 75 community members, underscoring the enduring allure of downtown activation.

As the fruits of collaboration ripen and the seeds of success are sown, the groundwork laid in 2023-24 positions Great Bend Alive for an exhilarating season ahead in 2024-25.

168+
VOLUNTEERS



\$16K +
DOLLARS DONATED



Main Street America
Workshop



Snowball Drop



Jeff Sigler Visit



Fridays on Forest



Snowball Drop



Marketing & Communications

Insights & Increased Awareness

"Data isn't just numbers; it's our roadmap in marketing. To move forward, we must look through it for insights."

Our outreach efforts have boosted awareness by effectively reaching a broader audience and foster deeper community engagement. Through marketing and communication initiatives, we've forged stronger connections with stakeholders and garnered fresh support and amplified our reach and influence.



Reach

42.5K Great Bend
Economic Development

22K Great Bend Alive

1K Advancing Barton
County Childcare (since 3/24)



New Followers

45 Great Bend
Economic Development

72 Great Bend Alive



Website

7828 Site Session
(this is up 285% from 22-23)

5302 Unique Visitors

95%

Site Sessions are
New Visitors

40% Direct to Site

26% Facebook to Site



Video Views

20.1K Great Bend
Economic Development

7.5K Great Bend Alive

+New Followers
172 - GBED
403 - GBA

Most Viewed

2K GBED 2023 Year End

1.3K GBA Sept. Fridays



New Followers

322 Great Bend
Economic Development



Email Marketing

61% Open Rate

18% Click Through Rate

Subscribe to the Newsletter at the bottom
of any webpage on www.gbetedinc.com

Follow Us!

@GBEDinc

@AdvancingBartonCountyChildcare

@GreatBendAlive

Funding

2023-24 Funds secured to assist in our economic development efforts

These grant funds, private donations, sponsorships, and tax credit contributions were used to complete many of the large scale projects accomplished by GBED. Including, but not limited to, the construction of new childcare centers, our IGNITE Rural Business entrepreneurship program, our Fridays on Forest event, several entrepreneurship support classes, the demolition and rebirth of a large blighted commercial property, and more.

Outside of City or County
Funding

\$7,904,389

raised in 2023-24

These additional dollars raised were made possible by our initial funders. Without matching dollars, many of the grants obtained would not be available for us to continue our mission. Thank you to the City, County, and private donors who have contributed to our success.



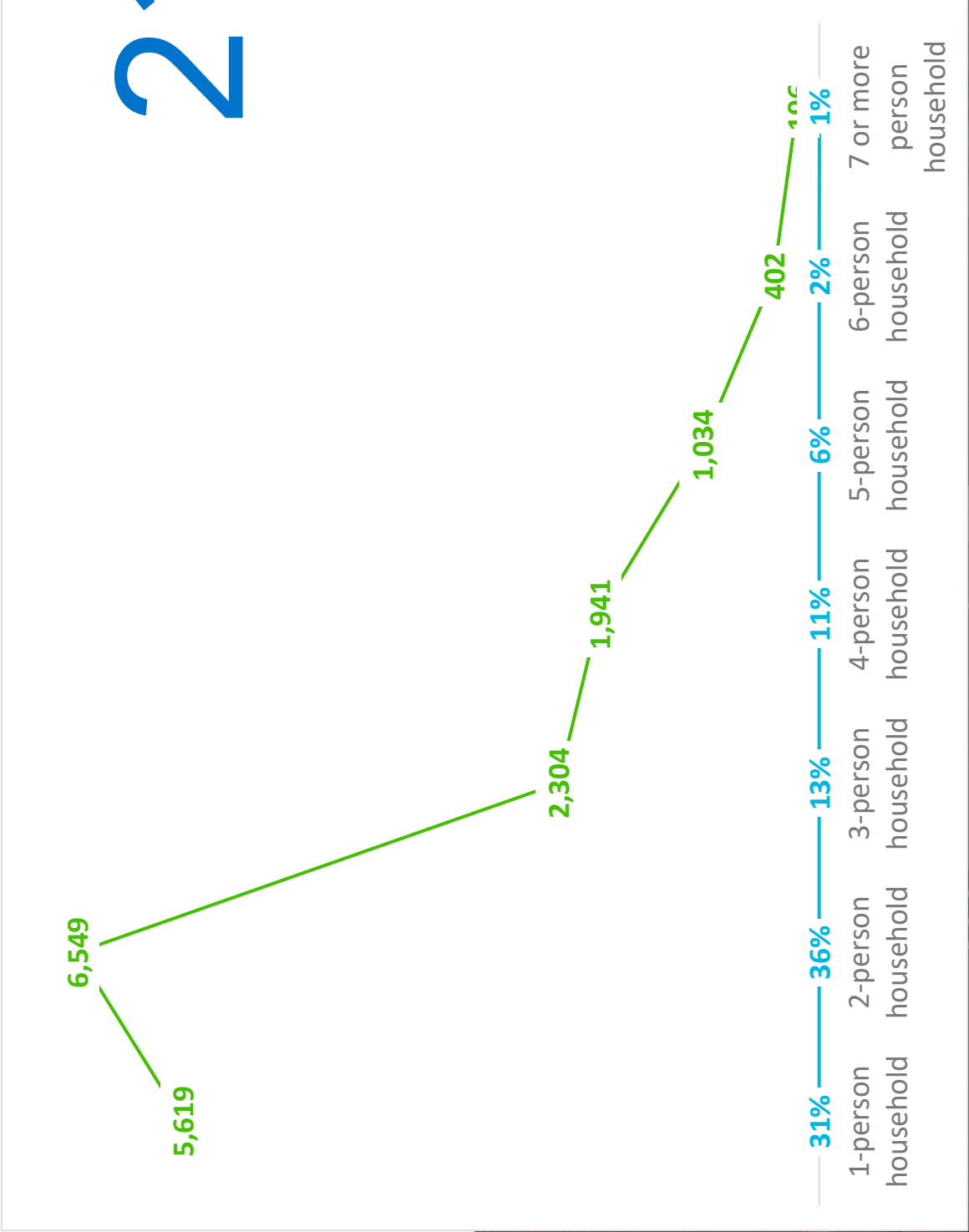
This map shows the Ellsworth, Oregon area, with a red boundary highlighting a large portion of the city. The boundary starts near the intersection of Highway 70 and Highway 281, extends east along Highway 281, then south and west along Highway 14, and finally north along Highway 70. The map includes labels for various neighborhoods and landmarks, such as Bunker Hill, Wilson, Holyrood, and the Little River. Major roads like Highway 70, Highway 281, and Highway 14 are clearly marked. A scale bar in the bottom right corner indicates distances up to 20 miles.

A customized trade area is the next step to analyzing a market. A trade area defines a core customer base of consumers highly likely to shop and eat in the market at least once a month.

Each retailer will analyze their own trade area based on their existing stores, their competition and site selection criteria.

DISCOVER

Our Research



21,020

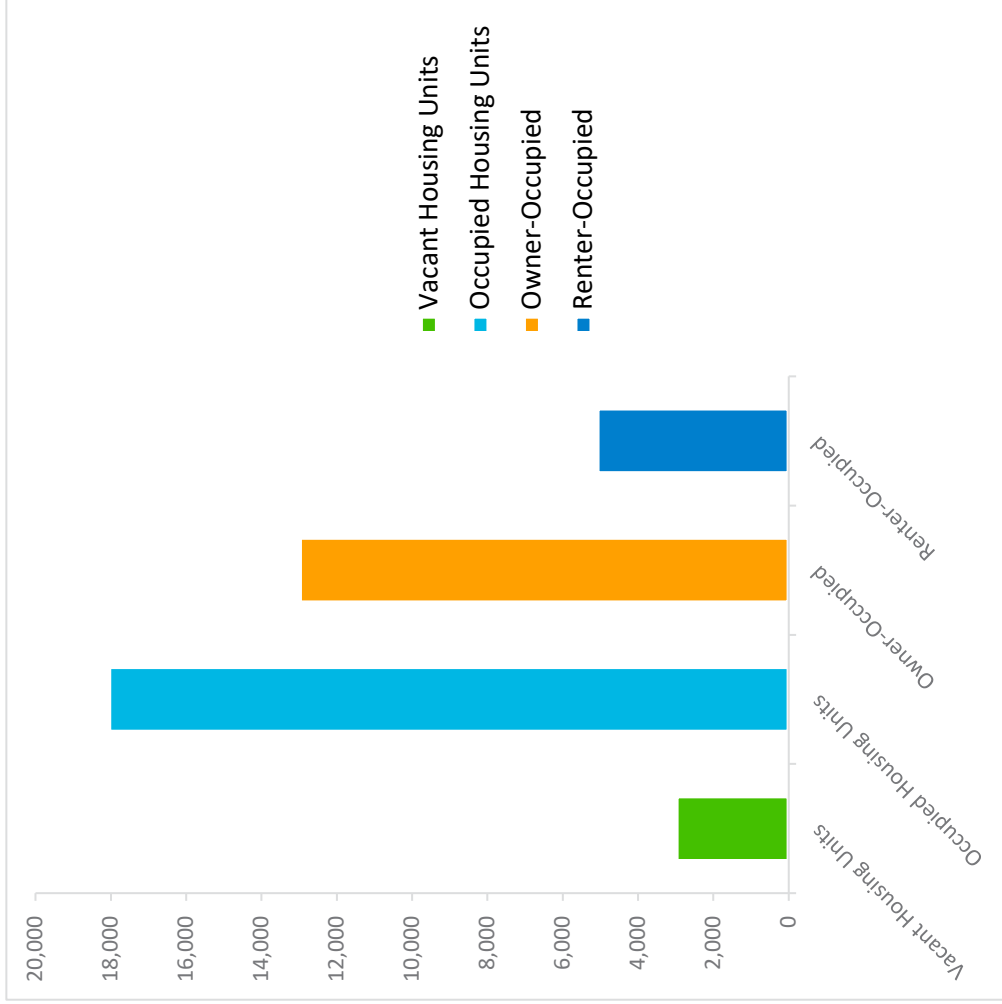
number of households

\$53,233

median household income

CUSTOM TRADE AREA

Our Research



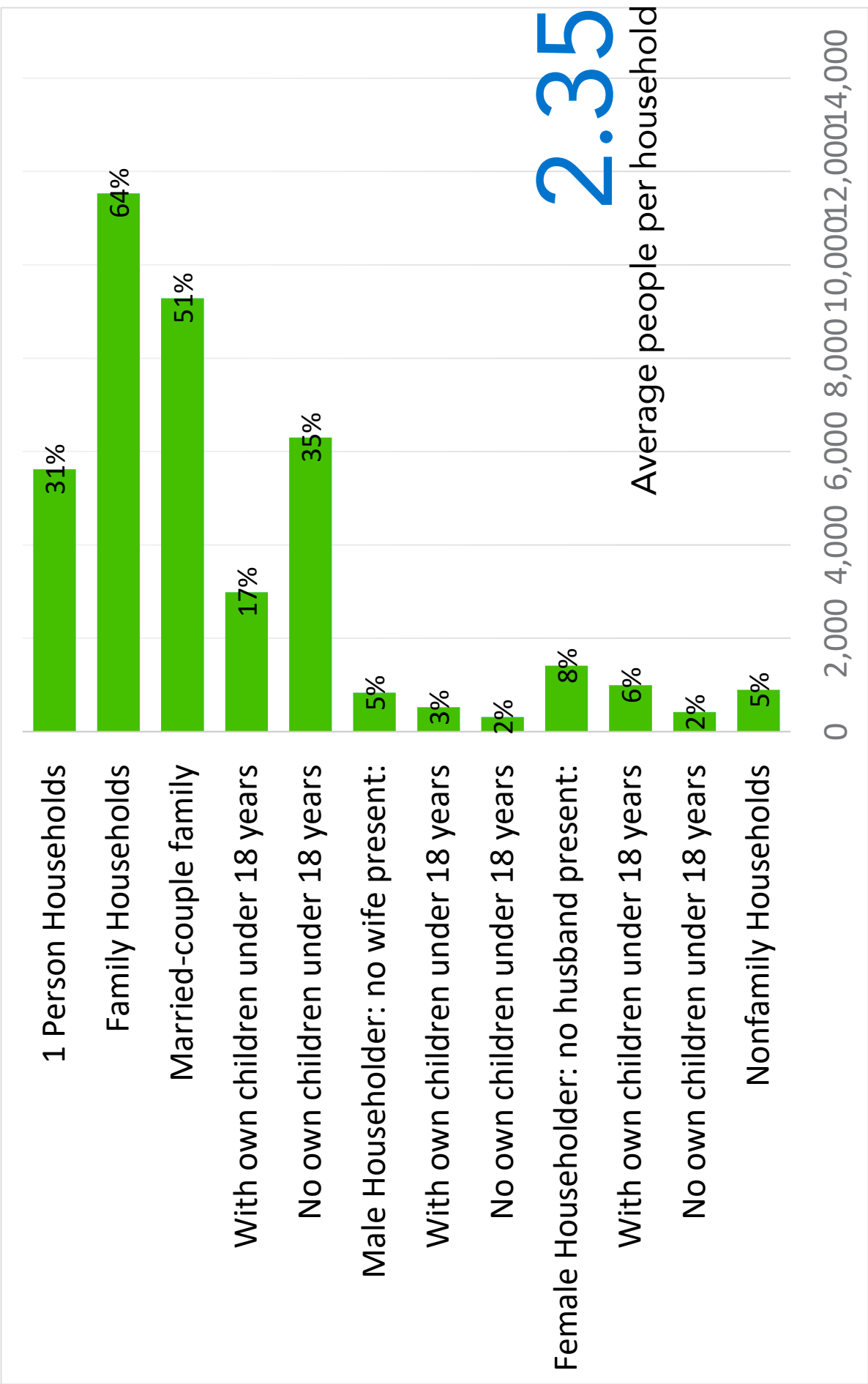
2023 ESTIMATED HOUSING UNITS BY TENURE

\$144,586

average housing unit value

DISCOVER: Custom Trade Area

Our Research



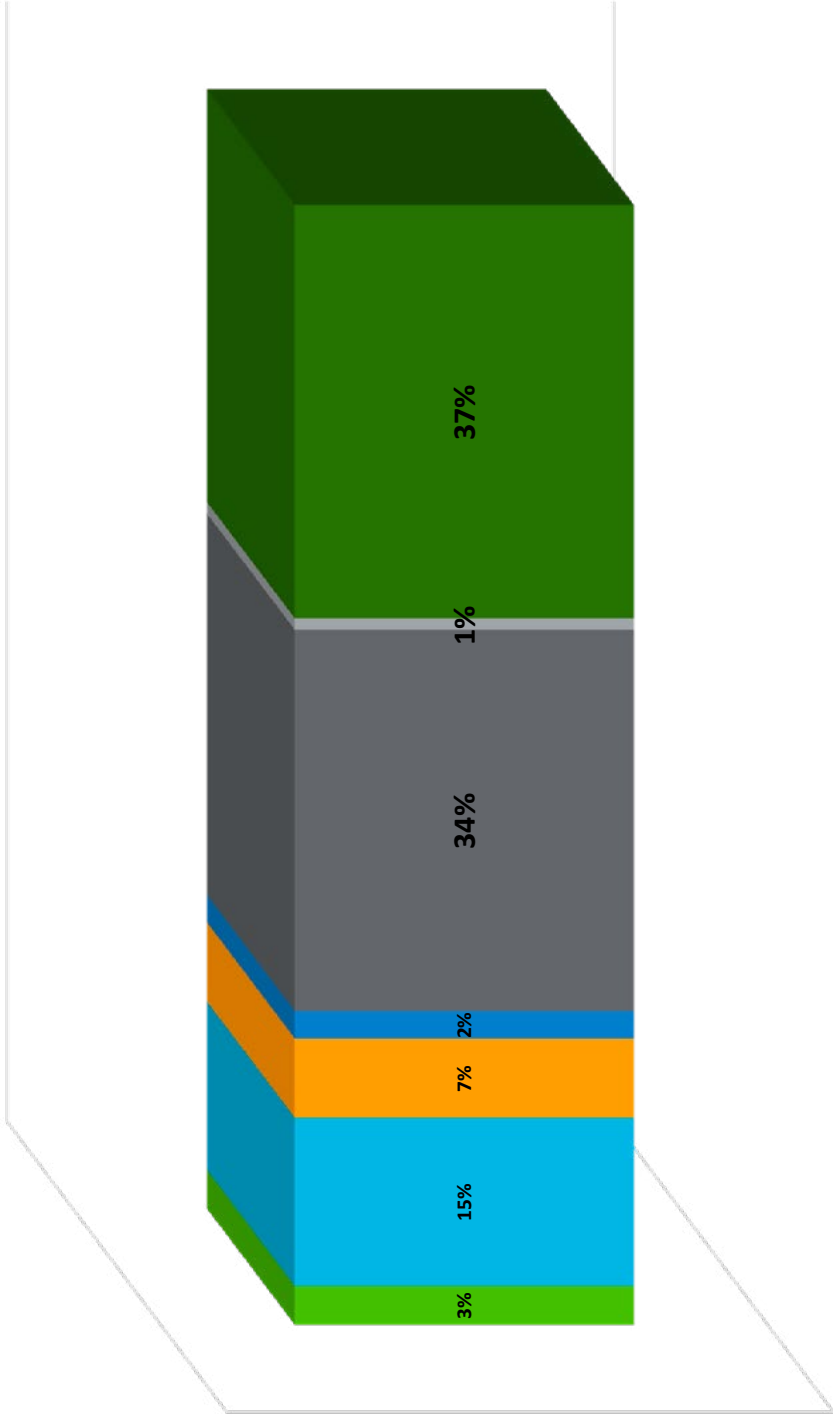
DISCOVER: Custom Trade Area

Our Research

56,376
daytime population

DAYTIME POPULATION

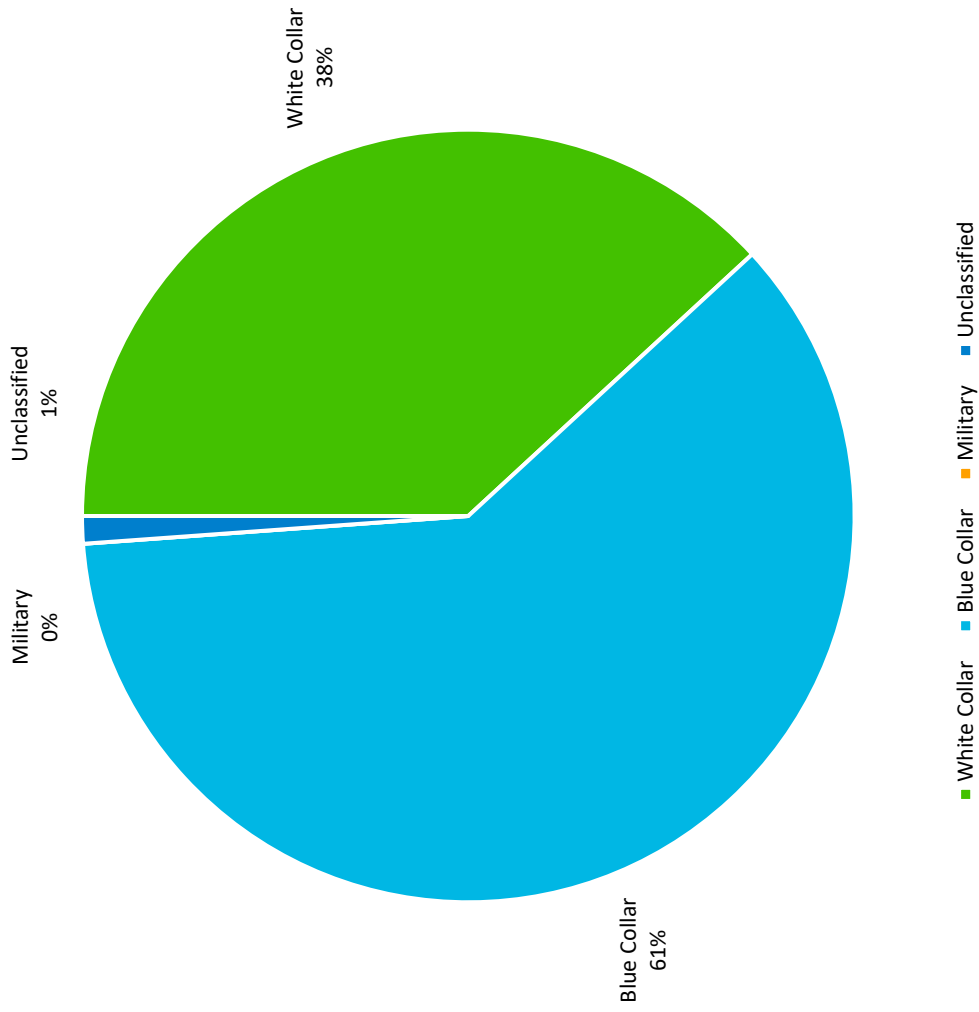
■ Children at home ■ Retired/Disable persons ■ Homemakers ■ Work at Home ■ Employed ■ Unemployed ■ Student Populations





DISCOVER: Custom Trade Area

Our Research



\$56,798

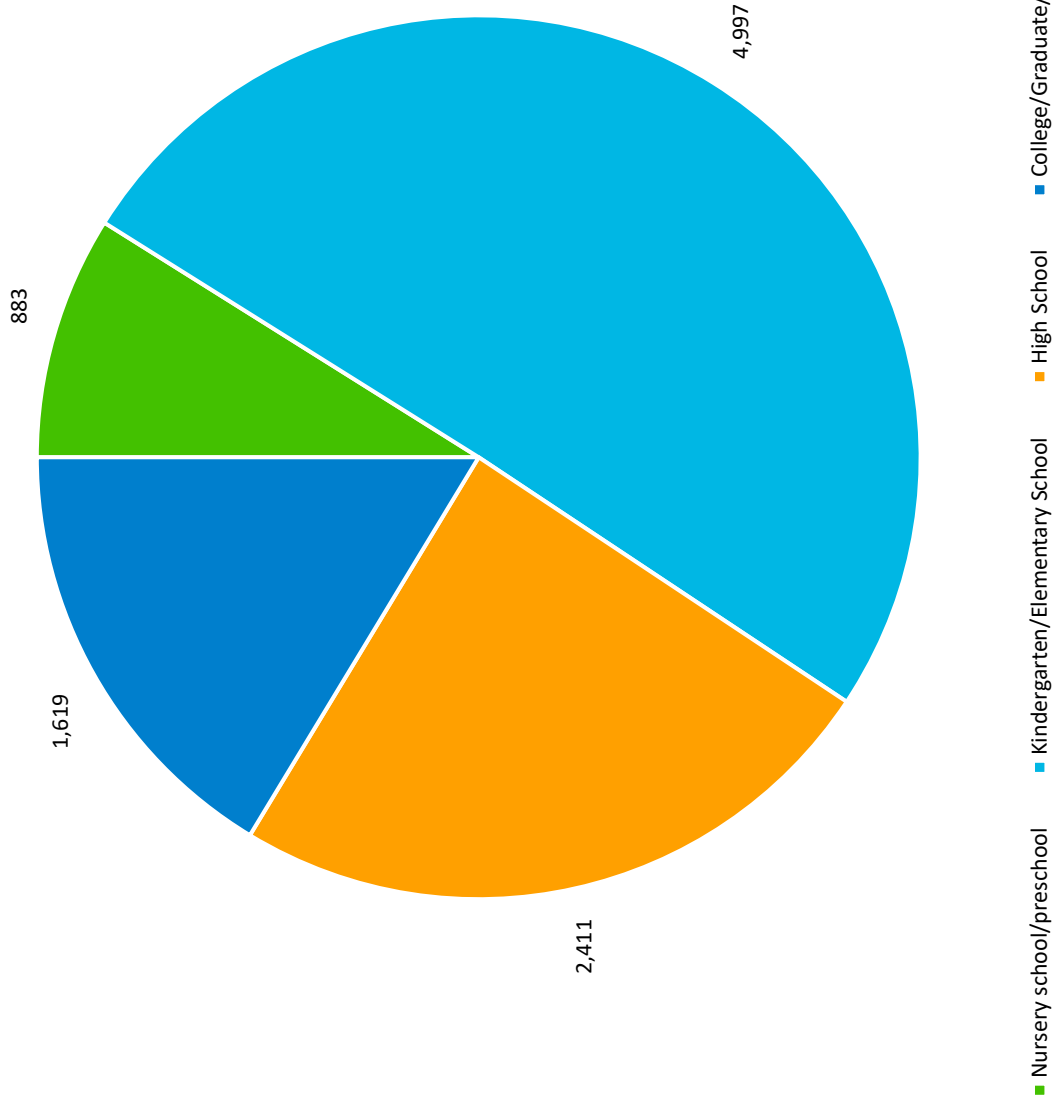
average employee salary



CUSTOM TRADE AREA

Our Research

CURRENT YEAR
ESTIMATED POPULATION
BY ENROLLMENT





Thank You



3111 10th Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
www.gbedinc.com