



What are Child Care Zones?

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is piloting a new Child Care Zones program in 2025, and your community may benefit from this custom model of support for local child care sectors.

A **Child Care Zone** is a self-defined geographic area that receives state-level support to address child care challenges in the region. Each Child Care Zone will determine its own priorities and package of support needed to address longstanding challenges and acute needs of both the child care workforce and families needing care.

Custom Solutions

Zones will receive support for their package of custom solutions which may include:

- Wage adjustments and benefit packages
- Formation of substitute pools
- Professional development opportunities
- Administrative support including shared services like accounting or HR functions
- Provider recruitment and retention strategies
- Consultation and technical support

Eligible Entities

Zones are formed by communities through partnerships between two or more counties and may involve:

- Licensed Child Care Facilities
- Family Resource Centers
- School Districts
- Community Foundations
- Community-based Organizations
- Local Employers

The **Child Care Zones** pilot program invests in communities to help local leaders and members of the child care sector address barriers, grow awareness of needs and challenges, recover from shortages and setbacks, and make sustainable system improvements. As part of the initial pilot, communities can apply for state-level funding to support their Child Care Zone. Child Care Zones are meant to support a community's needs across the child care sector and are not intended for a single facility or organization.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will announce funding opportunities in 2025.

An informational webinar recording can be found on the [All In For Kansas Kids](#) website, and be sure to sign up to receive the [All In for Kansas Kids weekly e-Newsletters](#) so you don't miss anything!

