



# UPDATE

## Slot Expansion in Reno County

Partnering Agency	Number of Slots Birth - 5 years	Location	Open
Haven, USD 312	125 Slots	2 Locations: Haven & Yoder	YES
Buhler, USD 313	88 Slots	2 Locations: Hutchinson & Buhler	YES
City of Pretty Prairie	20 Slots	(2) Group Homes	YES
USD, 309	36 Slots	2 Locations: So Hutchinson & Nickerson	YES
Buhler Mennonite Brethren	24 Slots	Buhler	1st Quarter of 2025
Abundant Life Child Care & Preschool	58 Slots	Hutchinson	1st Quarter of 2025
Central Christian Child Care	31 Slots	Hutchinson	Fall of 2025
USD 308: Hutchinson	35 Slots	Hutchinson	Fall of 2025
<b>Total Slot Creation</b>	<b>417 Slots</b>	<b>(12) Locations</b>	<b>Hutchinson, So Hutchinson, Buhler, Nickerson, Pretty Prairie</b>



- Retention Grants** - The RCCTF has distributed \$1,328,550.00 in Retention grants to home and center providers. These dollars replicated the Child Care Sustainability Grants issued by the federal government during Covid to ensure child care providers remained operational. The data we have collected reveals that these dollars have proven to bridge a portion of the 'cost of care' gap that Reno county providers have been impacted by for numerous years. To see the impact that these dollars have had on correcting the curve as it pertains to home providers closing in our community please go to our website.
- Infant Incentives** - The RCCTF piloted a program called Infant Incentives as part of the KCSL Innovative Communities Grants program. What we found was the 'cost of care' gap for providers caring for infants was astronomically high. As a result of this piloted program, RCCTF incorporated this program into its multi year plan using County & City APRA funding to incentivize infant care among providers. RCCTF infused \$250,000 of grant funding in 2023 for to pilot this program, and in 2024 has invested another \$250,000 to ensure infant care is available within our community without increasing the cost to parents or doing so on the backs of providers.
- Umbrella Organization** - The Reno County Child Care Task Force recently announced the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a collaborative and forward-thinking organizational partner. This partnership will focus on supporting the sustainability and growth of the childcare industry in Reno County by addressing the critical needs of local providers, families, and children. The chosen partner will work closely with the Task Force and an anticipated umbrella 501(c)(3) organization to deliver essential administrative and operational support to childcare facilities across Reno County. This collaboration is a vital step in addressing the ongoing childcare crisis, ensuring our community has access to quality, affordable childcare for years to come.
- Potential Partnerships** - RCCTF is working with various business across the community who have communicated an interest in assisting with the child care need. Currently working with Buhler MB church to help facilitate a remodel project being done that would create 24 slots in the city of Buhler. This project is a partnership project with Central Christian, who will be the operational leg of the project.
- Training Initiative Program** - The Reno County Child Care Task Force is dedicated to supporting childcare providers as a cornerstone of a strong, thriving community. Through the Community Child Care Training Initiative, we remove barriers to professional development by offering free, high-quality, in-person training sessions that meet state in-service training requirements. By partnering with state and local trainers, we ensure these sessions are both accessible and impactful. To further honor providers' time and dedication, Reno County childcare providers receive \$15 per hour for every training hour completed. This program was initially piloted with the use of funds from the Innovative Communities Grant. Based on their success and the positive feedback from providers, we have allocated ARPA funding to extend the program for the next two years. To date we have facilitated 1704 KDHE approved In-Service Training hours, for over 100 providers from 6 different counties, compensating over \$25,000 to Reno county providers for the hours received.
- Provider Appreciation Programs**- The Reno County Child Care Task Force is dedicated to funding provider appreciation initiatives, informed by insights from our [Market Study](#) and direct feedback from local childcare providers, which revealed a notable lack of recognition within the community. By prioritizing provider appreciation, we not only celebrate the dedication of childcare professionals but also contribute to the stability and quality of child care services in Reno County—benefiting children, families, and the community as a whole. For information regarding the various Provider Appreciation Programs in Reno county please visit our website.