



EARLY CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

Salina Area United Way has launched the Early Childcare Initiative Fund to address the urgent childcare crisis in Saline County. This initiative is designed to stabilize the childcare workforce, expand access to affordable care for families, and build long-term sustainability for the sector.

Through this initiative, United Way provides wage-supplement grants that ensure childcare professionals earn at least \$15 per hour, helping to retain current staff and attract new educators to the field. At the same time, the fund will support the opening and expansion of licensed nonprofit childcare centers so that more families can access safe, high-quality care close to home.

In addition to direct support, United Way will actively identify and secure additional state, federal, and private grant opportunities to bring new resources into the community, multiplying the impact of local investment. To guarantee sustainability, the organization is also committed to building a \$10 million endowment that will provide permanent support for the childcare workforce well into the future.

By investing in the Early Childcare Initiative Fund, partners help ensure that children in Saline County have access to the care they deserve, working families have the stability they need, and childcare professionals are compensated with fair and livable wages. This initiative represents a transformative step toward solving one of the community's most pressing and persistent challenges.

2025-2026 EARLY CHILDCARE PARTNERS

