



Public Health
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Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
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MEDIA RELEASE

Health Department partnering to host FREE Child Care Licensing Orientation

Topeka, Kan. – The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) in partnership with Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas (CCAEEKS) will be hosting a special **FREE** Child Care Licensing Orientation on **Monday February 4, 2019 from 1:00-3:30pm in Training Room A at the SCHD, 2600 SW East Circle Dr. Topeka, KS 66606.** This orientation is for any person interested in potentially providing child care services in Shawnee County.

When looking to start a child care facility in Shawnee County, whether it is a home or larger facility, an individual must attend an orientation in the county they wish to operate their child care services, before an application can be processed. Kansas law requires that persons caring for unrelated children have a license or temporary permit to do so if caring for 2 or more children, or if the care is more than 20 hours per week. The orientation provided by the SCHD and CCAEEKS will clarify the different between “related care” and “unrelated care” while also providing information on how to apply, what paperwork must be completed, what trainings are required and other helpful information.

“We want to provide information to the public in hopes of increasing the number of quality child care providers in Shawnee County,” said Becky Springer Child Care Licensing Team Leader.

Over the past several years Shawnee County has seen a decline in the overall number of available child care facilities, specifically in Licensed Day Care Homes, which saw a 22% decrease between 2014 and 2018. Currently Shawnee County’s desired capacity is meeting only 64% of its demand.

“Child care availability is critical to the economic health of our community,” stated Reva Wywadis, executive director of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas. “Without child care, parents with young children cannot enter and stay in the workforce. We want young children to be cared for in high-quality early learning settings that give them the skills they need to be successful in school and throughout life. We are proud to partner with the Shawnee County Health Department in this effort to support new child care programs in our county.”

Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Questions regarding the orientation can be made by calling 785.251.5750.

For more information please visit our event on [Facebook](#).

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The Shawnee County Health Department is dedicated to protecting health in the community by providing prevention, education, and health care services.

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Leading the Way to a Healthier Shawnee County