



# Community/Events

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## St. Louis, KC Organizations Partner with MDHEWD to Address Childcare Crisis

More than \$3 million in funding available for childcare apprenticeship program

Organizations from St. Louis and Kansas City have partnered with the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) to address the shortage of childcare workers in the state.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, YWCA Metro St. Louis, and Full Employment Council, through \$3.3 million in funding from MDHEWD's Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning (OAWBL), have created the "Interstate Partnership Agreement" to serve hundreds of apprentices that pursue a career as a childcare worker.

The goal of the Childhood Development Associate Registered Apprenticeship Training Program is to provide more than 250 Missourians with an apprenticeship in the childcare industry throughout the Kansas City, St. Louis and southwest areas of the state.

"Missouri is ranked third in new apprentices, and we strive to keep delivering opportunities for our citizens to earn a paycheck while also training for a career," said Julie Carter, director of the Office of Workforce Development. "This apprenticeship program will help address the shortage of childcare workers and give more Missouri families access to quality



Clyde McQueen, president/CEO, Full Employment Council.

slots, directly related to the shortage of childcare professionals. Concurrently, we have 85,000 job openings in our region. Addressing the shortage of childcare professionals will enable more parents to apply for the jobs that exist. More childcare professionals increase childcare capacity, enabling potential and existing employees to have the opportunity to apply for more jobs, work a variety of job shifts, and pursue skill-training programs. This interstate initiative is a win-win for the State of Missouri, the cities of Kansas City and St. Louis, and most of all, the parents and employers in our state."

The St. Louis area (St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and Jefferson City) has 715 licensed childcare programs and 123,554 children under 6 years old with working parents, according to Child Care Aware of Missouri.

YWCA Metro St. Louis' Early Education Program serves 1,229 children and their families through Prenatal Services, Early Head Start and Head Start, and is directly impacted by the shortage of qualified staff. This shortage of roughly 22% directly impacts the program's ability to meet the demand for childcare — and is what led to the development of a pre-credentialing program to identify individuals who are interested in serving young children and their families in the St. Louis region.

"We created a solution to our problem because one did not exist elsewhere," said Stacy Johnson, YWCA chief program officer and Head Start director. "Our Successful Pathways apprenticeship leverages several YWCA services so that a candidate is fully supported during the time they are in our program. We're so pleased to be invited into this pilot and are grateful for the additional exposure it will provide as we try to attract more childcare professionals to the region and the state."

Successful Pathways™ is a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program and a pre-credentialing program designed to prepare a future professional for a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential — the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education, and a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement.

"Solutions and success will come more quickly when we join forces to solve a problem in a crisis — and this problem is a national crisis. I am proud of our team, our region and our state for the innovation and the alignment that can be held up as an example across the country," said Dr. Cheryl Watkins, president and chief executive officer at YWCA Metro St. Louis.

childcare."

According to a 2021 report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, childcare issues result in an estimated \$1.35 billion loss annually for Missouri's economy.

"This historic partnership is critical and gives us an opportunity to address a very real and challenging crisis in early childhood education over a longer term," said Michael P. McMillan, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. "The ability to create a pipeline of highly trained educators ready to go into the classroom and impact learning for our children is priceless."

The Kansas City area (Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties) has 414 licensed childcare programs and 82,172 children under 6 years old with working parents, according to Child Care Aware of Missouri.

"Our mutual objectives are to facilitate a career pathway for early childhood development professionals," said Clyde McQueen, president and chief executive officer of the Full Employment Council.

"Currently, in the Kansas City region, we have a shortage of more than 62,000 childcare



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### METRO AREA HAPPENINGS

E-MAIL YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS TO: [KCGLOBE@SWBELL.NET](mailto:kcglobe@swbell.net)



Below are upcoming events happening around the metro:

**BUY LOCAL THIS 4TH OF JULY SEASON. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE BIG TENT!**



**OPEN**  
 M - SAT. 9 AM - 10 PM  
 SUN. 12:30 PM - 10 PM  
**JUNE 20 - JULY 7**

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★ **LOOK FOR THE SIGNS**  
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 Facebook@gatorlandfireworks

★ **SPECIAL HOURS TUES.**  
**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>** ★  
**7:30 AM - UNTIL**

**The Teddy Bear Picnic KC presented by the Kansas City Zoo**

Friday, July 7, 2023, 11:00am-12:30pm, Swope Park Pavilion, 4177 Pavilion Rd, Kansas City, Mo (Enter park at Main Entrance from Swope Parkway & East Meyer Blvd, veer left onto Pavilion Rd.) Celebrate National Teddy Bear Picnic Day at a free party with KC Parks and the Kansas City Zoo! Pack a picnic, bring a blanket, and grab your favorite teddy bear(s) for an afternoon of fun music, games, treats and more in Swope Park! \*Teddy Bear Health Clinic (bring your stuffed animals for repairs or a health check up) No cost to attend but we ask that you please pre-register on Eventbrite"

**Summertime Brunch**

Thu, July 6, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Healing House Recovery Community Center, 1112 N Elmwood, Kansas City, MO. Join your colleagues at the KC Recovery Coalition's FREE Summertime Brunch! Cÿpome to this exciting IN-PERSON event sponsored by the KC Recovery Coalition. It will be a great time of fellowship and learning about what's been happening at other Kansas City area agencies who provide substanceuse disorder treatment and recovery services.

**3rd Annual KC Children's Urban Book Fair**

Sat, July 8, 2023, 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Bruce R Watkins Cultural Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy, Kansas City, MO. Join The Urban Literature Collaboration as we celebrate a love for reading during our 3rd annual children's book fair. Bring the entire family out and enjoy shopping with several local book authors. Spend time playing interactive games, participating in activities, listening to music, getting your face painted, or hearing a good story during our read-aloud time.

**African History Saturdays; "No 40 Acres and a Mule..."**

Sat, July 1, 2023, 11:00am - 1:00pm Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 3350 Hardesty Ave, Kansas City, MO. Don't miss these dynamic speakers share historical facts about what happened to the promise of 40 acres & a mule upon emancipation. Come share your thoughts on the local, national and international impact anti-Blackness. This event is for families of all ethnic backgrounds. #educatetoliberate

**Free Mental Health Awareness workshop - 2023**

Saturday, July 8 - 10 - 11:30am CDT Location 7013 Prospect Ave 7013 Prospect Avenue Kansas City, MO. Participants learn how to build resilience and be mental health aware. Register in advance through Eventbrite.com for this meeting: Incentives available for in-person attendees. People may choose to participate online: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**The Power of Action: Do Our Choices Matter?**

Sat, July 8, 2023, 3:15pm - 5:15 pm, Plaza Large Meeting Room, KC Public Library Plaza Branch, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Come join a different kind of conversation — one that welcomes every perspective in a search for the truths that unite us all — as we discuss the spiritual perspectives offered by the Bahá'í Teachings on the power of our individual and collective thoughts and actions. This event is free and open to all.

**Tenants Rights Organizing**

Mon, July 10, 2023, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Kansas City, Kansas Public Library South Branch Library, 3104 Strong Ave, Kansas City, KS Join us as we organize around rental rights in KCK and partner with you to build power for tenants.

**Kid Makers Market**

Sat, July 8, 2023, 9:00am - 1:00pm Lenexa Public Market, 8750 Penrose Lane Lenexa, KS. Shop for a variety of goods made by local youth in our community. Kids learn, adapt, and innovate through the creative process. Join us at the Lenexa Public Market as we support the most creative endeavors of the next generation at our Kid Makers Markets.

**Lit in the Lot: First Fridays**

Friday, July 7, 2023, 4:00pm - 9:00pm 509 E 18th St, Side Lot, Kansas City, MO. On the First Friday of every month, thousands of residents and visitors fill the Crossroads Arts District in Kansas City to enjoy what has become the City's most dynamic and popular event: #firstfridayskc.

**Virtual Unicorn Festival!**

July 14 - 7pm - July 24 - 10:00 pm Kansas City Pershing, Kansas City. Join us in a magical online world filled with rainbow-colored unicorns, glitter, and enchanting activities. Immerse yourself in a whimsical experience like no other, right from the comfort of your own home.