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*522 N. 150th Rd, Bennington, KS. 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 44 +/- Ac & Bunkhouse. SOLD by Samantha!

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New ConnectNWK Job Board Expands Connections Between Northwest Kansas Employers & Job Seekers

The Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center Inc. (Innovation Center) has launched a newly revamped ConnectNWK Job Board, expanding its efforts to connect Northwest Kansas employers with people looking to build their careers and lives in the region.

ConnectNWK was created to help bridge the gap between Northwest Kansas employers looking for talent and people looking for opportunities. The new platform expands on that mission by giving both employers and job seekers more ways to find and connect with one another.

As part of the Innovation Center's broader work to support economic and workforce growth across Northwest Kansas, ConnectNWK is designed to help local businesses recruit employees while also making it easier for current residents, recent graduates and people considering a move or return to the region to discover available career opportunities.

For employers, ConnectNWK offers more than a place to post open positions. Businesses and organizations can create company profiles, showcase themselves to prospective employees, search a talent database for potential

candidates and connect with people interested in working in Northwest Kansas. Employers can also use the platform to reach job seekers both inside and outside the region. Employer accounts and job postings are free.

For job seekers, the revamped ConnectNWK makes it easier to explore opportunities throughout Northwest Kansas. Users can create a personal profile, upload a resume, and search/apply for available positions by location, category, job type, salary and other criteria. The platform also includes remote and hybrid opportunities and allows users to save jobs that catch their interest.

Job seekers can make their profiles discoverable to employers, creating another way for Northwest Kansas businesses to identify potential employees rather than

relying solely on candidates to find individual job postings.

The platform is intended to support workforce connections throughout the region, whether someone is already living in Northwest Kansas, preparing to enter the workforce, considering returning home after college or technical school, or exploring the possibility of relocating to the area.

Employers who had jobs posted on the previous ConnectNWK Job Board will need to create an account on the new platform and add their current openings as the system transitions to the new site.

Employers, job seekers and others interested in opportunities available across Northwest Kansas are encouraged to explore the new ConnectNWK Job Board at <https://jobs.connectnwk.org/>.

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Northwest Kansas Childcare Grant Opportunities Announced

The Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc. (Innovation Center) and The Dane G. Hansen Foundation are pleased to announce the 2027 Fall NWKS Childcare Grant Opportunities, providing financial support to licensed childcare facilities throughout Northwest Kansas.

The grant programs are designed to strengthen childcare operations by supporting staff retention and helping providers address facility, equipment, maintenance and programming needs.

Eligible applicants include KDHE-licensed childcare facilities located in Cheyenne, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Graham, Gove, Jewell, Logan, Lincoln, Mitchell, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace counties.

"Childcare providers are essential to the strength of our communities and our regional workforce," said Dana Jo Stanton, Childcare Program Specialist with the Innovation Center. "These grants are one way we can help providers invest in their staff, facilities and programs so they can continue providing quality, reliable

childcare for Northwest Kansas families."

Two types of grant support are available:

Early Childhood Education Staff Support Grant

This grant provides financial recognition for childcare staff, helps reduce costs associated with employee turnover, and supports a more stable childcare workforce.

Facility and Program Support Grants

The Enhancement Grant, administered by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, and the Multi-Purpose Grant, administered by the Innovation Center, help childcare facilities (including licensed home-based facilities) address needs related to equipment, facility maintenance and programming.

Application processes are based on the facility's business structure.

For-profit childcare facilities (including licensed home-based facilities) should apply through the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center. Program descriptions, eligibility requirements and applications are available at <https://nwkeici.org/what-we-do/childcare/childcare-grants/>.

Nonprofit childcare facilities with 501(c)(3) status should

apply through the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. Program descriptions, eligibility requirements and applications are available at <https://dane-hansenfoundation.org/grants/nw-kansas-cares-for-kids/>.

Applicants must meet program eligibility requirements, and facilities may apply for these grants once per year. Grants are competitive, and funding is not guaranteed.

Applications for the fall grant cycle are due October 25, 2026.

For questions about for-profit childcare grant opportunities, contact Innovation Center Childcare Program Specialist Dana Jo Stanton at danajstanton@nwkeici.org or 785-874-5150.

For questions about nonprofit childcare grant opportunities, contact Hansen Grant Coordinator Kyra Reese at kyra@danehansenfoundation.org or 785-689-4832.

STRANGE, BUT TRUE...

When resources were scarce during World War II, some German and Austrian banks printed emergency banknotes on wood, leather and playing cards.

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