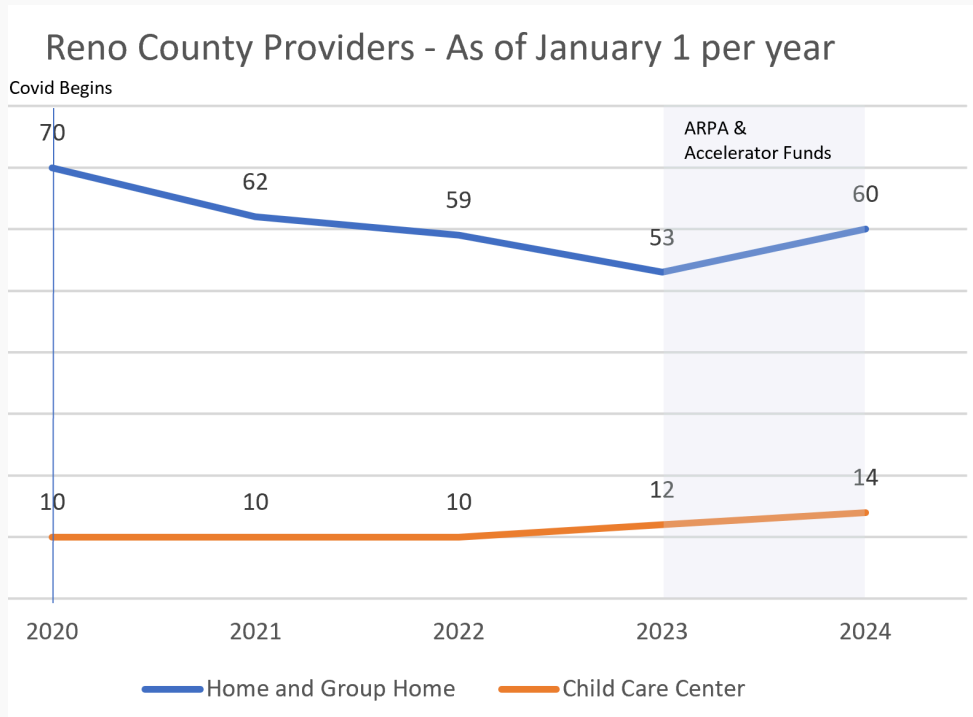




# UPDATE

## Home Provider Growth

Following the completion of our annual report, we obtained data from KDHE that highlights the state of child care in our community both before and after the implementation of the various initiatives driven by the Reno County Child Care Task Force (RCCTF). The attached graph illustrates the significant impact of these efforts, showing a nearly double-digit increase in capacity among home-based child care providers.



## Accelerator Grant = Slot Expansion

**417 Slots created in less than 2 years**

**11 Facilities, 8 of which are located outside of Hutchinson City Limits**

We're excited to announce that Haven, which became operational last year, has expanded from 36 to 89 additional slots this school year. Their expansion included an important partnership with the Early Education Center who is instrumental in serving children with disabilities and special needs throughout our community. Pretty Prairie has completed their project and opened 20 slots in a community previously without child care. Nickerson 309 opened 36 slots at South Hutch and Nickerson Grade Schools at the beginning of the school year. USD 313 just opened in the last 2 weeks at 2 locations, one on 56th & Plum Street here in Hutchinson and one located at Buhler Grade School. These two locations, aiming to serve 88 slots across four locations, with two focusing on 0-3 year-olds.

Abundant Life is addressing fire code issues and hopes to open 58 additional slots by year-end. Central Christian broke ground on a remodel, expanding their capacity by 50 slots and have secured additional partnerships with business' in town in an effort to build the partnerships between the child care industry and business.' Finally, USD 308, after accepting the grant in July, is working on a new build to add 35 slots to their already existing child care facility.

Due to increased cost associated with these projects, we are currently in the process of processing additional dollars to each partner to help offset the costs of these projects.



- ***Umbrella Organization*** - The RCCTF is committed to data backed, systematic, sustainable and equitable solutions to solve the child care crisis in our community. Over the next several months we will be issuing an RFP to continue our work to develop an Umbrella Organization that offers shared services to providers regardless of their care setting.
- ***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.
- ***State Awareness & Advocacy*** - We recently hosted members from KCSL as they toured the various Accelerator Grant projects. Reno county will be featured in a state wide newsletter regarding the work being done in Reno county.
- ***Working on (2) grant opportunities*** that will be made public for all child care providers. More information about those 2 grant opportunities will be issued out through our website, social media platform and our monthly e-newsletter.
- ***Training Initiative Program*** - last year, RCCTF was 1 of 14 awardees from KCSL for an Innovative Communities Grant where in we hosted 4 all day trainings that resulted in "" hours of in-service training to child care providers as well as "\$" spent in hours paid to those providers for attending. We are gearing up for the 2024-2025 Training Program and are kicking off this year by partnering with Kalediscope. We have committed to a \$6000 grant to pay the costs they have with one stipulation and that is to offer the training free of charge to providers. Additionally we will be working with them to ensure all Reno county providers are compensated at \$15.00 per hour.
- ***2024 2nd Quarter Retention Grants & Infant Incentives:*** Issued \$203,000 this month in Retention Grants & Infant Incentives to providers. This was for 955 children actively being cared for in the 2nd quarter of this year which from the data we have access to is very close to 100% participation. We have supporting data that shows the cost of care difference for a provider who cares for an infant age child has an \$8,000/year deficit. After being awarded a 2nd Innovative Communities Grant last year where we issued this deficit difference to providers, we additionally adjusted our ARPA funding to add this to providers Retention Grants to incentivize more providers to consider taking infants without the concern of such a large deficit. We are currently collecting data to see if this is helping increase infant care capacity in our community.
- ***The Reno County Child Care Task Force is expanding!*** There will be an email going out through our mailing list to for those interested to submit their name for consideration. If you would like more information please go to [www.renocountychildcare.com](http://www.renocountychildcare.com)
- ***Provider Directory*** - we have recently launched the Provider Directory on our website at [www.renocountychildcare.com/directory](http://www.renocountychildcare.com/directory). If you know of a child care provider or ECE program that would like to be included in this directory please go to the above address and submit their information and one of our team members will get back with you to get you added. This is a way for parents and business' to connect directly with providers in our community.
- ***Provider of the Month*** - to nominate a ECE provider, please go to our website and submit a provider for consideration. Providers are chosen monthly, they receive a \$75 gift card, and Bowercom does a video highlighting said provider through our social media platform and e-newsletter
- **Stay informed:** To receive regular newsletters on what RCCTF is doing please go to our website and sign up to receive those, like and follow us on facebook.