



Ballard Community Services
4th & Florida, Lawrence, KS

BCS Early Learning Center
(formerly DCCCA, Inc. First Step House)

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

Ballard Community Services
4th & Florida

BCS Early Learning Center

(formerly DCCCA, Inc. First Step House)

Proposal:

BCS EARLY LEARNING CENTER: Ballard Community Services would like to expand its operation to the 4th and Florida site, formerly the DCCCA First Step House. The proposal for this site would be to create a business private partnership that includes working with local employers to provide their employees with early education slots for children ranging in age from infants that are 12 weeks old to preschoolers to the age of 5. This project would primarily house Ballard's early education program but would allow for the agency to provide all of their human service programs to the families of the children participating in the program. Ballard would also like to collaborate with other non profit organizations to provide services to the children and families as necessary.

Concept: Use existing building and site, with minor updating and modifications inside the building, Ballard would like to provide:

3 infant rooms to house a total of 20 infants

4 toddler rooms to house a total of 40 toddlers

4 preschool rooms to house a total of 40 preschoolers

Total of 100 children.

16 Employees on Site at any one time

Ballard Community Services
4th & Florida

BCS Early Learning Center

(formerly DCCCA, Inc. First Step House)

Background:

Mission: *Ballard Community Services is a non profit corporation that provides an affordable, high quality early education program and essential basic life assistance to families and individuals in need.*

History:

- 1964** Ballard Community Center purchased by Anna "Petey" Cerf from the Board of Education
She donated the building in memory of her mother to the Community Children's Center, Inc. for use as a community center to benefit the citizens of Lawrence. The first use was to house the Children's Hour nursery school program. Originally, the Community Children's Center formed Head Start – currently housed at Plymouth Congregational Church, the Big Brother's program and the Ballard Center programs.
- 1967** Library opened at the center with 1000 books – First 5 ½ weeks 600 books checked out, most by children never experiencing a library before.
- 1968** Housing and Leadership programs developed and implemented the following programs at Ballard:
4-H Club
Arts & Crafts Classes
Teen Drop-In Center was organized with adult volunteer leadership
Clothing Room opened – sold clothes for 10 cents per item.
Ballard Youth Council developed
North Lawrence Improvement Association Developed through Ballard Center
Ballard Center Employment Office opened. Prospective employees brought to center to meet potential employers.
- 1969**
– **1975** Center operated as a drop-in center for local black teens.
- 1975** Ballard after school and summer youth program developed.

- 1976** Academic component of after school program added.
- 1981** Rainbow Child Development Center opened at Ballard Community Center
- 2003** January 1 – Merged the Douglas County Emergency Service Council with Ballard Community Center.
- 2005** March 24 – Merged the Penn House Association with Ballard Community Center.
- 2005** June – Board changed name of organization to Ballard Community Services with administration of the Ballard Center, Emergency Service Council and Penn House.
- 2007** September – Ballard Community Services consolidated with Brookcreek Learning Center
expanding early education services to three sites serving infants to 6 years of age.

Statement of Purpose: The Elizabeth B. Ballard Community Center is committed to being a place that serves children by ensuring that all children, particularly those who are low-income, have access to an affordable high quality early childhood education. Children learn better if they are not hungry, if they are not worrying about where they are going to stay or whether they are going to have a warm place to sleep, therefore, we work hard to provide food, shelter and positive relationships for children and families. Our staff and volunteers also provide opportunities for families to learn new skills and seek further education. We help provide families with the necessary encouragement to help them seek true self-sufficiency. The Ballard Center Board and staff believe that it is necessary to the well being of the community that we work with other agencies and partners to solve issues that arise and that threaten the well being of children and their families. We know that it is vital to our community that children and families are provided with the assistance they need to reach their highest potential. The Ballard Center prides itself on being a community driven agency whose mission is to serve for the success of others.