

 **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Chamber Blue of Kansas Set to Transform Health Insurance Access for Small Business

*Chamber Blue of Kansas helps make insurance more affordable for employers*

SALINA, KANSAS (August 5, 2022) - The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce announced a new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS) earlier this year. This partnership stitches together 48 local Chambers of Commerce across Kansas to offer an Association Health Plan entitled Chamber Blue of Kansas.

Chamber Blue of Kansas is an association health plan (AHP) that allows for employers to join together to purchase insurance. The larger pool of people enrolled in the plan allows the possibility for more plan options, and potentially, lower cost.

The initial rates will be based upon employers who complete an interest survey; completing the survey does not obligate your organization to enroll in the program but it does provide access to the initial group. The survey is live currently with a deadline of August 18, 2022, for all interested parties to submit.

In the two weeks since the survey link went live in Saline County alone there has been 87 organizations representing 1,631 employees complete the survey and at the state level, there has been 1155 organizations complete the survey representing approximately 17,357 employees! The response has been phenomenal and is poised to be one of the largest association health plans in Kansas. This is the best opportunity and lowest barrier of entry for small employers to access large group health insurance.

The initial rates will be determined in September 2022 based on groups/businesses that have completed the survey and plans will become effective January 1, 2023.

Salina area business owners, non-profits, and organizations are encouraged to attend the final information session hosted in conjunction with BCBSKS to be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Annex meeting room located at 120 W. Ash St. in Salina. If you are unable to attend, a previously [recorded webinar](https://bcbsks.zoom.us/rec/play/_vFA3XQcycY5x7kJiFOIdcAUC-ITe4GcUaY5idkmyS7J-mCJCYJ9C8WTuFb4S0NazLqaSR_TQExDRTiU.hndhxJyCGn44mCvM?startTime=1657825342000&_x_zm_rtaid=VrOgOAObQYSPher9xW9-DA.1659705658100.36f78a50888447c8541943af255c0723&_x_zm_rhtaid=858) is available to view by clicking [here.](https://bcbsks.zoom.us/rec/play/_vFA3XQcycY5x7kJiFOIdcAUC-ITe4GcUaY5idkmyS7J-mCJCYJ9C8WTuFb4S0NazLqaSR_TQExDRTiU.hndhxJyCGn44mCvM?startTime=1657825342000&_x_zm_rtaid=VrOgOAObQYSPher9xW9-DA.1659705658100.36f78a50888447c8541943af255c0723&_x_zm_rhtaid=858)

For more information please visit <https://www.bcbsks.com/chamberblueks> to view the [Employer Guide](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.bcbsks.com_documents_mc446-2Dahp-2Demployer-2Dbrochure-2D2022-2D01-2D24&d=DwMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Kczp7W4fXpLGMcJWvJXF-PYvoMJknuiCZvGbSpPl2sU&m=cVaAPitVFG7l-YDIGKXrxe0UUYAK88u-TNPHfhiB1kE&s=iMTpsmIylYu596GoGo-AwkelRUpRl68KMuDW91aBles&e=), [Benefit Brochure](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.bcbsks.com_documents_mc449b-2Dchamber-2Dblue-2Dbenefits-2Dbrochure&d=DwMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Kczp7W4fXpLGMcJWvJXF-PYvoMJknuiCZvGbSpPl2sU&m=cVaAPitVFG7l-YDIGKXrxe0UUYAK88u-TNPHfhiB1kE&s=WNCRg7IPfuwnaHzWayYob4TUkfSFEYcICl8u_vY-hMs&e=), and to review the eligibility criteria, plan options. To receive the survey link please contact Eric Brown at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-827-9301 or by email at ebrown@salinakansas.org.

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About Salina Area Chamber of Commerce:

The [Salina Area Chamber of Commerce](https://www.salinakansas.org/) was established in 1911. It is a not-for-profit 501c(6) chartered organization of business, industry, professional men and women and individuals working together to build a healthy economy and improve the quality of life and advocate and elevate our members’ economic prosperity and are the catalyst for our community’s future.

About Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas:

As a private not-for-profit 501(c)6, [Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas](https://cceks.org/) (CCEKS) operates with the primary goal of serving its membership by providing excellence in professional development, networking, resource, and idea exchange opportunities. Also, CCEKS provides guidance and leadership training to chambers across the state and the board members who serve in local communities.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas:

For 80 years, [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas](https://www.bcbsks.com/) has built a reputation of trust with its members and contracting providers by providing outstanding customer service while quickly and accurately processing claims; fairly administering benefit plans and contracts; offering programs, services and tools to help members improve or maintain their health; and operating under the highest ethical standards while being good stewards of premium dollars. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and is the state’s largest insurer, serving all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte. For more information, visit bcbsks.com.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is not affiliated with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.