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***LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY***

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For more information:**

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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*

**OTTAWA, KANSAS (August 9, 2022)** - The Ottawa 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 53 local Chambers of Commerce across Kansas to offer an Association Health Plan called 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 Franklin County alone, there has been 27 organizations representing 280 employees complete the survey; and at the state level, there has been 1,300 business organizations complete the survey representing approximately more than 20,000 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.

If you are interested in learning more, a previously [recorded webinar](#) is available to view by clicking [here](#). For more information please visit <https://www.bcbks.com/chamberblueks> to view the [Employer Guide](#), [Benefit Brochure](#), and to review the eligibility criteria, plan options. To receive the survey link please contact John Coen at the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce at 785-242-1000 or by email at [john@ottawakansas.org](mailto:john@ottawakansas.org).

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**About Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce:**

The [Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce](#) was established in 1934. 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](#) (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](#) 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 [bcbks.com](http://bcbks.com).

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