



Rural Child Care Innovation Program DAWSON - BOYD, MINNESOTA

Initial Progress Update – March 13, 2018

Dawson-Boyd communities joined the Rural Child Care Innovation Program in 2017. At this point, the community has completed the initial phases of the program which has included deep community investigation, a town hall meeting, and development of a Community Solution Action Plan to help guide the local area on solutions to the local challenges.

While work has just begun to implement the solutions developed through this process, initial successes have already been realized.

- Recruitment for the Child Care Business Leadership Cohort has begun and will begin in the Spring of 2018. There will be both a child care center director cohort and a family based child care cohort.
- Town pastors and the county licensor are in conversations with local churches to gauge interest and to identify ones that could be a potential location for a family child care provider.
- The YMCA of Willmar is exploring the possibility of running a family child care program within Johnson Memorial Health Services Care Facility.
- The core team is in conversations to develop a recruitment strategy to identify potential providers to take advantage of these new child care opportunities within the community. The recruitment strategy will engage the local school district, the guidance counselor, and the surrounding community colleges to develop potential recruitment opportunities.