



## Rural Child Care Innovation Program SIBLEY COUNTY

### Initial Progress Update – March 16, 2018

The Sibley County Core Team continues to meet on a monthly basis to review outcomes related to the Rural Child Care Innovation Program.

#### **Additional highlights:**

1. Initial work has begun on coordination between Sibley County and the child care providers to update the resources page on the county website for parents and families. This work is driven by the desire to ensure families and providers can efficiently connect around child care needs and find available slots as needed. The goal is to increase visibility of available slots throughout the county.
2. The City of Arlington is launching a forgivable loan program for child care providers. This effort along with others currently underway are focused on increasing overall capacity within the county by 50 slots.
3. First Children's Finance is half-way through delivery of the Business Leadership cohort program for local providers. There are 15 local providers participating in the business focused learning series. This includes focus on marketing, business finance, policies, and planning for the future. It also includes individual consultations with each participating provider.
4. Other efforts are underway to support growth of 2<sup>nd</sup> shift care slots in Sibley County along with slots within a child care center. Members of the Core Team are actively working with members in the community on expansion plans and development of new spaces to serve families within the local area.
5. There is an effort underway with an unnamed community to build new child care center capacity in the county. This resulting effort may drive development of 21 new infant and toddler slots in the community.