



## Rural Child Care Innovation Program

### Meeker County, MN

### Initial Progress Update – September 11, 2020

Meeker, MN community joined the Rural Child Care Innovation Program in 2019. 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. However, due to the Pandemic some of the activities have been put on hold, while new activities to support providers to access resources developed.

- Family Child Care Business Leadership Cohort have been completed. 9 family providers that participated.
- Center Child Care Business Leadership Cohort is half way completed – it was put on hold due to COVID - 19. There are 4 child care centers participating.
- The county eliminated the Family Child Care relicensing fee ‘
- The county developed a website that has an interactive map that shows the location of all the child care programs with in the county
- The community tried to access supplies and resources to help programs during the shutdown due to COVID - 19.
  - New child care initiative build outs
- Jennie-O Turkey Plant, is offering their training space FREE of charge during the evening and weekends to offer localized trainings to family child care providers.
- Document to help potential providers navigate and support as they go through the licensing process