



Rural Child Care Innovation Program ROSEAU COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Initial Progress Update – March 13, 2018

Roseau County, MN community 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.

- Since this process has started, 11 new family child care providers have been licensed in the county and four more providers are in process of getting licensed. This will create approximately 100 new slots.
- The Child Care Business Leadership Cohort has completed sessions 1, 2, and 3. There have been 19 providers in attendance for session 1 and 12 providers for session 2, and 3. Six providers have completed their individual financial analysis, four more providers are scheduled. Karen White and others from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation have been traveling to the capital to discuss child care legislation and what is needed for rural NW MN. They continue to be involved in additional conversations around policy that are happening at the capital and other conversations throughout the region.
- Spaces within the county to house family child care are being explored. The county licensor, and the Core Team lead Missy Okeson will be looking at a potential space in Warroad to determine whether the space can be used for 2 family child care programs. They are considering optimizing the use of the space by having 2 different shifts an Infant-Toddler program would utilize the space during the day time hours, and a family child care program would utilize the space for the evening hours to accommodate second shift families.
- First Children's Finance is in the process of developing financial modeling for the two proposed ideas and to continue discussions with local business to see how much and what type of financial support is needed for these programs to be sustainable.
- Lifecare, the local hospital, implemented **FREE** CPR training currently on a quarterly basis for local child care providers. The first free training was held February 19, 2018. The cost for this training is typically \$75 per provider.
- The Northwest Minnesota Foundation has received DEED money for their region. Roseau County was allotted \$18,000 to help build the supply of child care within the county.
- Roseau County is in the process of linking the Parent Aware website with the County website to provide a one-stop-shop where local businesses, parents, and child care providers can access what child care openings are available. Outreach to providers on how to update their information and openings have begun.