



Through the RCCIP, the City of Becker's Core Team has identified four (4) goals to address child care challenges. Below is a list of goals that the team focused efforts on within the implementation phase, along with project updates as provided by the core team lead upon the sunset of this process.

GOALS

*To ensure the community's goals remain authentic, little to no content edits were made in the creation of this summary.



SMART Goal:

Goal 1: By the end of February, build awareness of how childcare affects workforce and community development by educating business leaders, employers, and the community.

Project Team Members: Jennifer Shaw, Amy Chmielewski, Bartt Gevens, Michelle Peacock, Mitchell Fennell

Goal Update: This goal was accomplished with the successful event held on February 1, 2025. Following the February event, the group seized opportunities to engage business leaders and other stakeholders from the community and surrounding region, raising awareness about the impact of childcare on the workforce. The efforts of the team in achieving this goal led to increased interest from local individuals and existing providers in expanding available childcare slots.



SMART Goal:

Goal 2: In 8-months, we will identify 6 sites and determine feasibility of space to expand child care slots.

Project Team Members: Jodi Heurung-Dick, Melissa Pribyl, Nicole Schmitz, Shannon Mortenson, Sue Hiltner

Goal Update: The team completed this goal within the 8-month period. No childcare slots have been created yet, but if a potential fiscal agent materializes, it could create new opportunities to establish local childcare slots.



SMART Goal:

Goal 3: Provider event to increase awareness of child care resources and provide access to relevant training. Open to existing [child care providers] and [those] interested in starting a child care business.

Project Team Members: Alyssa Braaten, Amy Chmielewski, Bartt Gevens, Jennifer Shaw, Michelle Peacock, Mitchell Fennell

Goal Update: This goal was achieved on February 1, 2025. There has been an expansion of slots locally, and we hope the local childcare appreciation event played a small role in contributing to that outcome.



SMART Goal:

Goal 4: In 9 months identify at least 3 community partnerships and create a framework and workplan that will increase awareness and interest in the child care profession while supporting the retention and expansion of existing providers.

Project Team Members: Gail Cruikshank, Nicole Schmitz, Sue Hiltner

Goal Update: While three community partnerships weren't officially identified the group made connections and established relationships with individuals in and outside the industry. A framework / plan was not formally developed but many of the conversations garnered by members of the group and connections made helped to increase awareness and interest in the childcare profession. The primary goal has been to create additional slots for the community. We continue to work to secure a fiscal agent to support the group in bringing this vision closer to reality.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Becker is a rural area with a long history of community partnership in bringing needed services to the area. Becker has a committed Core Team of individuals who are heavily invested in the child care landscape of their community. First Children's Finance recommends that the Core Team engage in the following activities:

1

Always run financials before committing to a project – look for a broad base of support. Having an accurate understanding of enrolment numbers, staffing needs, and tuition rates are needed to create sustainability in the current child care climate.

First Children's Finance offers financial modelling and financial analysis consultations.

2

Continue to engage the community in this project.

Community investment to support new and existing child care businesses are critical to maintaining quality programs.

3

Continue to involve and support existing providers.

Ongoing support to all types of existing child care in the area should be considered to retain the existing providers. Efforts should be made to ensure current child care providers continue to feel supported and have access to resources they need to stay in the field.

4

Remain committed to this process and flexible to adjust your plan.

Roadblocks will happen. This does not mean that SMART goals need to be rewritten. Regroup to identify any new action steps that need to be created to keep your ideas and solutions moving forward. As long as you are able and have committed taskforce members, keep building, supporting, and growing child care in your local area.

For More Information:

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City of Becker's CSAP

Visit ruralchildcare.org/communityinformation to view all action plans