



## Rural Child Care Innovation Program

Warren, MN

### Initial Progress Update – August 28, 2020

Warren, MN 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.

A pre-application for funding a new center has been submitted to USDA and a Request for Qualifications has been distributed to hire an architectural firm for the building design. Due to the COVID pandemic all State funding possibilities have been paused.

A local Church voted to approve their space to be used for a child care program. The pandemic has stalled all efforts in that direction to this point.

The School Board reviewed the option to have school age child care in the summer and that was defeated by motion.

Incentives and appreciation avenues for Family Child Care Providers are being developed, but the pandemic has put a halt to most public events.