



## Rural Child Care Innovation Program

### Winona County, MN

### Initial Progress Update – September 15, 2020

The Winona County community joined the Rural Child Care Innovation Program in 2019. At this point, the community has completed the initial phases of the program which 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.

- Two Child Care Business Leadership Cohorts have been completed. There were 4 participants in the child care center cohort and 8 participants in the family child care cohort.
- The COVID-19 pandemic hit in early March 2020 right about the time the core team was beginning to implement the Community Solution Action Plan. The group began to shift efforts to sustaining the existing child care businesses in the community and meet the immediate child care needs of families.