

# CHILD CARE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY



*Support for child care businesses in the East Central Minnesota counties of  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine*

Updated 2.1.2023



**EAST CENTRAL**  
Regional Development Commission

## CHILD CARE IN EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

To understand the need and shortages regarding child care in the East Central region of Minnesota, an in-depth Supply and Demand Gap Analysis including community surveys, research into state/county statistics and other information was conducted.

The analysis revealed child care shortages range from 350 to 1500 'needed child slots' (openings) across the region indicating families have a lack of child care options and, due to a number of reasons, it is very difficult to be a child care provider heavily influencing the ability of providers to sustain their operations. Also revealed, child care shortages severely impact local workforce and employers in the region.

To combat these challenges and identify potential solutions, Child Care Strategic Supply Plan Committees have been formed in each of the following counties—Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine. These committees are working diligently to identify potential solutions that will assist in increasing child care options and slots for their communities, as well as support existing providers. Please reach out to these community committees for information and/or support.

### ***Child Care Strategic Supply Plan Committees***

Chisago County	Nancy Hoffman	Nancy@chisagocounty.org 651.674.5664
Isanti County	Lowell Becker	LBecker616@aol.com
Kanabec County	Kirstin Faurie	K.Faurie@cityofmora.com 320.679.6357
Mille Lacs County	Dillon Hayes	Dillon.Hayes@millelacs.mn.gov 320.983.8349
Pine County	Lezlie Sauter	Lezlie.Sauter@co.pine.mn.us 320.591.0019

### ***County Child Care Licensors***

Chisago County	Lanay Miller	Lanay.Miller@chisagocountymn.gov 651.213.5218
Isanti County	Jennifer Darling	Jennifer.Darling@co.isanti.mn.us 763.689.1711
Kanabec County	Danielle Linkert	Danielle.Linkert@co.kanabec.mn.us 320.679.6350
Mille Lacs County	Makayla Wilcox	Makayla.Wilcox@millelacs.mn.gov 320-241.9133
Pine County	Nikki Wiener	Nikki.Wiener@co.pine.mn.us 320.591.1614

### ***East Central Regional Development Commission***

Economic/Community Planner	Michelle Thomas	Michelle.Thomas@ecrdc.org 320.679.4065/612.390.0370
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## Business Assistance

Resources for child care providers and businesses from training, operations, financial understanding, profitability, growth, marketing, and much more.

### First Children's Finance

Providing mentorship, training and financing to child care businesses. Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Cty.s.  
111 N 3rd Ave #220, Minneapolis, MN 55401  
507.218.2265  
[firstchildrensfinance.org](http://firstchildrensfinance.org)  
Shelly Kunz: ShellyK@firstchildrensfinance.org

### Child Care Startup and Retention Navigator

#### Parent Aware/Child Care Aware

A one-stop navigation network for starting and supporting child care programs. Their goal is to help improve, support, and celebrate child care programs.  
Pine Technical & Community College  
900 4th St SE, Pine City, MN 55063  
320.227.3069  
[pine.edu](http://pine.edu)  
Tara Hallberg: Tara.Hallberg@Pine.edu/320.318.1855

### MN Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Assistance with business plans, securing financing, financial statements, marketing and more.  
[mn.gov/deed/business/help/sbdc](http://mn.gov/deed/business/help/sbdc)  
*Chisago County:* Nancy Hoffman 651.674.5664  
*Kanabec County:* Jim Hartshorn 320.209.5031  
*Isanti, Mille Lacs, Pine Cty.s:* Tom Willett 763.691-8585

### Pine Technical & Community College

Child care education and Parent Aware Program.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
900 4th St SE, Pine City, MN 55063  
320.227.3069  
[pine.edu](http://pine.edu)  
Tiffany Sullivan: Tiffany.Sullivan@pine.edu

### Anoka Ramsey Community College

#### Cambridge Campus

Customized training & continuing education.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
300 Spirit River Drive S, Cambridge, MN 55008  
763.433.1100  
[anokaramsey.edu](http://anokaramsey.edu)

### Women's Business Alliance

Resources for female entrepreneurs.  
Serving Kanabec, Mille Lacs & Pine Counties  
309 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Suite 103, Little Falls, MN 55345  
218.735.6033  
[efund.org](http://efund.org)  
Sandy Voigt: sandyv@efund.org/218.735.6033

### WomenVenture

Training, classes and loans for female entrepreneurs.  
Chisago and Isanti Counties  
165 Western Ave N, Ste 8, Office #100, St. Paul, MN 55102  
612.224.9540  
[womenventure.org](http://womenventure.org)  
Deb Brown: DBrown@womenventure.org  
LeeAnn Rasachak: LRasachak@womenventure.org

### Entrepreneur Fund

Offering business advising, classes and other technical support. Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties.  
202 W. Superior St, Ste 311, Duluth, MN 55802  
218.623.5747  
[efund.org](http://efund.org)

### Bunker Labs

501(c)(3) network of veteran entrepreneurs dedicated to helping veterans start their own businesses.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
400 S. 4th Street #401, Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612.836.3710  
[bunkerlabs.org](http://bunkerlabs.org)

### Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS)

Connect with qualified workers, employee training and business resources. Partners in Minnesota WorkForce.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties.  
Mora: 903 Forest Ave E / 320.679.6488  
Cambridge: 140 Buchanan St S. Ste 152 / 763.279.4492  
[cmjts.org](http://cmjts.org)  
Rebecca Perrotti: rperrotti@cmjts.org/612.247.9319

### SCORE Twin Cities

Classes and one-on-one mentorship counseling to businesses and entrepreneurs.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
2021 E Hennepin Ave Ste 220, Minneapolis, MN 55413  
952.938.4570  
[score.org/twincities](http://score.org/twincities)

### Legal Corps

Free or reduced cost one-on-one transactional business legal services for entrepreneurs, inventors, small business and nonprofit organizations.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
1000 LaSalle Ave. SCH 317, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612.206.0780  
[legalcorps.org](http://legalcorps.org)

## Child Care Business Lenders

### East Central Regional Development Commission

Providing gap financing to local businesses.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
100 Park Street South  
Mora, MN 55051  
(320) 679-4065  
[ecrdc.org](http://ecrdc.org)  
Michelle Thomas: Michelle.Thomas@ecrdc.org

### First Children's Finance

Providing financing to child care businesses.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
111 N 3rd Ave #220  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
507.829.9920  
[firstchildrensfinance.org](http://firstchildrensfinance.org)  
Mark Hanson: MarkH@firstchildrensfinance.org

### Women's Business Alliance

Financing for female-owned businesses.  
Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
309 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Suite 103, Little Falls, MN 55345  
(218) 735-6033  
[efund.org](http://efund.org)  
Sandy Voigt: SandyV@efund.org/218.735.6033

### Initiative Foundation

Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
405 1st St SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(320) 632-9255  
[www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org)  
Dan Bullert: DBullert@ifound.org

### WomenVenture

Financing for female-owned businesses.  
Chisago & Isanti Counties  
165 Western Ave N, Suite 8, Office #100, St. Paul, MN 55102  
612.224.9540  
[womenventure.org](http://womenventure.org)  
Deb Brown: DBrown@womenventure.org  
LeeAnn Rasachak: LRasachak@womenventure.org

### Entrepreneur Fund

Providing financing to childcare businesses.  
Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
202 W. Superior Street  
Suite 311  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 623-5747  
[efund.org](http://efund.org)

### US Small Business Administration (SBA)

Offering a variety of business financing programs.  
Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine Counties  
330 2nd Ave S #430, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
(612) 370-2324  
[sba.gov/mn](http://sba.gov/mn)

### East Central Minnesota Cities and Counties

Please check with your city and county for child care programs, loans and grants. Each entity operates independently and many offer one-time and/or continuous child care provider assistance such as the waiving of license fees, business expense reimbursements, etc. See page 2 for county licensor contact information for assistance.