



# CHILDCARE

## Central Minnesota Solutions

Thousands of Central Minnesota families face a critical challenge: They lack access to quality, affordable childcare. The shortfall—an estimated deficit of up to 17,000 slots to meet demand—affects children’s development and school-readiness. Equally important: While employers desperately seek skilled workers, many able-bodied parents can’t engage in the workforce due to the lack of quality, affordable care conveniently located in their communities.

### Support for Community, Workforce Initiatives

The Initiative Foundation contracts with partners to offer training and direct support for community and workforce initiatives. Help is available for community-based planning and consulting, and to provide training and scholarships to help child care professionals earn their educational credentials.



#### Community Grants

Nonprofits and units of government are eligible to apply for grants to advance local solutions. Grants are supported by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### Start a Business

If you are interested in starting a childcare business, Initiative Foundation partner Child Care Aware is your first stop. Navigators can guide you through licensing requirements and provide resources and opportunities for training necessary to enter the field.

#### Earn Credentials

The Initiative Foundation subsidizes the cost of credentialing for childcare professionals. Childcare programs are available at St. Cloud Technical and Community College, Central Lakes College and Pine Technical and Community College.

### Your Connection for Local Support, Resources

In addition to grants and guidance, the Initiative Foundation offers a host of services to help community-based interest groups and local coalitions gain a more solid footing in their pursuit of childcare solutions. Support also is available for providers to connect with training opportunities and local, regional and statewide resources.

