

About the Parent Aware Pathways Initiative



Parent Aware Pathways began as a pilot program in 2012 in St. Louis County and later expanded to include the entire seven-county region. This initiative is designed to help increase the number of Parent Aware-rated child care providers who are serving families in the region. In close collaboration with Child Care Aware Minnesota—Northeast District, the Parent Aware Pathways Initiative offers information, training, incentives, technical assistance, and peer learning to licensed center-based or family child care providers.

The State of Minnesota’s Parent Aware quality rating system involves quality ratings that range from one to four stars. The training and review that participating providers undergo assists them to:

- Enhance their skills,
- Assure that their program aligns with early care and education benchmarks,
- Earn or maintain a Parent Aware star rating. Rated providers are also eligible to accept state Early Learning Scholarship dollars, administered on behalf of Minnesota families of young children to help them access high-quality early care and education.



Supporters of Parent Aware Pathways



In addition to the working partnership with Child Care Aware Minnesota—Northeast District, Parent Aware Pathways receives funding support from the Mardag Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, and The Sheltering Arms Foundation.

For more information about the Northland Foundation’s Parent Aware Pathways Initiative, please contact [Heidi St. John](#), Northland Foundation Program Associate.