



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northland Foundation Launches Emergency Child Care Grant Program at the request of Governor Walz

Licensed family- and center-based providers caring for children of emergency and essential workers are invited to apply for grants up to \$3,000

Northeast MN – At the request of Governor Walz, the Northland Foundation along with the five other [Minnesota Initiative Foundations](#) has created an Emergency Child Care Grant Program. The program will provide immediate financial support to licensed child care providers in northeastern Minnesota in response to the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic.

The Northland Foundation will award \$1,000 to licensed family child care and \$3,000 to licensed child care centers on a first-come, first-served basis for as long as funds are available. Northland has committed \$50,000 to grant to child care providers in the region and the other five foundations have contributed the same amount to grant within their respective rural regions. Together, the Minnesota Initiative Foundations are also working to secure additional resources from other partners.

To be eligible, providers must be caring for the children (ages birth to 5 years) of parents or guardians who are working in [government-identified critical sectors](#) who are exempt during this time from the stay at home order.* The child care business must be located in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake or St. Louis County, or within one of the five Native Nations Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (District I), or Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (District 2).

More details and the short, online application are available on the home page of the [Northland Foundation website](#), under WHAT'S HAPPENING. The application may also be accessed directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DR2BB77>. Northland Foundation staff will provide a response and funding to qualified child care businesses within two weeks of receiving their application.

“Child care providers fill a critical need in our communities at all times, but especially now as they care for children of emergency personnel and other essential workers during this crisis. The Northland Foundation will do what we can to play a part in helping child care businesses and people on the job in the identified critical sectors continue this vital work,” stated Tony Sertich, President of the Northland Foundation.

*Minnesotans who work in critical sectors during this time are exempt from the stay at home order. These exemptions are based on [federal guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with some Minnesota-specific additions. To learn more about

who is considered a critical worker, please visit the [Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's website](#). If you have additional questions, please email CriticalSectors@state.mn.us.

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