



## Northland Foundation Receives \$85,000 for Child Care

*DEED funds will support child care startups and expansions in the 7-county region*

The Northland Foundation has been awarded an \$85,000 Child Care Economic Development Grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The funding is among 11 grants totaling \$727,500 awarded by DEED to help increase Minnesota families' access to quality child care. The Northland Foundation will use the \$85,000 along with \$5,000 of its own grant funds to help support six "shovel-ready" child care projects located in communities throughout the 7-county region. The projects receiving funding will be announced after their grants have been finalized.

The DEED grant dollars can be used for staff training, facility modifications or improvements required for licensing, assistance with licensing or other regulatory requirements, and child care equipment from furniture to playground materials.

"We are pleased to partner with the State of Minnesota to provide an equity investment to create new child care openings, which are so urgently needed in our region, to serve families with young children and help our economy," stated Tony Sertich, President of the Northland Foundation.

DEED child care grants are one way the Northland Foundation is working to address the region's child care shortage. Northland Foundation is also supporting high-quality child care programming by helping to make trainings available around the region free of charge for licensed child care providers who are participating in Minnesota's voluntary Parent Aware Quality Rating and Improvement Program. The Foundation is also working with local and regional partners to spur locally driven solutions to the region's child care shortage.

Through two previous rounds of DEED Child Care Economic Development Grants, the Northland Foundation received a total of \$215,000 which helped to fund 10 child care projects in northeastern Minnesota resulting in 330 new slots created and 49 new child care jobs.

"Quality child care is vital to growing our workforce and increasing our economic prosperity in Minnesota," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. "These investments give Minnesotans the ability to be active participants in the workforce, entrepreneurs the capital to create new child care businesses that serve their community, and employers the ability to draw much-needed workers to their businesses."

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