The Child Care Conundrum
Exploring solutions to the child care shortage in Greater Minnesota

**CHILD CARE FACTS & FIGURES**

- **74%** of Minnesota households with children under the age of 6 in which all parents are in the workforce
- **15,000** number of child care spots Greater Minnesota lost between 2006-2015
- **27%** statewide drop in the number of in-home family child care providers between 2006-2015
- **65%** of the child care capacity in Greater Minnesota covered by family providers, compared to 30% in the metro area
- **35%** growth needed in licensed child care capacity to fill shortfall statewide
- **$200-450K** average start-up costs for a 52-seat child care center in Greater Minnesota, plus property acquisition

**TWO BILLS, ONE GOAL**

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and Greater Minnesota Partnership are advocating for two pieces of legislation that aim to train more providers and increase child care capacity in Greater Minnesota:

**Child Care Capital Grant Program**

SF 538 (Relph)/HF 423 (Brand)

Provides grants to child care providers, local governments and regional economic development organizations in Greater Minnesota to cover up to 50% of the costs to build, upgrade or expand child care facilities to increase capacity and meet state requirements.

Amount seeking from Legislature: $10 million

**Child Care Business Success & Training Fund**

SF 537 (Nelson)/HF 422 (Brand)

Provides funding to the Minnesota Initiative Foundations for the planning, coordination, training and education necessary to expand child care access. The money will be used to help child care providers with business improvement planning, quality mentoring and workforce development to stabilize the child care provider marketplace in Greater Minnesota.

Amount seeking from Legislature: $3 million

**Bills Go Hand-in-Hand**

Both bills work together to create long-term solutions to Greater Minnesota’s child care shortage. The capital grants help create more physical spaces for child care, while the business success & training fund helps ensure that new and existing child operations are successful and sustainable.

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1 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, 2014
2 Center for Rural Policy and Development, September 2016
3 Center for Rural Policy and Development, August 2017
4 Legislative Task Force on Access to Affordable Child Care (January 2017), using performance model created by First Children’s Finance