



Working to Expand Quality Child Care



WCI activities that improve availability, affordability and quality of child care in west central Minnesota.

WCI Staffing

- ECI staff convene and work to build the knowledge and advocacy capacity of local partners as it relates to child care policy
- Staff directly advocates for improvements in child care policy
- Staff provides resource referral and technical assistance to communities seeking to address child care issues
- Local ECI coalition coordinators

ECI Grants

- WCI provides grant funding for 10 ECI coalition coordinators and their work in west central Minnesota. An extra \$1,000 per ECI coalition provided to implement strategies that support recruitment of new child care providers.
- Early Childhood Dental Network oral health child care home visits.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Grant

BCBS Foundation provided funds to WCI for a pilot project to address the need for culturally relevant child care for Somali-American children in Moorhead.

WCI Grant to support Parent Aware Recruitment

- \$25,000 to Lakes and Prairies Child Care Aware towards salary of a Parent Aware Recruiter.

Child Care Capacity Grants and Loans

- Grant awards to establish new Rule 3 nonprofit child care centers, with \$750/slot created, up to \$37,500.
- Loans up to \$3,500 for home-based providers. Center-based providers may be eligible for additional funds.

Family-Based Child Care Grants

- \$10,000 to establish new family-based providers or keep existing from closing.
- Distributed by L & P Child Care Aware through their existing grant program.

West Central MN Child Care Center Directors Association

- WCI serves as fiscal host to the Association.
- Annual grant for basic operations.
- Grants for special projects and trainings.

PAST PROJECTS

Clay County Parent Aware Coach

Mardag grant funds were accessed by WCI to use towards the salary of a Parent Aware staff to provide coaching in Clay County, to offset provider training costs, and provide funding for a provider cohort to meet and support each other through the Building Quality process.

CLOSED: Child Care Provider Forgivable Loans

Loans up to \$3,500 for both home-based and center-based providers used to open or retain child care slots in WCI's nine-county region. Zero percent interest paid, payments are forgiven each month child care services are provided. WCI provided 70 loans, totaling \$276,000. This impacted 1,194 child care slots.