Child Care Challenges Hold Back Minnesota's Potential
Lawmakers Must Move Us Forward

We Have a Problem

A lack of affordable, accessible, quality child care hampers Minnesota's economy. An existing child care crisis has lurched towards a child care catastrophe. **Families** cannot afford or even find child care that fits their needs & values. **Providers** face low compensation/benefits and career advancement opportunities (the pandemic demonstrated just how dependent we are on this "workforce behind the workforce"). Additional child care **facilities** are needed in response to varied community needs. A true mixed delivery system that supports multiple types of providers and provides varied choices for families is essential. **Children** deserve this support.

There Are Solutions

All of the above must be addressed. There is no single resolution for a problem of this scope. Minnesota must fundamentally change the way it thinks about and supports child care as an integral part of its economic system. Quality child care IS early education. While supporting the workforce of today we prepare the workforce of tomorrow.

Child Care Assistance & Early Learning Scholarships	help families afford child care and bring much-needed operational resources to boost provider compensation, quality, and capacity.
Child Care Facility & Capacity Building Grants	allow communities to leverage resources and meet local needs.
Child Care Tax Credits	should be used to support and incentivize affordability, compensation, and supply.

We Demand Action

A broad group of Minnesota civic, children's, and business organizations demand significant resources in 2022 be dedicated to the child care needs of families, providers, facilities, and children that support our entire economy. Yes, pandemic relief programs directed meaningful funds to the child care industry, but these were one-time investments intended to keep our fragile system from total collapse, not to address its longstanding issues. It's time for serious and sustained investment.