



**WANTED:**  
**Child Care Facilities in  
Greater Minnesota**

## Greater Minnesota is in the midst of a child care crisis.

Currently, more than 40,000 child care spots are needed to meet growing demand in Greater Minnesota. One of the largest barriers to creating more child care spaces is infrastructure, with the average cost to build a new center topping \$500,000. A proposal by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and Greater Minnesota Partnership aims to address this critical need by reducing start-up and construction costs.

### Our Proposal: Child Care Capital Grant Program HF 3497 (Brand)/SF 3429 (Housley)

Provides grants of up to \$500,000 to cities, counties or school districts 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.

### State Investment

We are seeking \$20 million in the bonding bill to be coupled with \$20 million in local matches.

### Eligible Projects

Every community has space that can easily be converted into a child care center. Examples may include:

- **Cities** - Grants could be used to build new infrastructure, rehabilitate a vacant building, or repurpose space in an existing community center.
- **Counties** - Rooms in a nursing home could be converted into child care, a model that has proven to be beneficial for both children and nursing home residents.
- **Schools** - An unused wing of a school building could be renovated for child care.

