WANTED:

Child Care Facilities in Greater Minnesota

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

Currently, 39,000 child care slots 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.

Fund the Greater Minnesota Child Care Facilities Capital Grant Program

This program, established but not funded in the 2020 capital investment bill, provides grants of up to $500,000 to local governments—cities, counties or school districts—in Greater Minnesota to fund 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 $10 million in GO bonds and a $10 million general fund appropriation that will be matched by $20 million in local funds.

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.

COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

GMNP GREATER MN PARTNERSHIP

Created for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and Greater Minnesota Partnership by Flaherty & Hood, P.A. 1/25/21.