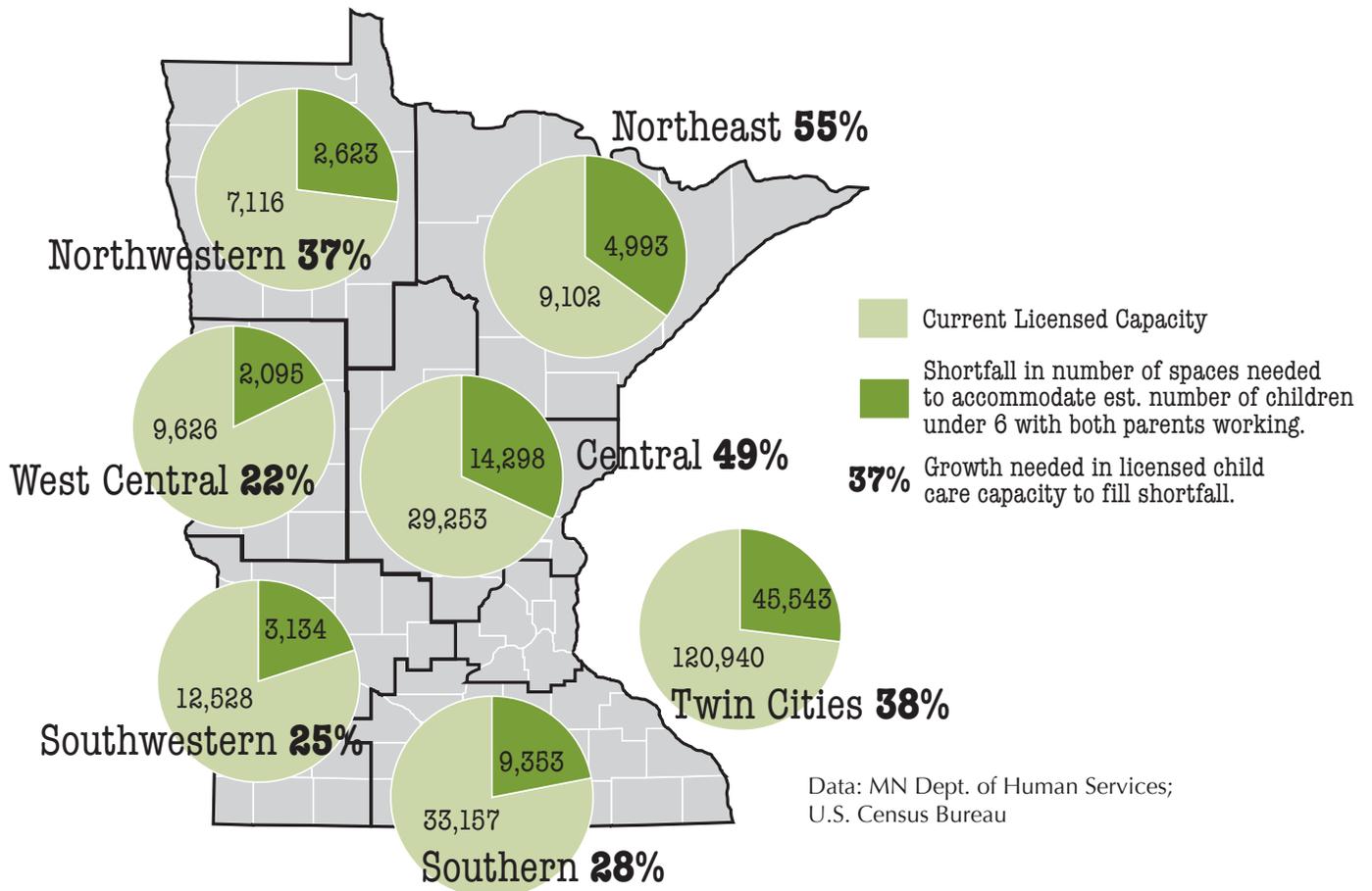


Rural Reality: Child care shortage.

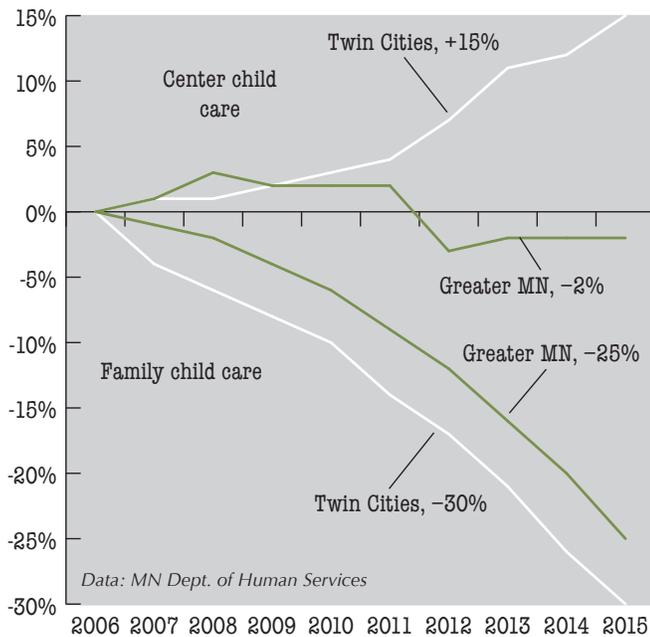


A few rural takeaways

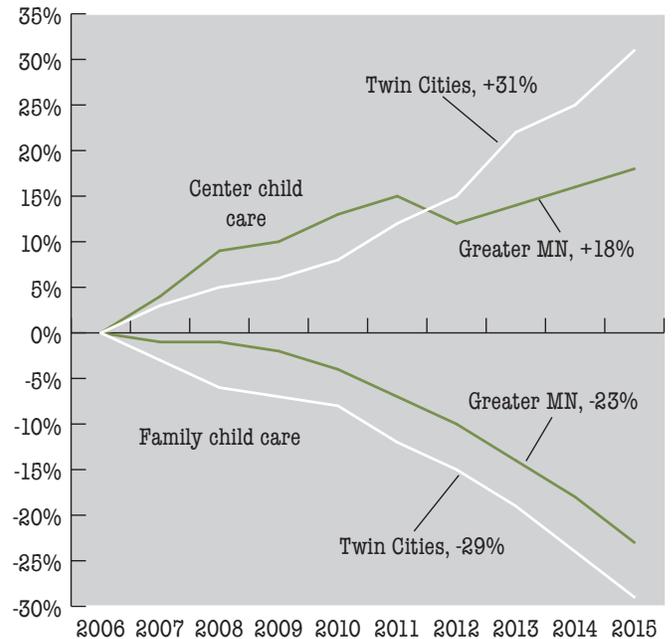
- Child care centers don't happen on their own in most rural areas, but partnerships among providers, businesses, nonprofits, local government and religious organizations can offer creative solutions.
- Helping rural providers keep costs down, whether through scholarships for training or increases in CCAP, will help with that very tight profit margin.
- Aligning with school districts could help give providers the resources to care for children of immigrants and children with special needs.

Help spread
the word. Local
communities
have been
making a start
of finding their
own solutions, but
only when they
recognize there's
a problem

Rural Reality: Seismic shift in child care



Licensed Child Care Providers



Licensed Child Care Capacity

From in-home family care...

- The number and capacity of family providers has **dropped by more than 25%** since 2006. There is a critical shortage of infant care.
- Individual providers are dropping out because the **pay is too low**. Women have more opportunities than ever to make a living.
- Providers also cite getting older; feeling undervalued; ever-more complex regulations; and—especially in Greater MN—difficulty accessing training opportunities.

... toward center-based care.

- The number of licensed daycare centers is up by 8% statewide since 2006, but capacity is up by 27%.
- In the Twin Cities, capacity is up by 31% since 2006, but in Greater MN that figure is **only 18%**.
- Greater MN is much more dependent on family child care. A child care center needs a **threshold number of children** to make opening and sustaining a center feasible, a number harder to attain in Greater MN.