

Rural Child Care Solutions:

From the ground up

As we come out of the pandemic, a vicious cycle of demographics and rising wages are aggravating the child care shortage.

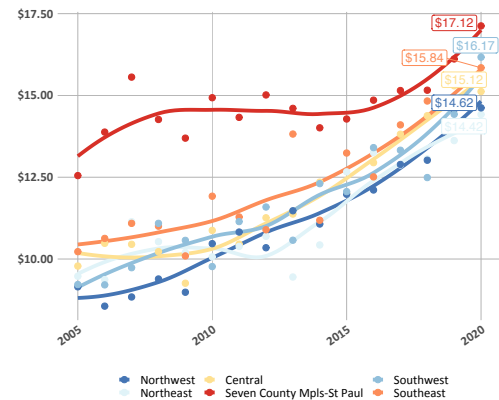
Family child care continues to disappear.

During the pandemic, family-based child care continued its steady downward trend, although emergency grants may have slowed the decline in 2020.

	Entirely rural	Town/rural mix	Urban/town/rural mix	Entirely urban
2019	-3%	-4%	-4%	-6%
2020	-4%	-3%	-5%	-5%
2021	-6%	-6%	-7%	-9%

Centers can't afford to keep child care workers.

Median wages on job vacancies continue to rise.



Families can't find child care, must drop out of work.

Employers can't find workers.

“ I was just contacted by a parent today whose child care center is at risk of shutting down because of staffing challenges, and the parent would have to stop working if that happens. So it's a domino effect—workforce shortage in child care exacerbating workforce shortage in other industries.”

— Elena Foshay
City of Duluth Workforce Development

To read the full report, visit
ruralmn.org



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From the survey: Initiatives

- Direct and indirect giving to both FCC and CCC providers.
 - Through loans and grants or by covering expenses directly.
- Community coalitions
 - Projects need their champions, but coalitions are crucial for building relationships *and* harnessing the resources that no one person or organization can provide.
- Pods
 - Gaining in interest, pods allow rural providers to stay small but get the business out of the house.
- Public schools stepping in
 - There are key efficiencies as long as they work *with* existing providers.
- Educating the community on the importance of childcare.
 - Important for community support.
- Spanish-language training & multi-cultural settings
 - Immigrants have huge potential.
- Employers are participating in the solution.
 - They maybe can't solve the problem alone, but they can be a powerful ally in the community.

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