



## Rural Child Care Innovation Program

### Koochiching County, MN

### Initial Progress Update – July 24, 2019

Koochiching County, in northeastern Minnesota, joined the Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP) in 2018. Currently, this county has no child care centers and a limited number of family child care providers.

Koochiching County has completed the initial phases of the RCCIP including a deep community investigation, a town hall meeting, and development of a Community Solution Action Plan.

The core team continues to work diligently on implementing new and innovative ideas that came from the RCCIP process. The core team continues to meet monthly. While work has just begun to implement the solutions developed through this process, initial successes have already been realized. Below is a list of Koochiching County's activities to date:

- Meetings have been held with the St. Thomas School to explore a potential pod location that would hold three family child care pods. A CAP agency has agreed to oversee this program and they have applied for grant funding for the project.
- The Littlefork Care Center, a nursing home & assisted living facility, is interested in developing child care at their site.
- The core team has applied for a Northland Foundation Grant of \$50,000 for provider training and grants.
- The core team continues to look for ways to show provider appreciation.
- The core team is coordinating a fundraiser to raise funds for providers to tap into when they need financial assistance.
- The core team lead has been selected to be a parent member on the Minnesota Department of Human Services Family Child Care Task Force.