



## Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Child Care Start-up or Expansion Grant Opportunity

Effective May 2019

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in the 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

Through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, SMIF is making available the opportunity for grants of up to \$10,000 for child care centers and \$2,500 for family child care for “shovel ready” start-up or expansion projects. A priority will be given to programs adding openings for infant care.

### Grant Guidelines

Applicants must:

- be a licensed or soon-to-be licensed family child care provider or licensed or soon-to-be licensed child care center.
- be either a “shovel ready” child care start-up or expansion of current licensure to increase capacity.
- be located within SMIF’s 20-county region.
- agree to obtain or maintain a Parent Aware Quality rating.

### Application Process

- SMIF will award grants on a competitive basis.
- Priority will be given to applicants who add openings for infant care.
- SMIF will provide a public announcement highlighting the grant recipients.

### Important Dates

Release of application	May 16, 2019
Application due	June 4, 2019 by 4:00 pm
Grant awards made	June 11, 2019

### Availability of Funding and Implementation Period

This funding is aimed at supporting projects that are “shovel ready” and must be paid to the recipients before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The grant funds will be paid on a reimbursement basis.





SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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**For grant award consideration, submit a completed application by June 4, 2019 at 4:00 pm** via email to [jenniferh@smifoundation.org](mailto:jenniferh@smifoundation.org) or postal mail to:

Grants Coordinator  
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation  
PO Box 695  
Owatonna, MN 55060

All applicants will be contacted via email or telephone to confirm receipt of their application. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by June 11, 2019.

For further information or questions contact Teri Steckelberg, Early Childhood Director, at [teris@smifoundation.org](mailto:teris@smifoundation.org) or 507-214-7015.

