

Building Child Care

How First Children's Finance Can Help



ABOUT US

Since 1991, First Children's Finance (FCF) has been a national leader in building sustainable child care businesses. We have helped thousands of child care providers, communities and government systems across the country solve issues that impede access to accessible child care.

First Children's Finance has state offices in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon and Vermont, and its National teams provide consulting, training and analysis services across the United States.

CHILD CARE BUSINESSES

We **PARTNER** with child care businesses to strengthen their operations and achieve their dreams—every step of the way.

Technical Assistance | Assessments
Start Up & Expansion Planning
Training | Business Consulting
Business and Leadership
Development

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COMMUNITY CONSULTING

We **CONSULT** with communities to achieve a sustainable child care supply that meets local economic and cultural needs.

Supply Building Initiatives
Needs Analysis
Community Engagement
Feasibility Studies
Custom Solutions
Technical Assistance

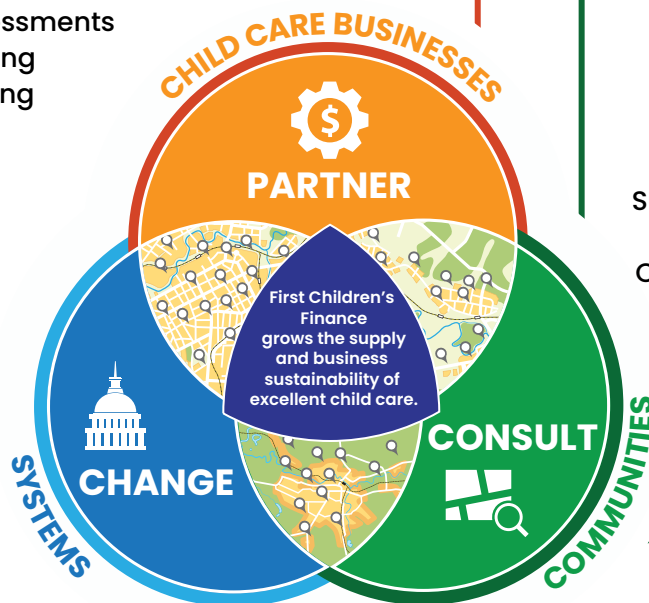
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SYSTEMS CHANGE

We work to **CHANGE** public systems through advocacy and expertise, elevating child care in policies, practices, funding, and plans.

Policy Analysis | Needs Assessment
Cost Modeling | Fiscal Mapping
Engagement | Economic Impact
National Cross-Sector Collaboration

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EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CAPITAL

We're a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) with a 30+ year track record of lending to child care businesses of all types, sizes, and stages. We work with private, nonprofit, and family child care centers, from start-ups through expansion. We partner with dozens of lenders and pair our financial and technical expertise.

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Community Consulting Services

First Children's Finance Iowa provides consultation to communities that wish to maintain and increase the supply of child care.

► Facility and Location Consultation

This consultation provides community stakeholders with guidance in evaluating the facility and location of a proposed child care start-up or expansion project.

► Start-up Financial Modeling Consultation

This consultation provides community leaders and child care advocates with a detailed financial projection for a specific child care start-up using First Children's Finance's proprietary financial modeling tool.

► Strategic Supply Plan

This consultation provides community teams with a streamlined planning process to address child care access and supply, resulting in a targeted action plan to increase the supply of child care.

► Supply-Demand Gap Analysis

This consultation offers communities an in-depth understanding of local child care needs by studying publicly available statewide reports and customized community-level gap analyses.

► Custom Consulting

FCF Iowa staff are available to provide custom consulting support to communities. Our team has expertise in conducting community-specific child care studies, collecting quantitative and qualitative data, and making recommendations that communities can use to answer critical questions or inform supply-building strategies.



Stories of Change: Communities

Storm Lake, IA, Works with FCF Staff to Create a Vision for the City's Child Care Future

Storm Lake, Iowa, leaders knew the growing City lacked enough child care. The City had been identified as being in a "child care desert," meaning there were more than three children under five in the community for every available child care slot.

"We're a growing, diverse community with great things going on," said Lee Dutfield, Development Services Specialist for the City of Storm Lake. "We have large employers, multiple higher education institutions, and a regional medical center. But we knew we had a shortage of child care providers."

The pandemic halted studying the City's child care needs, but then Dutfield met First Children's Finance Iowa Business Development Manager Angie Rae Duncan at a conference.

Duncan and Dutfield discussed services that FCF offered and how a Child Care Market Analysis combined with community feedback/input sessions might help the community.

In 2023, the City received a Rural Child Care Market Study grant through the State of Iowa's Economic Development Authority.

Now, the City has purchased land to attract a child care center developer and has a plan for the future.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Want to know more about our services?
Email us at infoia@firstchildrensfinance.org.

 **First Children's Finance**
firstchildrensfinance.org/iowa