

2026

First Children's Finance

CHILD CARE NEEDS SUMMARY

Metro Minnesota

1-866-562-6801
infomn@firstchildrensfinance.org
firstchildrensfinance.org/minnesota



How First Children's Finance measures the gap between child care supply and demand

Each year, First Children's Finance completes an analysis of child care supply and demand in Minnesota. This analysis can be used to inform strategic supply building efforts and to track year-over-year progress on the availability of full-day, full-year care that supports working families.

To prepare the statewide and regional reports, FCF analyzes population-level data and child care licensing data to estimate both the full-day, full-year child care supply and demand. FCF focuses solely on full-day, full-year care to understand the supply of available care that supports parent and caregiver participation in the workforce and the number of children that are likely to need this kind of regulated child care.

The methodology outlined here is utilized to prepare the statewide Supply Demand Gap Analysis. When working with individual communities through our community consultation processes, FCF utilizes a more targeted methodology that also incorporates data on both the supply of part-day, part-year child care and on parent workforce participation.

How FCF Estimates Child Care Demand

Recognizing that not all children under age 5 need formal child care, FCF uses zip code data from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau on the number of children under age six with all available parents in the workforce who are likely to need child care. FCF reduces this number by 15% to estimate the number of children aged five and under with all available parents in the workforce.

How FCF Estimates Child Care Supply

To determine the supply of child care, FCF exports data on currently active child care licenses (including both child care centers and licensed family child care) as of June 1 of each year. While many families utilize part-time child care, or even multiple sources of part-time child care, working families generally need child care options that offer full-day, full-year care to support their participation in the labor force. FCF reviews available licensing data to identify and remove those programs that do not offer full-day, full-year care to better assess the gap in supply that meets the needs of working families.

© First Children's Finance 2026

While FCF does receive funding from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families, because FCF is an independent nonprofit organization and not a state agency, FCF does not have access to data that is not publicly available. In Minnesota, the capacity of certified child care centers is not publicly available, and thus certified child care centers are not included in the supply estimates. Capacity data for tribally licensed child care programs within the geography of Minnesota is also not public and is similarly not included in FCF's supply data. FCF also removes programs that are designated as offering only school year or summer-only programs. Finally, as this report is designed to estimate the gap in licensed child care, non-licensed or unlicensed programs, such as family, friend and neighbor care (FFN) and unlicensed pre-school or school-based programs are not considered in FCF's determination of child care supply.

To refine the estimate of child care supply, FCF makes a further adjustment to licensed capacity. It is not feasible for a child care program to always operate at 100% of licensed capacity. Unlike schools, where grade level is determined by children being of a certain age at the beginning of the school year, in licensed child care, whether a child is considered an infant, toddler, preschooler or school-aged is determined by their birthday. Thus, child care programs have children moving between age categories/classrooms throughout the year, creating temporarily open slots across the program. Because of this, as a best practice, FCF considers that 85% of licensed capacity is the functional equivalent of full enrollment. For purposes of these reports, licensed capacity of child care programs is likewise reduced from 100% to 85% to determine child care supply.



Background Information

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

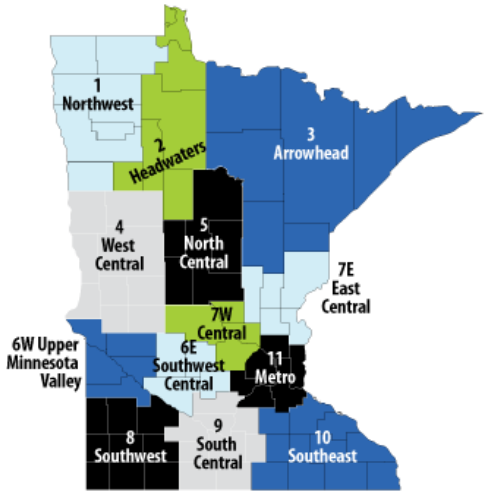
This report was prepared by First Children's Finance through generous funding from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

This report covers the following geographic area:

MN Economic Development Region 11 sorted by county

Metro Minnesota Counties:

Anoka	Ramsey
Carver	Scott
Dakota	Washington
Hennepin	



Data Sources:

2020-2024 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Education
U.S. Postal Service

Assumptions

1. If a zip code falls in more than one city and/or county, data was placed in the primary city and/or county as determined by the U.S. Postal Service.
2. All programs offering less than all day, every-day child care were excluded.
3. Due to lack of publicly available capacity data, all certified and non-certified programs (generally school-based programs) were excluded.
4. Due to lack of publicly available Tribal licensing data, all tribally licensed child care programs are excluded

**Capacity is an internal calculation of First Children's Finance based upon historical data collection*

***Children under 5 is an adjusted calculation from 2020-2024 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-year estimates*

© First Children's Finance 2026

Metro Minnesota Child Care Needs Summary by County
June 2026

Totals:

Child Care Centers	CCC Capacity	Family Child Care	FCC Capacity	Total Capacity	Capacity*	Under '6' Working	Children Under 5**	Child Care Need
885	94,572	1,748	20,442	115,014	97,762	169,016	143,664	(45,902)

Zip Code	City	County	CCC #	CCC Capacity	FCC #	FCC Capacity	Total Capacity	Capacity*	Under '6' Working	Children Under 5**	Child Care Need
55304	Andover, Ham Lake	Anoka	10	1249	56	666	1915	1628	2955	2512	-884
55303	Anoka, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey	Anoka	11	1263	39	454	1717	1459	2721	2313	-853
55005	Bethel, East Bethel, Linwood	Anoka	0	0	4	44	44	37	338	287	-250
55434	Blaine	Anoka	8	952	22	250	1202	1022	1560	1326	-304
55449	Blaine	Anoka	7	1043	20	236	1279	1087	1942	1651	-564
55014	Blaine, Circle Pines, Lexington, Lino Lakes	Anoka	8	971	21	248	1219	1036	1415	1203	-167
55011	Cedar, East Bethel, Oak Grove	Anoka	1	87	9	112	199	169	539	458	-289
55421	Columbia Heights, Fridley	Anoka	8	567	16	178	745	633	1564	1329	-696
55433	Coon Rapids	Anoka	8	944	17	200	1144	972	1774	1508	-536
55448	Coon Rapids	Anoka	7	695	29	330	1025	871	1343	1142	-270
55432	Fridley, Spring Lake Park	Anoka	5	494	17	204	698	593	1786	1518	-925

55070	Saint Francis	Anoka	4	273	9	96	369	314	499	424	**-111**
55315	Carver	Carver	2	326	7	78	404	343	438	372	**-29**
55317	Chanhassen	Carver	11	1828	7	84	1912	1625	1152	979	**646**
55318	Chaska	Carver	8	948	20	230	1178	1001	1888	1605	**-604**
55322	Cologne	Carver	1	130	2	22	152	129	179	152	**-23**
55339	Hamburg	Carver	0	0	1	10	10	9	40	34	**-26**
55360	Mayer	Carver	0	0	2	22	22	19	196	167	**-148**
55367	New Germany	Carver	0	0	1	10	10	9	65	55	**-47**
55368	Norwood Young America	Carver	1	126	2	22	148	126	121	103	**23**
55386	Victoria	Carver	1	98	1	12	110	94	590	502	**-408**
55387	Waconia	Carver	8	1011	19	220	1231	1046	1071	910	**136**
55388	Watertown	Carver	1	91	8	92	183	156	522	444	**-288**
55397	Young America	Carver	1	20	2	20	40	34	66	56	**-22**
55124	Apple Valley	Dakota	16	1757	36	404	2161	1837	2398	2038	**-201**
55306	Burnsville	Dakota	3	223	8	96	319	271	846	719	**-448**
55337	Burnsville	Dakota	24	2244	20	234	2478	2106	2698	2293	**-187**
55121	Eagan	Dakota	7	761	3	40	801	681	538	457	**224**
55122	Eagan	Dakota	10	1436	18	216	1652	1404	1586	1348	**56**
55123	Eagan	Dakota	8	941	17	200	1141	970	1543	1312	**-342**
55024	Farmington	Dakota	7	738	46	550	1288	1095	2596	2207	**-1112**
55044	Farmington, Lakeville	Dakota	18	2589	51	608	3197	2717	4365	3710	**-993**
55031	Hampton	Dakota	0	0	2	22	22	19	139	118	**-99**
55033	Hastings	Dakota	6	792	24	284	1076	915	1241	1055	**-140**
55076	Inver Grove Heights	Dakota	5	418	13	162	580	493	1023	870	**-377**
55077	Inver Grove Heights	Dakota	1	142	8	102	244	207	665	565	**-358**
55068	Lakeville, Rosemount	Dakota	11	1149	42	496	1645	1398	1719	1461	**-63**

© First Children's Finance 2026

55150	Mendota	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	**-3**
55120	Mendota Heights	Dakota	2	161	4	48	209	178	322	274	**-96**
55065	Randolph	Dakota	0	0	1	10	10	9	81	69	**-60**
55118	Saint Paul, Sunfish Lake, Mendota Heights	Dakota	9	755	10	120	875	744	1312	1115	**-371**
55075	South Saint Paul	Dakota	4	317	22	264	581	494	1251	1063	**-570**
55085	Vermillion	Dakota	0	0	2	26	26	22	11	9	**13**
55420	Bloomington	Hennepin	6	553	17	202	755	642	1117	949	**-308**
55425	Bloomington	Hennepin	3	267	5	52	319	271	468	398	**-127**
55431	Bloomington	Hennepin	4	300	14	170	470	400	838	712	**-313**
55437	Bloomington	Hennepin	6	616	5	64	680	578	957	813	**-235**
55438	Bloomington	Hennepin	1	97	1	12	109	93	496	422	**-329**
55435	Bloomington, Edina	Hennepin	11	1630	0	0	1630	1386	295	251	**1135**
55429	Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal	Hennepin	3	191	13	158	349	297	1973	1677	**-1380**
55443	Brooklyn Park	Hennepin	11	1549	27	313	1862	1583	2576	2190	**-607**
55428	Brooklyn Park, Crystal, New Hope	Hennepin	8	751	21	251	1002	852	1940	1649	**-797**
55430	Brookyln Center	Hennepin	5	348	8	92	440	374	1632	1387	**-1013**
55444	Brookyln Park	Hennepin	1	64	6	67	131	111	1737	1476	**-1365**
55445	Brookyln Park	Hennepin	3	397	7	76	473	402	825	701	**-299**
55316	Champlin	Hennepin	5	557	27	301	858	729	1147	975	**-246**
55357	Corcoran, Greenfield, Loretto	Hennepin	1	156	1	12	168	143	122	104	**39**
55340	Corcoran, Hamel, Medina	Hennepin	3	362	3	34	396	337	708	602	**-265**
55374	Corcoran, Otsego, Rogers	Hennepin	6	874	14	168	1042	886	1701	1446	**-560**

55427	Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope	Hennepin	9	708	12	144	852	724	1084	921	**-197**
55422	Crystal, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale	Hennepin	6	557	11	124	681	579	1922	1634	**-1055**
55327	Dayton	Hennepin	0	0	3	36	36	31	441	375	**-344**
55369	Dayton, Maple Grove, Osseo	Hennepin	17	2213	26	288	2501	2126	1953	1660	**466**
55391	Deephaven, Minnetonka, Orono, Wayzata	Hennepin	9	859	1	12	871	740	815	693	**48**
55344	Eden Prairie	Hennepin	12	1261	1	10	1271	1080	439	373	**707**
55346	Eden Prairie	Hennepin	3	251	12	134	385	327	1079	917	**-590**
55347	Eden Prairie	Hennepin	8	1098	11	130	1228	1044	1733	1473	**-429**
55424	Edina	Hennepin	3	235	0	0	235	200	750	638	**-438**
55436	Edina	Hennepin	0	0	1	14	14	12	241	205	**-193**
55416	Edina, Golden Valley, Saint Louis Park	Hennepin	14	1807	7	80	1887	1604	1749	1487	**117**
55410	Edina, Minneapolis	Hennepin	7	650	8	98	748	636	1149	977	**-341**
55331	Excelsior, Shorewood	Hennepin	5	576	5	56	632	537	686	583	**-46**
55426	Golden Valley, Saint Louis Park	Hennepin	3	344	12	130	474	403	1299	1104	**-701**
55305	Hopkins	Hennepin	5	486	3	36	522	444	1007	856	**-412**
55343	Hopkins, Minnetonka	Hennepin	7	775	5	56	831	706	1428	1214	**-507**
55356	Long Lake, Orono	Hennepin	2	218	1	12	230	196	419	356	**-161**
55311	Maple Grove	Hennepin	10	1473	13	157	1630	1386	2353	2000	**-615**
55359	Maple Plain	Hennepin	2	187	1	12	199	169	562	478	**-309**
55401	Minneapolis	Hennepin	1	139	0	0	139	118	188	160	**-42**
55402	Minneapolis	Hennepin	3	323	0	0	323	275	0	0	**275**

© First Children's Finance 2026

55403	Minneapolis	Hennepin	9	944	0	0	944	802	282	240	**563**
55404	Minneapolis	Hennepin	14	1253	2	23	1276	1085	1619	1376	**-292**
55405	Minneapolis	Hennepin	4	310	1	10	320	272	957	813	**-541**
55406	Minneapolis	Hennepin	18	1826	9	102	1928	1639	1781	1514	**125**
55407	Minneapolis	Hennepin	25	1860	15	184	2044	1737	1684	1431	**306**
55408	Minneapolis	Hennepin	16	1263	5	66	1329	1130	1016	864	**266**
55409	Minneapolis	Hennepin	8	945	6	74	1019	866	590	502	**365**
55411	Minneapolis	Hennepin	16	1316	18	208	1524	1295	1306	1110	**185**
55412	Minneapolis	Hennepin	4	259	12	140	399	339	1225	1041	**-702**
55413	Minneapolis	Hennepin	6	407	2	26	433	368	375	319	**49**
55414	Minneapolis	Hennepin	8	842	0	0	842	716	994	845	**-129**
55415	Minneapolis	Hennepin	3	219	0	0	219	186	144	122	**64**
55417	Minneapolis	Hennepin	6	501	13	150	651	553	1700	1445	**-892**
55419	Minneapolis	Hennepin	8	854	3	36	890	757	1789	1521	**-764**
55439	Minneapolis	Hennepin	6	703	2	24	727	618	474	403	**215**
55442	Minneapolis	Hennepin	5	754	6	72	826	702	920	782	**-80**
55450	Minneapolis	Hennepin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
55454	Minneapolis	Hennepin	1	56	3	40	96	82	252	214	**-133**
55455	Minneapolis	Hennepin	1	163	0	0	163	139	0	0	**139**
55418	Minneapolis, Saint Anthony	Hennepin	10	1088	14	156	1244	1057	2221	1888	**-830**
55345	Minnetonka	Hennepin	12	1330	6	74	1404	1193	1252	1064	**129**
55364	Minnetrista, Mound	Hennepin	1	69	3	28	97	82	667	567	**-485**
55375	Minnetrista, St Bonifacius	Hennepin	0	0	4	48	48	41	247	210	**-169**
55441	Plymouth	Hennepin	10	1249	5	58	1307	1111	759	645	**466**
55446	Plymouth	Hennepin	7	969	6	68	1037	881	2475	2104	**-1222**

55447	Plymouth	Hennepin	5	573	6	72	645	548	1116	949	**-400**
55423	Richfield	Hennepin	12	1292	21	242	1534	1304	1397	1187	**116**
55111	Saint Paul	Hennepin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
55384	Spring Park	Hennepin	1	61	0	0	61	52	22	19	**33**
55112	Arden Hills, Mounds View, New Brighton	Ramsey	8	711	25	298	1009	858	2669	2269	**-1411**
55126	Arden Hills, Shoreview	Ramsey	6	559	15	180	739	628	1207	1026	**-398**
55113	Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Roseville	Ramsey	13	1436	11	113	1549	1317	1807	1536	**-219**
55108	Lauderdale, Saint Paul	Ramsey	3	244	5	54	298	253	519	441	**-188**
55109	Little Canada, Maplewood, North Saint Paul	Ramsey	12	986	19	206	1192	1013	2354	2001	**-988**
55117	Little Canada, Maplewood, Saint Paul	Ramsey	5	374	14	154	528	449	2221	1888	**-1439**
55127	Little Canada, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake	Ramsey	2	249	8	84	333	283	941	800	**-517**
55119	Maplewood, Saint Paul	Ramsey	7	688	17	202	890	757	2797	2377	**-1621**
55101	Saint Paul	Ramsey	2	248	0	0	248	211	121	103	**108**
55102	Saint Paul	Ramsey	5	525	6	60	585	497	502	427	**71**
55103	Saint Paul	Ramsey	8	478	4	48	526	447	686	583	**-136**
55104	Saint Paul	Ramsey	18	1588	24	264	1852	1574	2340	1989	**-415**
55105	Saint Paul	Ramsey	5	454	5	56	510	434	1123	955	**-521**
55106	Saint Paul	Ramsey	10	626	32	370	996	847	3735	3175	**-2328**
55107	Saint Paul	Ramsey	2	138	1	12	150	128	557	473	**-346**

© First Children's Finance 2026

55114	Saint Paul	Ramsey	1	80	0	0	80	68	84	71	**-3**
55116	Saint Paul	Ramsey	8	903	4	40	943	802	1016	864	**-62**
55130	Saint Paul	Ramsey	1	194	8	96	290	247	1172	996	**-750**
55155	Saint Paul	Ramsey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
55110	Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township	Ramsey	7	701	23	278	979	832	2023	1720	**-887**
56011	Belle Plaine	Scott	2	210	16	186	396	337	747	635	**-298**
55020	Elko New Market	Scott	0	0	3	36	36	31	271	230	**-200**
55054	Elko New Market	Scott	0	0	7	84	84	71	136	116	**-44**
55352	Jordan	Scott	1	84	15	180	264	224	433	368	**-144**
56071	New Prague	Scott	1	121	40	484	605	514	999	849	**-335**
55372	Prior Lake	Scott	10	1178	34	404	1582	1345	1975	1679	**-334**
55378	Savage	Scott	8	946	32	366	1312	1115	2217	1884	**-769**
55379	Shakopee	Scott	9	1166	57	686	1852	1574	2210	1879	**-304**
55001	Afton	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	122	**-122**
55003	Bayport	Washington	1	60	1	10	70	60	152	129	**-70**
55038	Centerville, Hugo	Washington	8	846	11	126	972	826	1999	1699	**-873**
55025	Columbus, Forest Lake	Washington	6	616	11	132	748	636	1220	1037	**-401**
55016	Cottage Grove	Washington	6	693	61	724	1417	1204	2711	2304	**-1100**
55042	Lake Elmo	Washington	5	883	10	122	1005	854	877	745	**109**
55043	Lakeland	Washington	0	0	3	38	38	32	105	89	**-57**
55115	Mahtomedi	Washington	4	371	2	22	393	334	350	298	**37**
55047	Marine On Saint Croix	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	26	**-26**
55055	Newport	Washington	1	20	4	44	64	54	267	227	**-173**
55082	Oak Park Heights, Stillwater	Washington	10	934	14	156	1090	927	1435	1220	**-293**

55128	Oakdale	Washington	8	737	21	260	997	847	1472	1251	**-404**
55071	Saint Paul Park	Washington	0	0	4	48	48	41	268	228	**-187**
55073	Scandia	Washington	0	0	2	28	28	24	334	284	**-260**
55090	Willernie	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	**-8**
55125	Woodbury	Washington	14	1813	45	529	2342	1991	2642	2246	**-255**
55129	Woodbury	Washington	7	1195	12	138	1333	1133	1945	1653	**-520**
	Totals		**885**	**94,572**	**1,748**	**20,442**	**115,014**	**97,762**	**169,016**	**143,664**	**(45,902)**



© First Children's Finance 2026