



## Child Care Wayfinder and Our Partnerships

Child Care Wayfinder is a one-stop navigation network for starting and growing child care programs. The network is staffed by local navigators at regional Child Care Aware agencies and Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care. Our local navigators help people in their communities create, sustain, and expand home-based and center-based programs by offering encouragement and support through these processes, including referrals to resource partners.

Our goal is to increase access to child care statewide. The first step is targeted outreach and recruitment to maintain and increase child care capacity in communities with the lowest access. Then, we make sure that the child care programs most in need of support are connected to the many resources available.

Wayfinder navigators act as resource guides. We accompany new programs through the licensing process, we assess business and program needs, we make referrals to partners, and we help family child care owners/operators and center directors bring together and put to use all the support they receive.

Through collaborative relationships with our partners, we help child care programs build strong relationships with:

- Licensors, who support them in ensuring the health and safety of the children in their care.
- Business consultants, who assist them in building stable, sustainable businesses.
- Grant, scholarship, loan, and supplementary revenue program administrators, who support them with additional funding.
- Program coaches, workforce advisors, and professional development advisors, who assist them in creating high-quality educational environments and career success.
- Other statewide, regional, and local supporters of child care programs.

These partners are key to Child Care Wayfinder achieving its goal. If you offer licensing, business, financial, program, or any other kind of support to child care providers, please contact [Matt Carlson, Child Care Aware of Minnesota's Capacity Building Coordinator](mailto:mattc@childcareawaremn.org), 651.290.9704, Ext. 128 or [mattc@childcareawaremn.org](mailto:mattc@childcareawaremn.org).