



A NEW 96-slot, for profit, child care center has broken ground in Eyota, MN

The City of Eyota, MN has recognized the local and regional need for area child care, and is worked with a local business to help solve the shortage in their community.

Cathy Enerson who serves the City of Eyota as EDA Director has been working with the City's Economic Development Authority (EDA) board to provide gap financing and business planning assistance to a current in-home provider looking to expand her local business from an in-home day care with 12 slots to a 96-slot, 6,000 square foot childcare center. This business, Little Eagles Childcare Center, is the second center to commence operation in the City, and research estimates that its service will satisfy approximately 46% of the community's deficit of 181 child care slots. Enerson noted that "child care is key part of community infrastructure, when the EDA Board was first introduced to the area's need for child care, board members were willing to help the developers and help their community."

The project has involved several partner organizations to ensure its completion and overall success:

Financing for the total project cost of \$1,035,000 was provided cumulatively by Home Federal Savings and Loan, the 504 Loan Corporation, People's Energy Cooperative, and the Eyota EDA. The City of Eyota provided one acre of land and upfront tax increment financing to assist with financing.

Necessary research and resources were partially gleaned from First Children's Finance of Minnesota, DEED, and the Center for Rural Policy & Development.

Design services were completed by Urban Design Studio, and project's general contractor is TLS Companies, LLC.



Tracey Krucker and Trisha King (pictured), the owners of Little Eagles Childcare Center, and project developers shared that "without the partners and the counseling [they] received, a small business with limited capital feels stuck. Working with [these] partners made all the difference. [The Developers] are realizing [their] dreams, and look forward to taking care of children in the community."

Little Eagles Childcare Center broke ground on November 20th, and plans to open in May of 2018.

The Center has already compiled an extensive waiting list for all ages being accepted with minimal advertising and the owners are optimistic about the business' long-term success in Eyota.