

As Minnesotans statewide face the child care shortage, that challenge is especially felt by families of children with disabilities and medical complexities who struggle to find consistent care in inclusive settings.

Many parents leave their careers and drop out of the workforce to become full-time caregivers, and children with disabilities miss out on critical early childhood experiences alongside their siblings and peers. Those peers miss out on opportunities to develop friendships with kids who have disabilities and medical complexities, too!

Child care providers *want* to serve children with disabilities and medical complexities, and there is more we can do to make this possible in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Our inclusive child care proposal creates a competitive grant that will:

- foster partnership between lead agencies and child care providers in the 7-county metro and Greater Minnesota
- develop innovative, collaborative relationships with specialized service providers
- explore mechanisms for children with disabilities and medical complexities to share staff such as PCAs, homecare nurses, or behavioral support specialists
- invest in environmental modifications and sensory adaptation to make physical spaces more accessible and align with universal design principles
- provide administrative support and substitute teacher time



Investing in grants for inclusive childcare will help keep parents in the workforce and ensure that children with disabilities & medical complexities receive support alongside their siblings and peers - resulting in long-term, positive benefits for all children, and building true belonging in community from an early age.

