

**CHILD CARE GRANTS
DECEMBER 11, 2013, 1:20 P.M.
BUDGET SECTION
SENATE CHAMBER, STATE CAPITOL
REPRESENTATIVE CHET POLLERT, CHAIRMAN**

ANDREA PFENNIG – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, ND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mr. Chairman, committee members, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I manage the Child Care Grant program for the Department of Commerce. I am here today to provide an update on Child Care Grants.

SB 2014 appropriated \$2.6 million to increase child care capacity in the state, through expansion or creation of child care facilities.

The program was developed quickly with significant input from North Dakota Child Care Aware (formerly North Dakota Child Care Resource and Referral) and the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Early Childhood Services. The maximum grant amount for the biennium was \$187,500 per facility, which was established by SB 2014. The legislation also required a matching requirement of one dollar of matching funds for every three dollars of state grant funds.

The Department of Commerce accepted grant applications between July 1, 2013 and August 30, 2013. Applications were reviewed and awards were announced in September 2013. The full \$2.6 million has been obligated.

Eligible projects included the purchase and renovation of real estate, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Applicants were required to provide a letter from their DHS Early Childhood Service Regional Supervisor confirming a strong history of compliance or eligibility for future licensure. Applications requesting \$25,000 or more were required to provide a business plan. Applicants were encouraged to use services provided by ND Child Care Aware and Small Business Development Centers. Priority was given to facilities that were increasing infant and toddler capacity and projects located in communities with a child care deficiency of 0-34% as defined by Child Care Aware.

The Department of Commerce intended on having 2 grant rounds. However, due to the volume of quality applications in the first round, it was decided to not accept any additional applications, and to obligate funds to the submitted applications.

We received 77 applications in that first and only round, totaling approximately \$4.95 million in requests with total project costs estimated at approximately \$15.9 million. We will be able to fund 22 projects. Table 1 reflects the details of the approved projects. A map has also been provided to show the spatial distribution of funds.

Table 1: Child Care Grant Recipients

Recipient	Location	Anticipated Increased Capacity	Award Amount
Good Samaritan Hospital Assc. dba Heart of America Medical Center	Rugby	60	\$187,500
The Corcoran School	Minot	226	\$187,500
Milnor Daycare	Milnor	30	\$187,500
Bottineau EDC	Bottineau	51	\$187,500
KinderKidz Learning Center	Dickinson	59	\$171,040
Small Steps Childcare	Carrington	23	\$15,024
Little Lambs Learning Center	Mandan	74	\$143,372
Lil' Hawks Daycare	Hettinger	30	\$60,000
Caterpillar Village Daycare	Kenmare	13	\$10,005
Kids Town House	Cavalier	22	\$10,278
Ragamuffins Ranch Daycare	Stanley	30	\$121,517
City of Edgeley	Edgeley	59	\$187,500
The Main Discovery, Inc	Hillsboro	18	\$148,208
City of Crosby	Crosby	81	\$187,500
Little Rocks Daycare	Tioga	9	\$171,753
City of Gwinner	Gwinner	49	\$187,500
The KidQuarters, LLC	Velva	13	\$45,000
Next Door Daycare	New Salem	18	\$79,923
Little Einsteins	Bismarck	142	\$187,500
Fettig Daycare	Napoleon	12	\$14,141
Mini Miracles Childcare	Dickinson	26	\$41,094
Discovery Child Care Center	Casselton	55	\$68,645

With these funds, it is anticipated that the above facilities will be able to increase child care capacity for a total of 1,151 children at a cost of approximately \$2,259 per spot.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Locations of Childcare Grant Recipients

