



To: Members of the House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

From: Eric Haugee, Ready 4 K

Re: Shovel ready projects for Early Childhood Facility Grants

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In an attempt to gain a better understanding of the need for early childhood facilities In Minnesota, Ready 4 K has asked our partners around the state to share with us information about shovel-ready early childhood facility projects they have in their community. Below is a sample of some of the responses we received. Please note that some of these would need to partner with a city, county or school district to be eligible for the funding.

1. **St. James Public Schools** are in the planning process of moving and remodeling one of their schools for an early childhood facility. The school is currently working with an architect to plan for construction to add on to the current Northside Elementary School or remodel the Armstrong School for Early Education Services.
2. **Three Rivers Community Action, Head Start, Faribault Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Special Education** have been working to develop a state of the art facility with programming for families with young children that will provide a seamless delivery of resources to families. The facility would include ECFE, ECSE, Head Start, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc., wrap around child care and other community based programs. It is anticipated that currently over 600 children weekly would benefit from this facility.
3. **City of Nashwauk** is partnering with Kootasca Head Start and Invest Early in Itasca County to design, construct, furnish, and equip a community building and early childhood center, bringing together programming for young children in one facility. Community education, adult basic education and city offices will also be housed in the facility.
4. **Virginia Public Schools** has a project that will house expanded preschool, with extended day childcare and integration of Head Start, ECFE, ECSE, and School Readiness classrooms. It will also involve health and dental services, large motor activities, family support & involvement, as well as linkages with child care providers, training, coaching, and mentoring of home, center, and family providers.
5. **The Mt. Lake ECFE and Head Start program** is in great need of repair.(windows, siding, and roof). The school building itself does not have space to house these two programs. There is also local interest in having an Early Childhood Wing built on to the school building or a separate Early Childhood building on the school grounds but due to the lack of funding it wasn't pursued.
6. **Robbinsdale Public Schools** is moving early childhood programming to an old elementary building and it is in need of a major renovation to accommodate young children. The number of pre-school children we would serve in one year would be around 550.
7. **Pine Technical College, Center for the Young Child** will be located on the campus of Pine Technical College in Pine City, MN. It will bring together in one facility programs and services It will house a NAEYC accredited child care center, Pine Technical College's Early Childhood Education program, the CCR&R regional office, the area Early Childhood Coalition, and the Pine Providers in Action, an association for child care providers in the area. It will create a new model, bringing together communities, colleges, school districts, agencies and private business, and focus all their collective energy on the critical task of caring for and educating young children.

8. **Elbow Lake Public Schools** has a project to rehabilitate existing classrooms at two program sites to include School Readiness preschool classroom space, ECFE classroom space, parent area, staff work area, office and a larger motor area to be shared between SR/ECFE & Head Start with the potential to serve child care needs as well. It will potentially serve 100 children in rural Western Minnesota.
9. **Cambridge-Isanti School District** has a project to upgrade the pre-school bathroom facilities at their Cambridge site. Currently, early childhood programs are housed in a former middle school, where the classrooms are not age-appropriate.
10. **Bemidji State Campus Childcare Center** is badly in need of a new facility and all efforts and momentum over the years have always stalled out due to funding.
11. **St. Peter Community Childcare Center** has several projects that are shovel ready. They are pursuing matching funds through First Children's Finance Southern Minnesota Growth Fund Grant. They would need \$32,500 to act as matching dollars
12. **The White Earth Child Care Program** in Mahanomen is in need of funding to develop/build an Early Childhood Building that would house a Head Start program, ECFE, after-school program, parent resource center and a classroom/training area for community trainings. With a larger building, the facility would be able to care for more than 50 children.
13. **The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota in Mankato** is a shovel ready, bricks and mortar project supported by a board of early childhood educators, parents, and community leaders, a full time Executive Director, and a grassroots movement led by parents and kids. The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota is projected to open in early 2011. We have received a grant to purchase a 20,000 square foot building in downtown Mankato. We will partner with other early childhood groups such as ECFE, Head-start, and others to create an early childhood center with the Children's Museum being the cornerstone stakeholder. The Children's Museum is project to attract 50,000 visitors annually.
14. **Little Treasures Child Care and Family Center in Duluth** has been searching for a new location for several years, and is in need of funding for new construction or renovation. The fire codes and childcare licensing requirements make it difficult to move into any site that we have assessed. The greatest barriers are 1) need for several exits on the first floor for infants and toddlers or a sprinkled building 2) child-size bathrooms attached to the classrooms 3) outdoor playground space 4) parking for staff and parents. They are presently housed in two small temporary sites, and have a partner for a new permanent early childhood site but need assistance with funding.

For more information about these projects, please contact Eric Haugee at Ready 4 K, [eric@ready4k.org](mailto:eric@ready4k.org) or 651-343-7923



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Ready 4 K is a voice for Minnesota's youngest citizens, building the foundation for our future through quality early childhood care and education