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**MEMO**

To MN DEED Energy Transition Office,

It is my pleasure to provide an exciting update in the realm of child care for Sherburne County. Within the past month, multiple Sherburne County Departments (Economic Development, Health and Human Services, and Public Works) have teamed together to create a creative and effective solution to connect families/caretakers with current child care availability throughout Sherburne County. The Solution- An interactive “Child Care Finder” GIS map (gis.co.sherburne.mn.us/daycarefinder).

Not only does the interactive map show the physical location of every family child care and child care center provider throughout Sherburne County, but has a search filter to allow parents/caretakers to only see the child care providers who have the exact open availability the parents/caretakers need (for example, 1 infant and 2 preschool spots).

The map works through two distinct parts. First, Sherburne County’s GIS Specialists built the GIS map to pull current family child care and child care center licensed provider data from MN DHS. Second, Sherburne County’s Economic Development department updates each provider availability, based on the provider’s own provided information. All providers are shown on this map; however, showing current availability is an optional (opt-in/opt-out) layer for child care providers. So far, Sherburne County has received current availability information from nearly 100 providers, with less than 10 providers choosing to opt-out at this time.

We are excited for the success of this interactive map to better connect parents/caretakers with currently available child care throughout Sherburne County. This interactive GIS map template is easily replicable with any Minnesota County; especially those counties with current GIS accounts/GIS specialists. After the initial outreach to every provider, the upkeep of availability updates take less than 10 minutes total per business day- A handful of minutes well invested to continually show available child care throughout Sherburne County!

Thank you,

Brian Fleming

Executive Director

Sherburne County EDA