



Ensuring positive beginnings...

Families First of Minnesota, formerly known as Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), is an array of services that focuses on ensuring positive beginnings for all young children and their families. We strive to create innovative early childhood partnerships and practices that deliver quality programming and resources centered around supporting the success of the family.

For over 40 years, Families First of Minnesota has been a non-profit organization in our community working as a resource for parents, child care programs, and community members in all areas of early childhood.

COMPLETE SERVICES	PARENT	PROVIDER
Child & Adult Care Food Program		
Child Care Aware		
Child Care Assistance Program		
Early Learning Scholarships		
Crisis Nursery		
Head Start		
School Readiness		



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P. 507-287-2020 | F. 507-287-2411

126 Woodlake Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

www.FamiliesFirstMN.org



The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Financial reimbursements are provided to licensed child care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to children in their care.

The CACFP is available through Families First in the following counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Martin, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Rice, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, and Winona.



The School Readiness program is a continuum of services for children, 3 years old to kindergarten enrollment, and their families. Children receive a scholarship to attend an early childhood program that enables them to enter school with the skills and behavior needed for them to progress and flourish. Parent involvement and family events are also important parts of the program.

Please note that School Readiness services are offered to children and families with the highest need.



The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can help make child care affordable for families with low incomes in Olmsted and Winona counties. Families may qualify for financial assistance to pay for their child care while parents work, job search, or attend school.



Child Care Aware (CCA) helps families find child care and supports the professional growth of child care programs. Services offered through CCA include referrals for families looking for high quality care and early education programs, resources and trainings for early learning professionals, grants, Early Learning Scholarships, and Parent Aware support.

By guiding and connecting families, as well as educating and supporting providers, Child Care Aware is working towards a diverse, high-quality child care system accessible to all Minnesota families.



Crisis Nursery is a family support program that provides temporary, short-term care for children in Olmsted County while families address a crisis situation. Additional services include: crisis counseling and support, parent education, in-home family counseling, referral to community resources, and a monthly parent education group called PARRK (Parents and Relatives Raising Kids) – all at no cost.

Most families who use Crisis Nursery are ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary situations.



Head Start is a free child and family development program that focuses on quality comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to 5 years old, and their families. The Head Start approach to service includes: education, nutrition, parent engagement, social services, health, and mental health.

Head Start prepares children and their families for life-long learning.

