



# First Children's Finance Newsletter

September 2024

## Welcome!

Wow! Summer flew past faster than we wanted, and at First Children's Finance we find ourselves already starting fall training and consulting opportunities for child care businesses. While fall is a busy time for us, we also recognize that the beginning of another school year means a busy time for all of you. Thank you for taking time to explore the work FCF has been doing and to read some amazing success stories from providers who are making a difference.

## News

**Loan Fund Staff Sees the “Fire”  
in Detroit-Area Child Care**

## Business Owner

During the pandemic, Yolanda Massey had 18 months of downtime with her home-based child care business. She spent that time planning for the future and dreaming about opening a child care center where she could care for even more children.

[Read the full story HERE!](#)



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## FCF Michigan Team Helps Child Care Owner Find a “Solution That Works for Us”

Kim Jarvis always wanted to positively impact kids in her Dayton, OH, community, but starting a child care

center wasn't on her mind.

After starting her center, she had big plans for more space but needed a plan. FCF's Michigan Team helped her create a financial plan that got her one big step closer to her goal.



[Read More](#)



## FCF National Team's Work Helps the State of Alaska Manage Loss of Child Care Providers Post-Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated many of the difficulties already present in Alaska's child care systems. The state engaged First Children's Finance to consult with the state's Child Care Program Office (CCPO) to support its planning around COVID-19-related relief funding for the child care subsidy system. With the help of FCF's National Team and input from providers and residents, Alaska officials were able to create a plan to improve its child care systems statewide.

[Read Full Story HERE!](#)

## Lots of Great Vibes Across the State of Vermont!

The First Children's Finance Vermont team loves working with partners and



entrepreneurs across the state. This summer, we were able to sit down with some of those partners and hear why they also love working with us! Thank you to everyone working to make Vermont a national leader in building and supporting child care.



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## **10 Tribal Nations Gather at FCF Collaboratory to Share, Learn, and Plan**

Data shows Tribal Nations are experiencing a child care crisis impacting the health and success of all aspects of Tribal Nations. According to a recent study, 77% of unemployed Native American households reported a lack of child care influenced their decision not to work.



First Children's Finance (FCF) believes an intervention is needed in which Tribal Nations are supported in identifying and reforming their child care business ecosystem coupled with a dramatic, sustained increase in investment in child care. Supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the FCF National Team developed the ECE Business Collaboratory of Tribal Nations (Collaboratory) to help ensure that Tribal children are ready for school, Tribal parents can pursue work and continuing education, child care workers are able to afford their basic needs, and Tribal businesses are able to attract and retain employees.

During 2023-2024, FCF recruited cross-sector teams representing 10 Tribal Nations to participate in the March 2024 Collaboratory in Minneapolis. The Convening gathered

Tribal teams to share, learn, and plan strategies to improve their ECE systems, emphasizing financial sustainability and operational capacity.

[Read the Report HERE!](#)

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## **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation awards \$199,659 Grant for First Children’s First Nations Initiative**

The Healthy Start award will help the First Children’s First Nations (FCFN) initiative build upon and integrate improvements to the previously piloted FCFN process. Through the award, FCFN will provide ongoing technical assistance to the Tribes, offer the FCFN process to an additional Minnesota Tribe, and conduct focus groups with elected Tribal leaders.

[Click Here to Read the Media Release](#)

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## **Upcoming FCF Trainings**

First Children’s Finance offers online training opportunities in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Vermont and Wisconsin.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## **FCF in the News**

[Cook County \(MN\) Examines Child Care Needs Based on FCF Analysis](#)

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[Data from FCF Helps Drive New Webster City \(IA\) Expansion Initiative to Increase Child Care Supply](#)

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[Should Vermont’s Child Care Solution Be Every State’s?](#)

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