



Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Committee

FEBRUARY 22, 2021



About us

In 1997, a group of rural Minnesota advocates came together to create a rural policy research organization that would provide policy makers, rural advocates and concerned citizens with an objective, unbiased and politically unspun examination of today's rural issues.

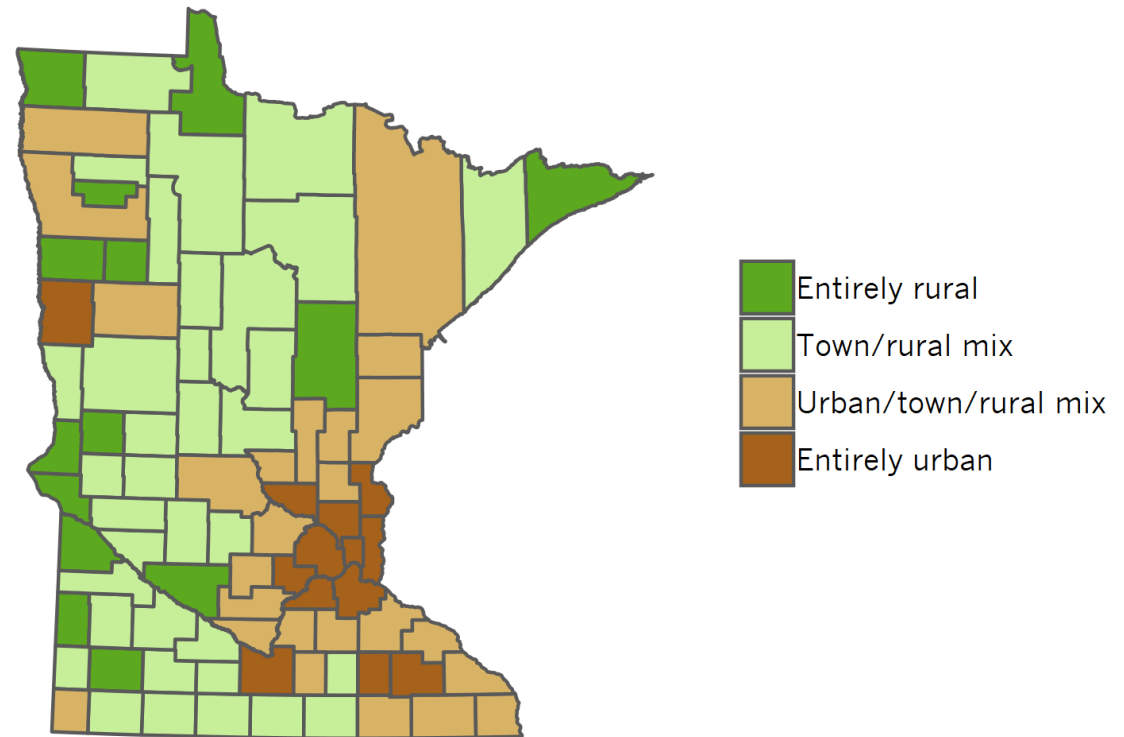
- Based in Greater Minnesota, serving Greater Minnesota.
- A non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization.
- Dedicated to providing Minnesota's policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.
- 19 Board members
- 3 Staff members in home offices

What We Do

We take complicated and complex issues and present them in ways that give them meaning and relevance.

Our research is not designed to determine public policy, but instead to inform those making the decisions.

County categorizations based on rural-urban commuting areas



CRPD Staff



Left to right:

Kelly Asche, Research Associate from New London

Marnie Werner, VP of Research & Operations from Mankato

Julie Tesch, President & CEO from Waldorf

Research Agenda

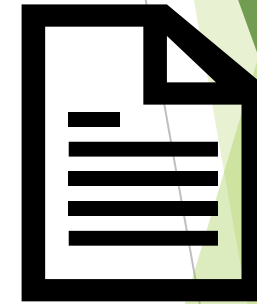
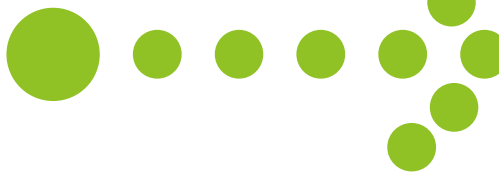
Staff Input



Research
Committee



Decision Makers



Research Agenda: 4 – 6 Topics



- Why is healthcare getting harder to access in rural Minnesota?
- Can your wages go further in rural Minnesota?
- What is rural?



- The need for mental health services in rural Minnesota
- Rural unemployment and participation in the workforce
- Covid-19 series



- Childcare in rural Minnesota after 2020
- What happens to the rural workforce during a pandemic?
- The shifting landscape of rural healthcare in Minnesota



CENTER of EVERY WHERE

MN Center for Rural Policy & De

New Podcast

- ▶ Episodes featuring:
 - ▶ Pandemic's impact on rural workforce
 - ▶ Vaccine rollout in Greater Minnesota
 - ▶ Artists on Main Street
 - ▶ Volunteer Drivers
 - ▶ Roseau County Emergency Management
 - ▶ Importance of Rural Grocery Stores
 - ▶ U of MN Tourism Center
 - ▶ Association of MN Counties

CRPD IN THE NEWS

Pandemic creating workforce training opportunities

By Trey Mireck tmireck@marketofexpress.com Feb 3, 2021



Politics & Policy

Rural Downtowns Were on the Mend. Then Came Covid.

One bright spot for rural America had been the widespread revitalization of Main Streets. Now that progress is in jeopardy.

By Adam Mintz
January 1, 2021, 8:00 AM CST

Pandemic boosting rural grocers but uncertainty lingers



Miguel Octavio
Updated January 17, 2021 11:22 PM
Created January 11, 2021 10:56 PM



center for rural policy
and development
Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future

Latest Research



Rank	Shortage	Surplus
1	Community and Social Services: \$24.52	Construction and Extraction: \$28.45
2	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry: \$17.90	Food Preparation and Serving Related: \$13.19
3	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical: \$38.19	Production: \$20.29
4	NA	Healthcare Support: \$15.51
5	NA	NA

Pandemic paints a different employment picture in rural Minnesota

[Read More](#)

Southwest		
Rank	Shortage	Surplus
1	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical: \$38.51	Food Preparation and Serving Related: \$12.54
2	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry: \$16.85	Construction and Extraction: \$24.61



Southeast		
Rank	Shortage	Surplus
1	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical: \$49.85	Food Preparation and Serving Related: \$13.38
2	Life, Physical, and Social Science: \$37.21	Construction and Extraction: \$27.28



Transit for healthcare: Volunteer drivers in aging rural Minnesota

[Read More](#)

Current Projects

- ▶ What is the potential impact on county budgets if the price of ag land falls?
- ▶ Rural anchor businesses and the impacts of their closing:
- ▶ Barriers between local and regional governments to rural immigrant and refugee populations.
 - ▶ Our advisory team consists of members from the MN Council for Latino Affairs, Council for Asian Pacific Minnesotans, and Council for Minnesotan's of African Heritage
- ▶ - Impacts of property tax challenges from large retail businesses on rural counties. (Dark Store Theory)
- ▶ - Migration of rural high school graduates between state (Collaboration with MN Department of Higher Education, DEED, Department of Education)



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Thank you!

Find us online at: ruralmn.org

Julie Tesch – jtesch@ruralmn.org

Pandemic's impacts on rural jobs & workforce

Findings #1

- There is now a potential pool of labor that didn't exist before in rural Minnesota

Findings #2

- Workforce surpluses are concentrated in a few occupations, while shortages persist in most others.

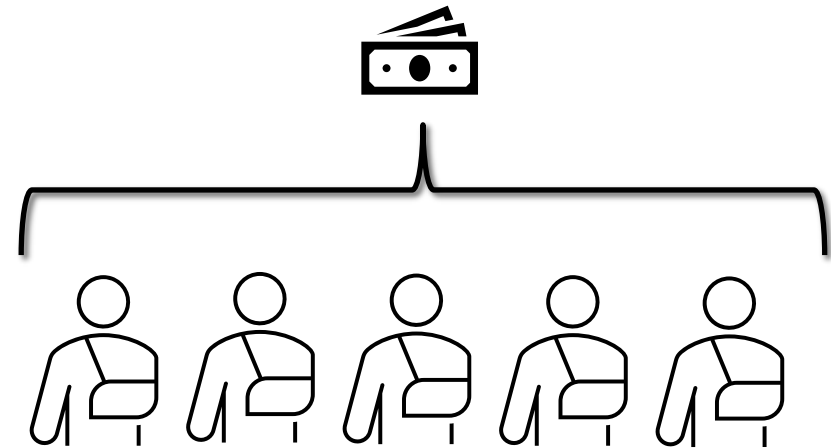
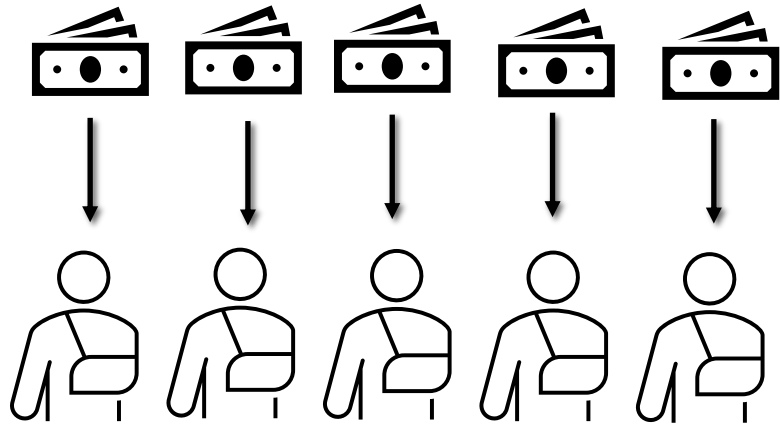
Findings #3

- This trend is projected to continue

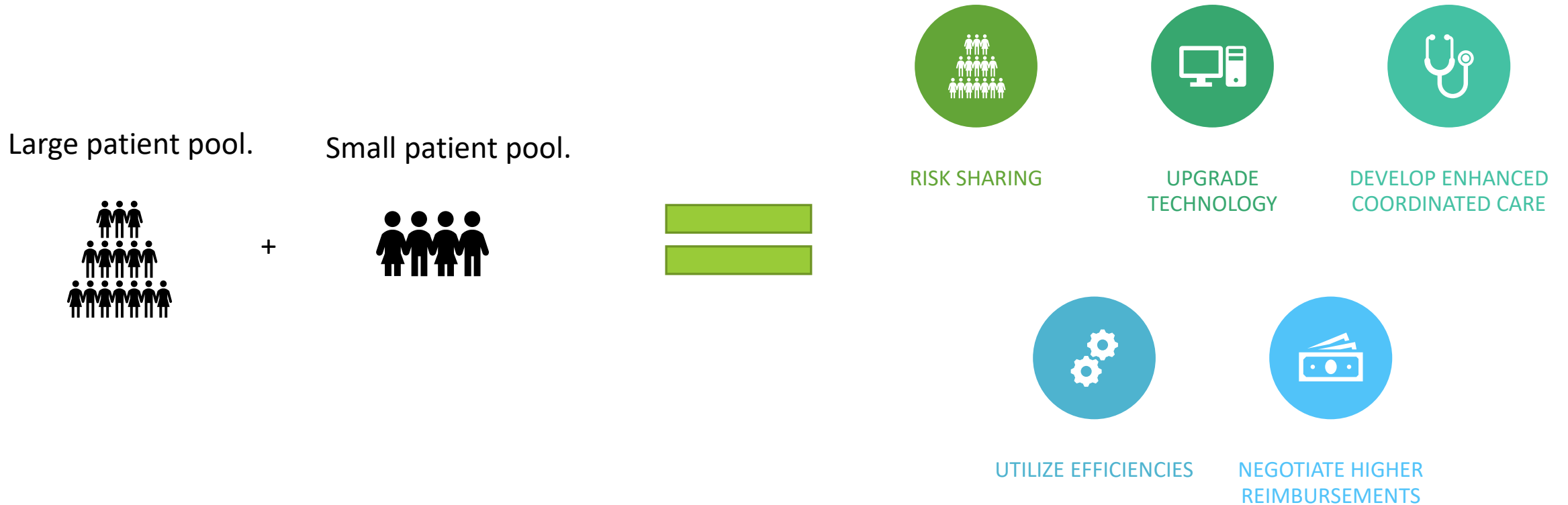
Findings #4

- Investments in workforce development are essential

Integrating rural into the new reality of healthcare – shifting payments



Integrating rural into the new reality of healthcare – larger is the name of the game



Greater MN	2000	2020	Net change
Family child care	90,686	55,231	-35,455
Center child care	25,730	40,933	15,203
Twin Cities metro	2000	2020	Net change
Family child care	68,845	29,120	-39,725
Center child care	60,779	97,816	37,037
Total Greater MN capacity	116,416	96,164	-20,252
Total Twin Cities capacity	129,624	126,936	-2,688

Data: MN Dept of Human Services

Looking back: Trends since 2000

Greater Minnesota & Twin Cities

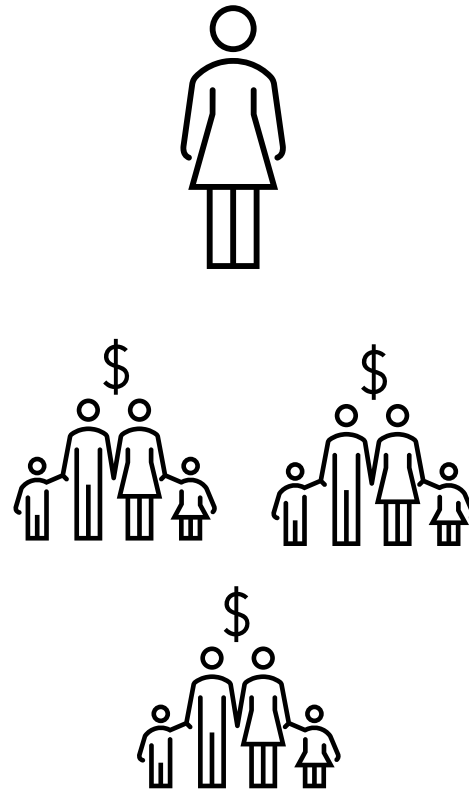
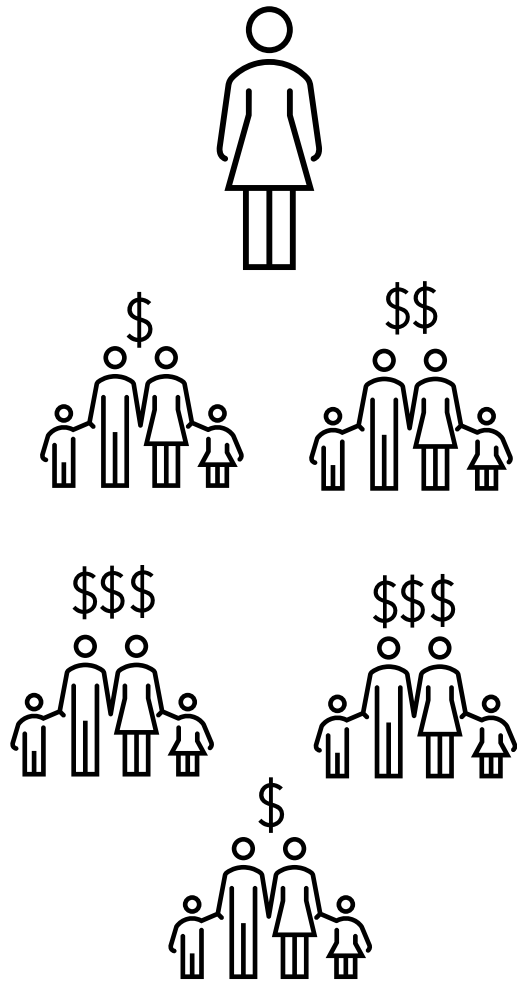
The growth in center capacity since 2000 has not made up for the loss in family child care capacity in Greater Minnesota.

Looking regionally: 2000-2020

MIF Region	Change in center capacity	Change in family child care capacity	Change in combined capacity
East Central	60%	-35%	-13%
Northeast	37%	-54%	-27%
Northwest	-3%	-36%	-30%
Southern	104%	-41%	-10%
Southwest	34%	-40%	-25%
West Central	16%	-32%	-22%
Twin Cities	61%	-58%	-2%

Data: MN Dept of Human Services

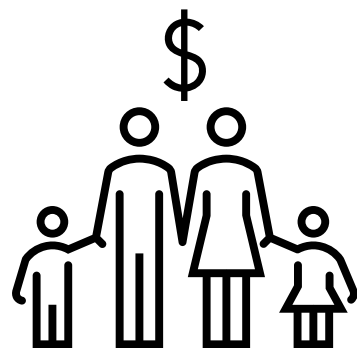
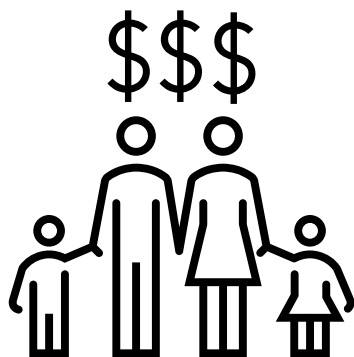
The growth in center capacity since 2000 has not made up for the loss in family child care capacity, especially in northwestern and west central Minnesota.



The economics of child care

How did we get to this point in rural areas?

- Areas with high population density have more families with higher incomes who can afford to pay the rate the provider needs.
- Providers need this to cover expenses, which they have little control over.
- In child care deserts, there are fewer families and they often have lower incomes. The providers' expenses will often not be that different.



The economics of child care

How did we get to this point in rural areas?

- While family providers are retiring, few people are coming in to replace them.
- Women have many better-paying options today.
- In urban areas, large centers can do well, so family providers can fade away.
- In rural areas, the economics don't work for centers without extra effort. But family providers are still leaving.

