

# The Child Care Gap in Lake City

EDAM Conference, June 2017

# Child care context

- Family child care centers can care for up to 14 children depending on the license type and are licensed by the county
  - The maximum number of infants (under 12 mos) that a family provider can care for is 2 unless there are two providers present then the limit is 3
- Child care centers can care for up to 99 children, depending on the license type and are licensed by the State
- Lake City has 15 family child care providers and no child care centers

# Lake City Context

- About Lake City
  - On Lake Pepin, 1.25 hours from MSP; 35 minutes from Rochester
  - 5,000 residents, no growth in past 10 years
  - Straddle Goodhue and Wabasha Counties
- Lake City financially healthy
  - Owns and operates Marina and Utility
- Employment
  - 25% of jobs are in manufacturing
  - Many jobs visitor oriented
  - 1,900 commuters to Lake City for work
  - 950 live and work in Lake City
  - 1,200 residents work elsewhere
  - Estimated 80 job openings
- EDA Director started job June 2016

# Anecdote or Analysis?

**The Child Care Gap  
in Lake City**

Winter 2016/2017



**The Child Care Gap  
in Lake City  
Employee Survey  
Responses**

Updated April 2017

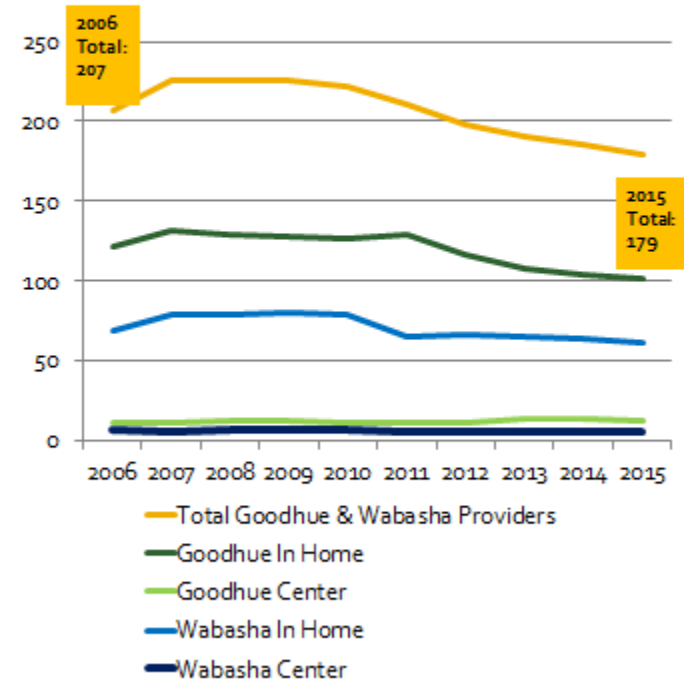


# The numbers: child care by county

## MN CENTER FOR RURAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

- State-wide data on child care providers and spaces by county
- Trends since 2006
- [www.ruralmn.org](http://www.ruralmn.org)

### Decline in child care providers Wabasha and Goodhue Counties

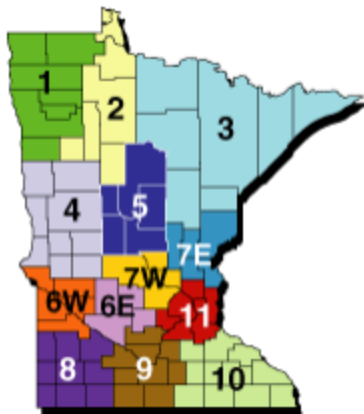


Source: MN Center for Rural Policy and Development

# The numbers: employment

## DEED REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

- DEED Labor Market Information Office Economic Development Region 10; 2015 Regional Profile
- [www.mn deed.com](http://www.mn deed.com)



## Why does it matter? We need workers.

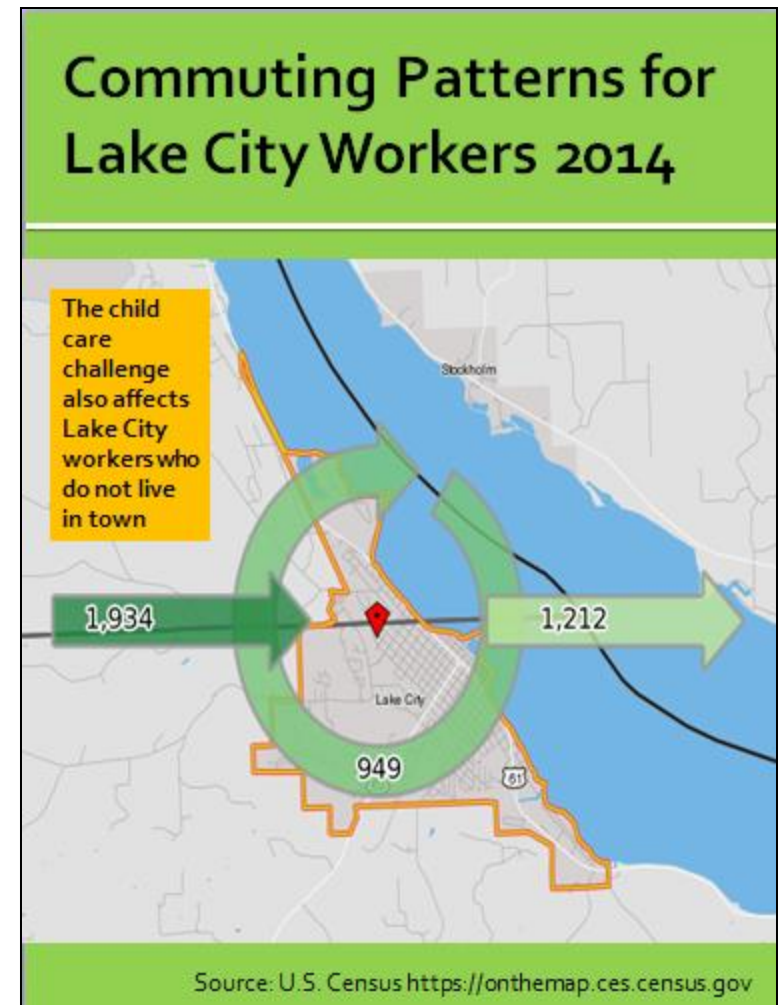
- Unemployment in Southeast Minnesota is very low.
  - In November of 2016 Goodhue County unemployment was 3% and Wabasha County unemployment was 2.7%
  - For every 1.0 job openings, there are only 1.1 job seekers.
  - Many Lake City employers report challenges finding workers to fill openings.

Source: DEED Regional Labor Market Analysis; DEED Labor Market Information Office Economic Development Region 10, 2015 Regional Profile; Interviews Lake City EDA

# The numbers: commuting

## U.S. CENSUS ON THE MAP

- Telling the area story, not just Lake City
- <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>
- Using your zip code or City name commuting patterns are available
- 2014 most recent data



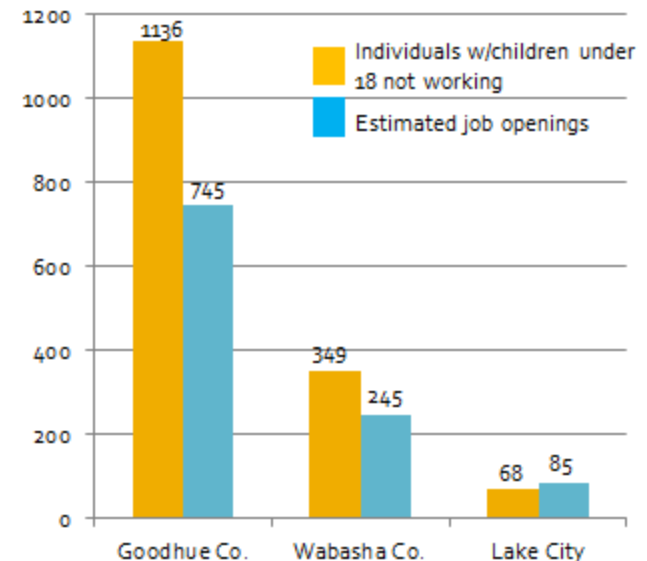
# The numbers: potential employees

## DEED QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

- To estimate number of job openings go to <https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/qcew/>
- For individuals not in the workforce with children under 18 use American Fact Finder Table S2302



## Individuals with children under 18 who do not participate in the workforce vs. job vacancies



Note: Count includes two parent and single parent families  
Source: Table S2302 US Census, 2011-2015 American Communities Survey; DEED QCEW Tool; Job Vacancy survey. Job vacancy calculations based on 3.5% average job vacancy rate in Region 10 (county data not available).



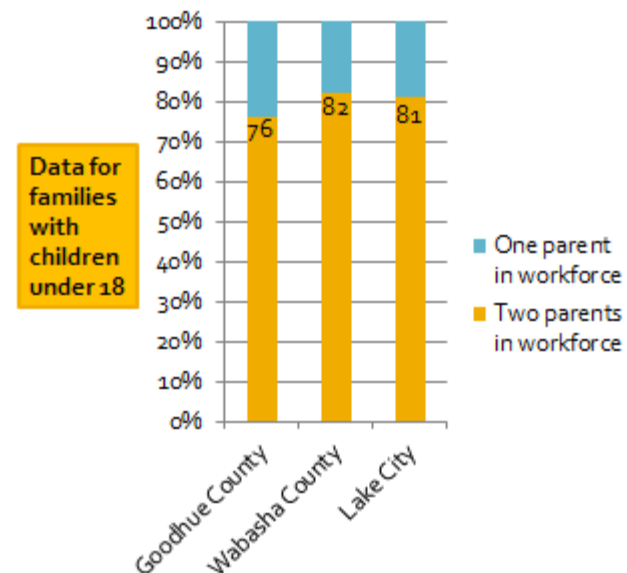
# The numbers: two parents in the workforce

## U.S. CENSUS AMERICAN FACT FINDER

- Google US Census American Fact Finder
- Use Fact Finder Advanced Search
- Employment Characteristics, Table S2302

The screenshot shows the American Fact Finder interface. The 'ADVANCED SEARCH' tab is selected. The search criteria are set to 'S2302: Employment Char' for 'Wabasha' in the state of 'WISCONSIN'. The search results show 1-25 of 55,682 tables. The interface includes navigation tabs (MAIN, COMMUNITY FACTS, GUIDED SEARCH, ADVANCED SEARCH, DOWNLOAD CENTER), search filters (United States, United States), and options to view, download, or compare results.

## Most two parent families participate in the workforce

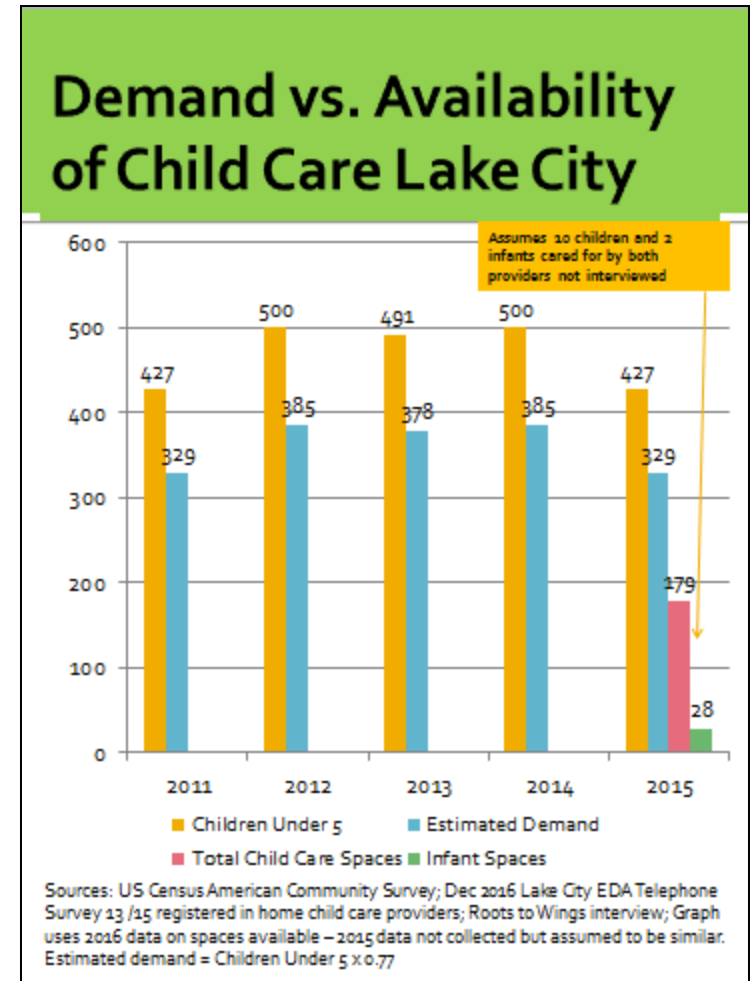


Source: Table S2302 US Census, 2011-2015 American Communities Survey;  
Note: Goodhue and Wabasha County average 77%

# The numbers: our gap

## CHILD CARE PROVIDER TELEPHONE SURVEY

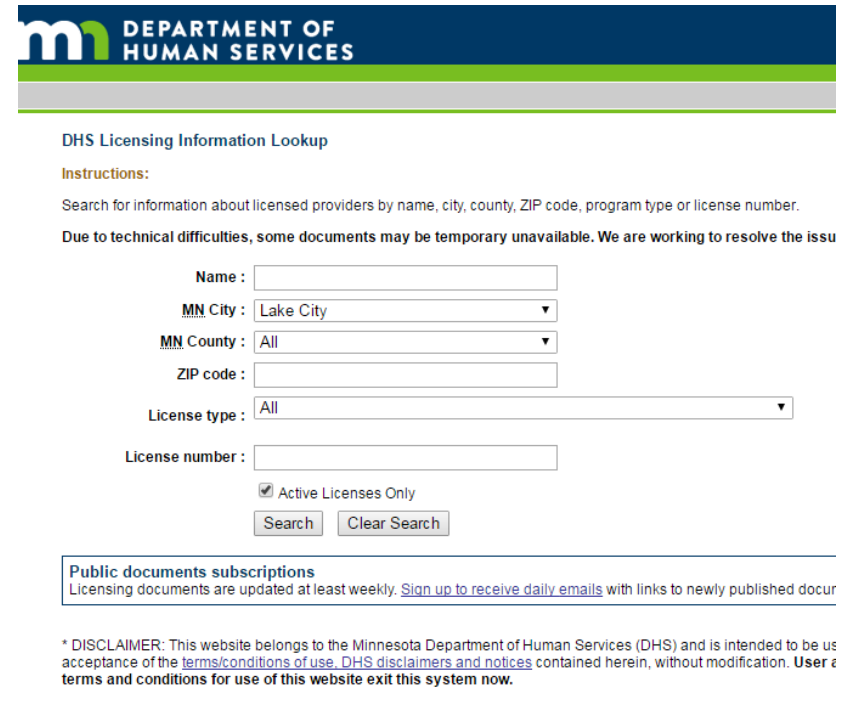
- Estimate numbers of children under 5 with data on births: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytabels](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytabels)
- Multiply that figure by your percent two-working families to estimate demand (previous slide)
- Compare your demand to capacity either with data from MN Center for Rural Policy and Development or your own figures
  - Lake City figures from child care provider survey – next slides



# The numbers: our child care providers

## MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- <http://licensinglookup.dhs.state.mn.us/>
- Contacted 13 of the 15 in home child care providers by letter; called the following week



The screenshot shows the 'DHS Licensing Information Lookup' page. At the top is the Minnesota Department of Human Services logo. Below the header, the page title is 'DHS Licensing Information Lookup'. There are instructions for users to search for licensed providers by name, city, county, ZIP code, program type, or license number. A note states that some documents may be temporarily unavailable due to technical difficulties. The search form includes fields for Name, MN City (set to Lake City), MN County (set to All), ZIP code, License type (set to All), and License number. There is a checkbox for 'Active Licenses Only' and 'Search' and 'Clear Search' buttons. A section for 'Public documents subscriptions' is also visible, along with a disclaimer at the bottom.

**m** DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### DHS Licensing Information Lookup

**Instructions:**  
Search for information about licensed providers by name, city, county, ZIP code, program type or license number.  
Due to technical difficulties, some documents may be temporary unavailable. We are working to resolve the issu

Name :

MN City :

MN County :

ZIP code :

License type :

License number :

Active Licenses Only

**Public documents subscriptions**  
Licensing documents are updated at least weekly. [Sign up to receive daily emails](#) with links to newly published docur

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# The numbers: our child care capacity

## TELEPHONE SURVEY LAKE CITY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- Sent letter to each licensed provider with list of questions and telling them I would be calling
- Spoke to 13 of our 15 licensed family child care providers
  - Note: providers may be licensed for more children than they accept



### Questions for local child care providers

How many children do you care for today? How many infants do you take?

How many families that you serve **live** in Lake City? How many live somewhere else?

How many families that you serve **work** in Lake City?

Do you have a waiting list? If so, how many children and for what ages?

Do you plan to stay in business over the next five years?

Do you think there is a local need for additional child care spaces? If so, what ages?

Do you have an interest in opening a child care center?

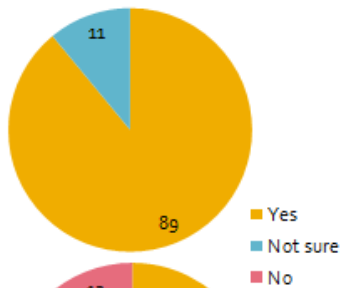
What are your rates?

What are your hours?

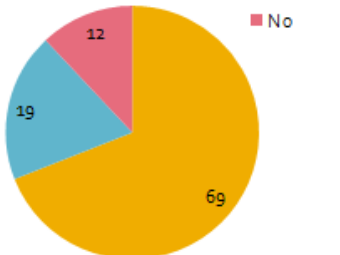
# Telling the story: providers survey

## Lake City Providers Say...

### NEED FOR ADDITIONAL INFANT CARE?



### NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE UNDER 5?



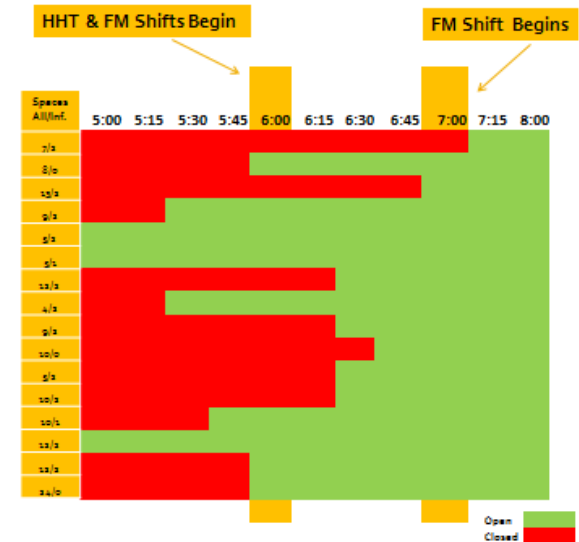
Source: Dec 2016 Lake City EDA Telephone Survey 13/15 registered in home child care providers; St. John's Learning Center

## Lake City is feeling the pinch: 'It's ridiculous!'

- “I just told two mothers that they could go ahead and get pregnant – I would hold a space for their babies. It's ridiculous!”
- “I posted two openings on FaceBook and had seven calls in 4 hours.”
- “I get calls all the time from parents looking for care.”
- “I'm holding four spaces for babies who aren't born yet.”
- “I've gotten calls from parents who have been looking for care for a year.”
- “I don't keep a waiting list because I don't want to manage it, but I get 2 – 3 calls a week looking for care. Especially for infants.”
- “This week (12/20/16), I had calls to find care for babies in starting in August and December of 2017.”

Source: Dec 2016 Lake City EDA Telephone Survey 13/15 registered in home child care providers

## Morning Hours Lake City Child Care



Source: Dec 2016 Lake City EDA Telephone Survey 13/15 registered in home child care providers; St. John's Learning Center

# Telling the story: the employee point of view

- Gave employee child care survey to five major employers to distribute
- Of approximately 950 employees at these 5 employers, 18% (or 171) are estimated to have children 5 and under
- Achieved a 29 percent response rate to the survey

## Optional Child Care Survey

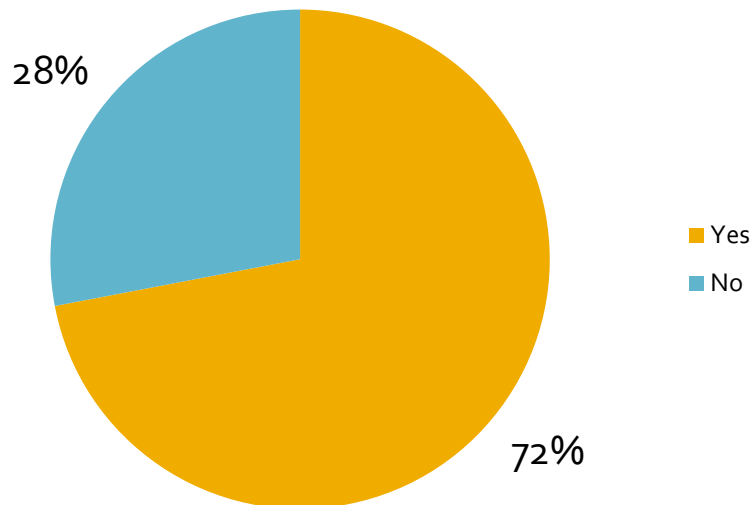
Do you have children under the age of 5? If so please help us gather information on child care in Lake City.

The Lake City Economic Development Authority wants to understand the impact of child care on the availability of workers to fill jobs in the community. Please complete this survey and return it to \_\_\_\_\_.

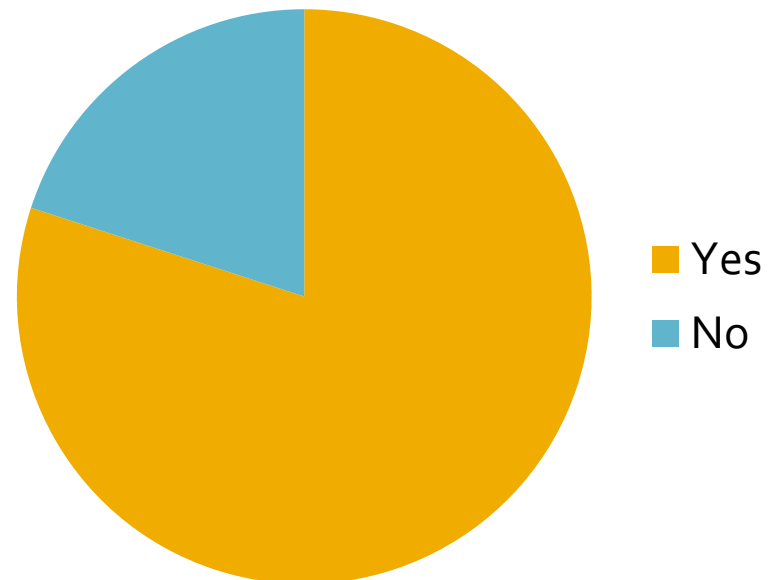
1. Do you need childcare so you or someone else in your family can work? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. Do you use child care in Lake City? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
  - a. If yes, how long did you have to wait to find a space for your child? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If no, would you use child care in Lake City if there were available spaces? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. If you use child care in another community, where do you take your child? \_\_\_\_\_
3. I think the cost of child care is:
  - a. Reasonably affordable \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Difficult to meet on my budget but necessary for me or someone in my family to work \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Unaffordable – I use family members or other arrangements \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Don't know / Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you currently use a child care provider, would you use more hours at your child care provider if they were available? Check all that apply: Earlier \_\_\_ Later \_\_\_ Drop In \_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_
5. If you had trouble finding child care, what was the challenge? (Check all that apply)
  - a. Hard to find care for infants \_\_\_
  - b. Hard to find care so I could be at work the hours I need \_\_\_
  - c. Hard to find care near me \_\_\_
  - d. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Did you eventually find child care? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ We are \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you know someone else who wants to work but can't because of child care? If so, is it because they:  
Can't find child care \_\_\_  
Can't afford child care \_\_\_  
Not sure/Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. Child care centers often care for more children than family providers can, and may have extended hours of operation, however they can be more expensive. I would consider using a child care center in Lake City if it were:  
(Check all that apply)
  - a. The same cost as my current provider \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 10 – 20 % more expensive than my current provider \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 20 – 30 % more expensive than my current provider \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 30 – 40 % more expensive than my current provider \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. I would not consider using a child care center \_\_\_\_\_

# Employee survey results: confirmed child care linked to employment

Do you need childcare so you or someone in your family can work?

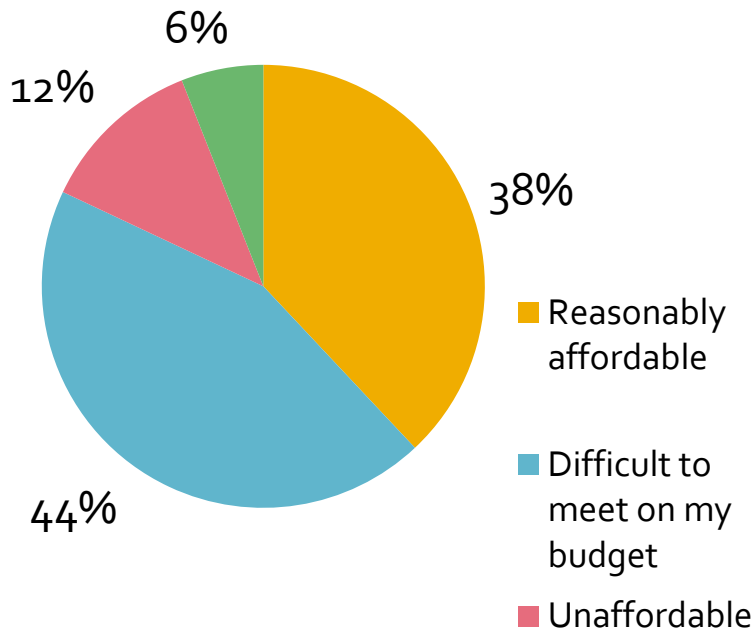


Do you know someone who wants to work but cannot because of child care issues?

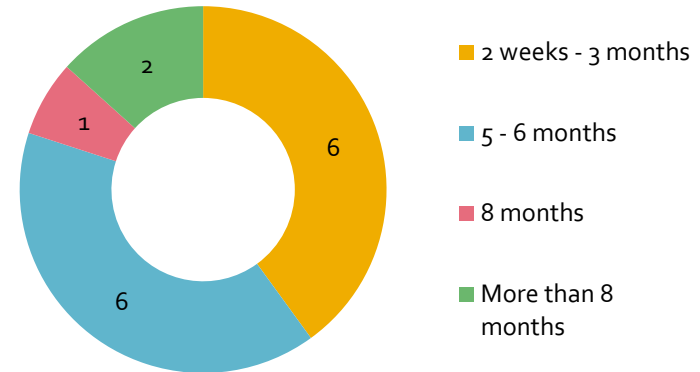


# Employee survey results: time and money are a challenge

The cost of child care is...



How long did it take for you  
to find child care?





# Creating understanding of the need in the community

## NETWORKING

- Families First
- First Children's Finance
- Early Childhood and Family Education group
- Wabasha County administrator
- Wabasha county child care licensor
- Goodhue County Administrator, Director of Health & Human Services
- Goodhue County child care licensor
- Child care center operators in Harmony and Red Wing
- Lake City Child Care Association

## SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- EDA Board
- Quarterly Large Employer's luncheon
- City Council
- Goodhue County Commissioners
- Kiwanis
- Rotary
- EDAM Presentation
- UMN Extension
- Article submitted to local paper
- Chamber of Commerce annual meeting
- Lake City Historical Society

# Taking action

## ENCOURAGE CAPACITY BUILDING

- Child Care Center
  - Partnering with First Children's Finance create financial pro forma and RFP – what levers can we pull to make this financially feasible?
- Family Care Licenses
  - Informational sessions for potential new business owners

## GOVERNMENT LEVERS

- State Legislature passed a bill that includes \$500,000 in grants (through DEED) to fund child care start-ups, expansions, training, facility modifications or improvements
- Wabasha County has waived the application fee
- Zoning – County licensing permits family child care centers in commercial buildings; but Lake City zoning does not currently allow
- City incentives possible: land or utility support

**Questions?**