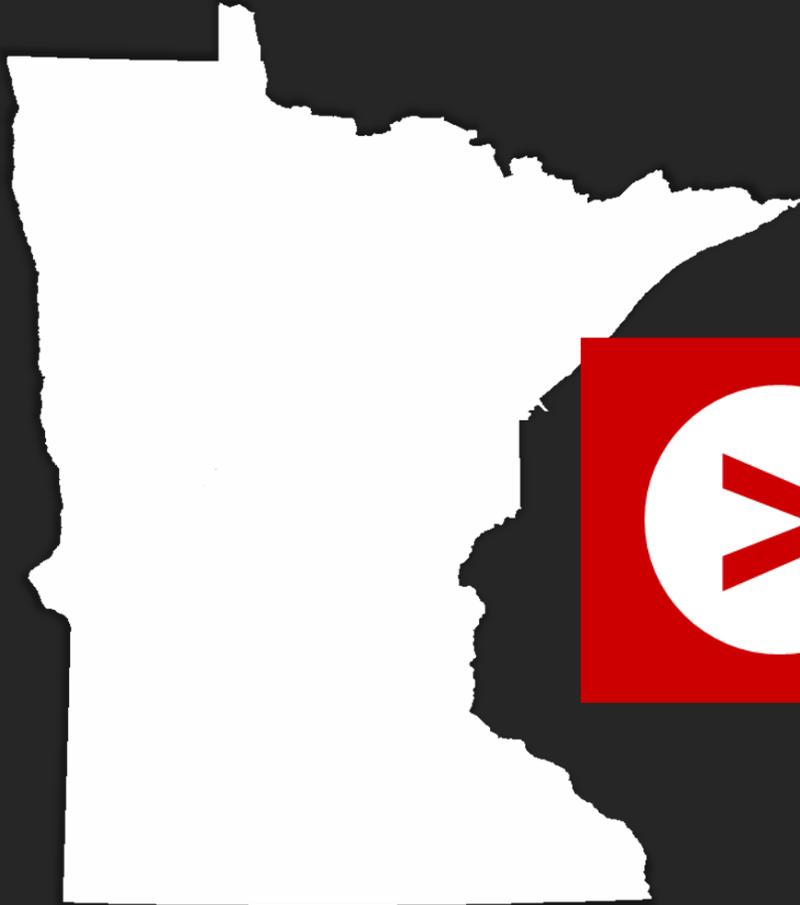




FIRST CHILDREN'S FINANCE

The Greater Than Minnesota Project



Heidi Hagel Braid,
Regional Director, MN and the Dakotas







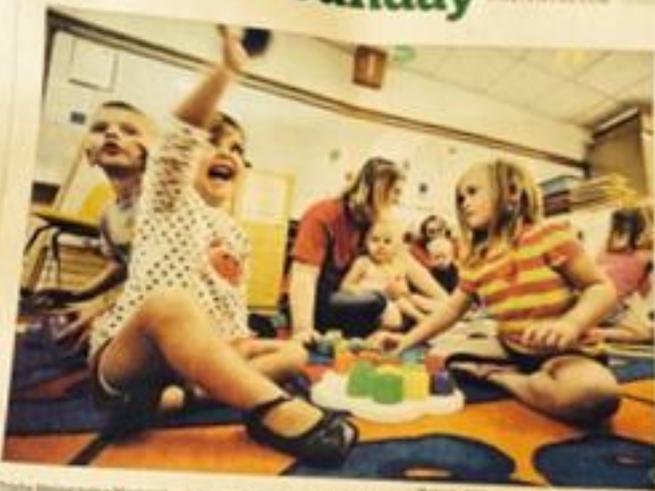
STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES





In Minnesota, 77% of women with children under the age of 6 are participating in the workforce.



These young kids at a Montessori child care program called Kinder East that is at capacity with 44 children.

RURAL FAMILIES FACE DAY-CARE DILEMMA

With few options, parents give up jobs; others get help from employers

By ADAM BELLA • www.startribune.com

WISCONSIN MOMS — Eight months before her due date, Kimpie Strubach started calling day-care centers to reserve a spot for her baby.

Nobody had an opening as far as Marshall or Wilmar — both a 45-minute drive away. Strubach got on waiting lists "behind people who hadn't even conceived yet," she said.

When Strubach's boy was born, her husband — who had just earned a degree in computers — planned to stay home with their son. The couple didn't find a way for them both to work until a relative tipped them to an opening at a child care in Granite Falls.

"We just don't realize until you actually experience it firsthand just how bad the shortage is," Strubach said.



Hering got a hug when she came into a classroom. The at capacity center is expanding to include infants in September.

WEEKLY INFANT CARE COSTS

| | NETWQ | OUTSTATE |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rural families often pay less for child care, but finding that care can be costly. | \$312.03 day care | \$194.77 day care |
| | \$175.07 | \$132.48 |

sons don't have enough child care for working families. Finding a place for newborns is especially difficult. And if it's not just a parenting challenge, it's an economic problem.

More than one in 10 parents statewide, and one in five poor parents, report that child-care problems have kept them from getting or keeping a job in a given year. When parents can't work for lack of baby-sitting, businesses struggle to fill jobs, young mothers and fathers miss out on precious wages and a thin rural labor force gets thinner.

"How could it not? If you have good employees and they don't have anywhere to put their children?" said Ann McCully, executive director of Child Care Aware. "We still have a pretty good population of folks that

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With economy on the
opening, key issue gets
tackled for challenge.

By W. ADAM BELLA

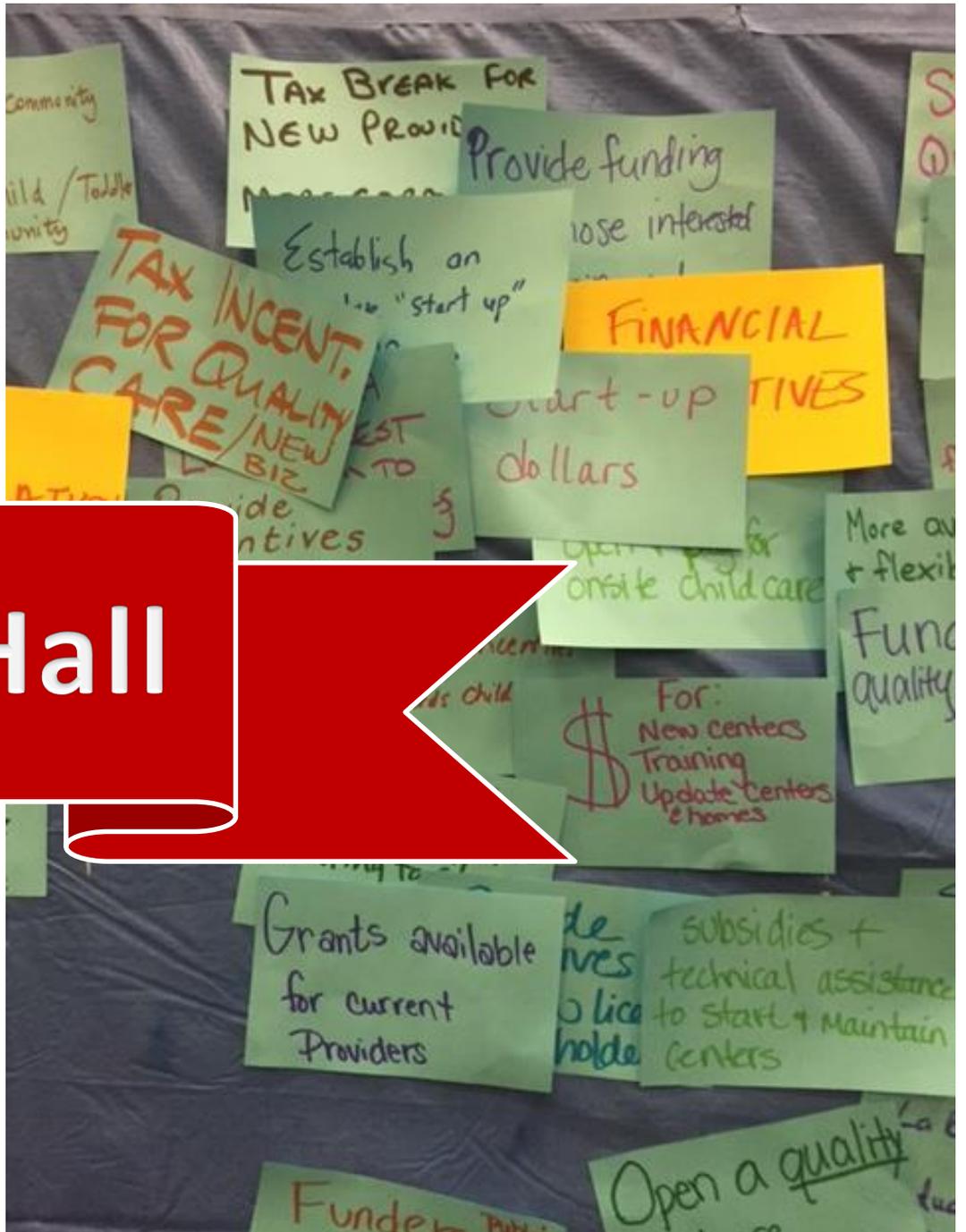
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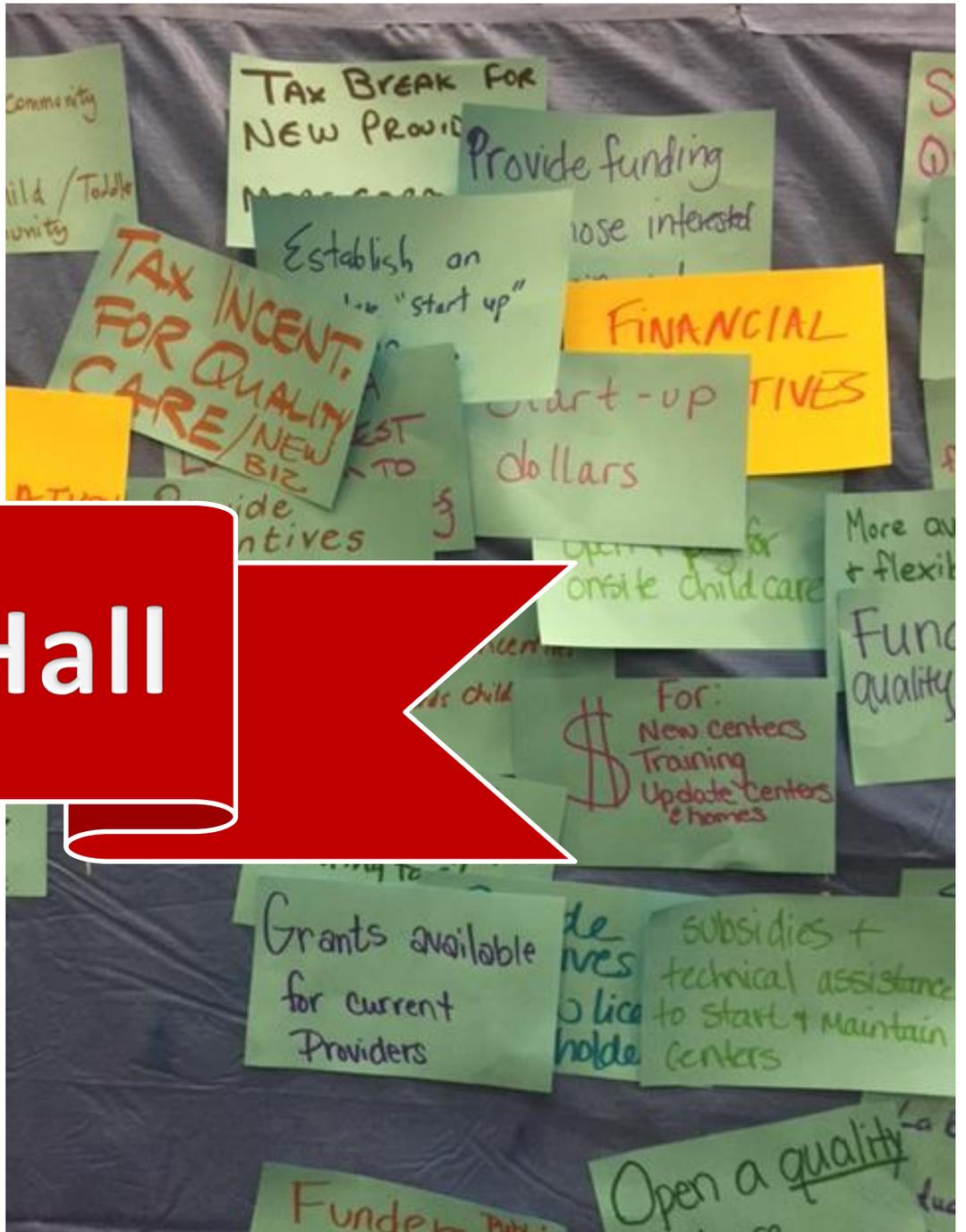
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Town Hall





Town Hall



Community Solution Action Plan



**Redwood
County**
January 2016

Community
Events

Cohorts for
Child Care
Businesses

Engaging
Private
Sector



CHILD
CARE





Technical Assistance
Financial Modeling
Consultation
Training





LITTLE STAR

LOOK WHO'S HAVING A BIRTHDAY

angeles

SLIP



Local Resources
Right-Sized Solutions
+ Innovation
SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY







MAIN ST.



greaterthanmn.org