

SHERBURN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program

Purpose

The Sherburn Economic Development Authority (EDA) recognizes that access to quality childcare is essential to supporting local families, strengthening the workforce, and promoting economic growth.

The purpose of the Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program is to encourage the creation, expansion, and sustainability of childcare opportunities serving Sherburn and the surrounding area by reducing the financial barriers associated with starting or growing a childcare business.

Grant Amount

Applicants may request grant funding of up to \$10,000.

The EDA recognizes that every childcare project is unique. While the standard maximum award is \$10,000, requests exceeding that amount may be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects demonstrating exceptional community impact or unique circumstances, subject to available funding and approval by the Sherburn Economic Development Authority.

Grant awards are contingent upon available funding and approval by the Sherburn Economic Development Authority.

Eligible Applicants

The program is open to individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other entities interested in:

- Starting a licensed childcare business.
- Expanding an existing childcare business.
- Increasing childcare availability within the Sherburn area.

Applicants do not need to be licensed at the time of application.

Eligible Uses of Funds

Grant funds are intended to assist with the startup or expansion of childcare services.

Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment
- Furnishings
- Educational materials
- Supplies
- Licensing expenses
- Facility improvements or renovations
- Safety improvements
- Marketing and advertising
- Technology
- Professional or consulting services
- Other reasonable expenses that support the establishment or expansion of childcare services

The Sherburn EDA reserves the right to determine eligible uses of grant funds.

Matching Funds

No matching funds are required.

Grant Repayment

Recipients are expected to make a good-faith effort to establish and operate their childcare business.

If the childcare business permanently closes or ceases providing childcare services after receiving grant funding, repayment shall be required according to the following schedule:

Time in Operation	Amount to be Repaid
Less than 1 year	80%
At least 1 year but less than 2 years	60%
At least 2 years but less than 3 years	40%
At least 3 years but less than 4 years	20%
4 years or more	No repayment required

The Sherburn EDA may waive repayment requirements when closure occurs due to circumstances beyond the recipient's reasonable control.

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed by the Sherburn Economic Development Authority.

Funding decisions will consider:

- Overall project feasibility.
- The anticipated impact on childcare availability.
- Community need.
- Availability of grant funds.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Questions

Questions regarding the Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program may be directed to the Sherburn Economic Development Authority.

Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program

Grant Application

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current Status (check one):

☐ Interested in Starting a Childcare Business

☐ Currently Licensed Childcare Provider

☐ Expanding an Existing Childcare Business

☐ Other: _____

About Your Project

1. Please tell us a little about yourself.

2. Please describe your childcare project.

3. How will this grant help you establish or expand childcare services?

4. How much funding are you requesting? \$ _____

5. If requesting more than \$10,000, please explain the unique circumstances or exceptional community benefit supporting your request.

6. When do you anticipate beginning childcare operations or completing your expansion?

7. Is there anything else you would like the EDA to know?

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that funding is awarded at the discretion of the Sherburn Economic Development Authority and is subject to available funding.

By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges that, if awarded funding, they will be required to execute a Grant Agreement incorporating the terms and conditions contained in Appendix A.

If awarded grant funding, I agree to the repayment schedule established by the Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program should my childcare operation permanently cease operations within four (4) years of receiving grant funds.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

For EDA Use Only

Application Received: _____

Application Reviewed: _____

Funding Requested: _____

Funding Approved: _____

Approved Amount: _____

Appendix A

Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program

Grant Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all grants awarded through the Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program.

1. Grant Award

Award of grant funding is at the sole discretion of the Sherburn Economic Development Authority ("EDA") and is subject to the availability of funds.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding or create any obligation on the part of the EDA to award grant funds.

2. Grant Agreement

Applicants approved for funding shall be required to execute a Grant Agreement with the Sherburn Economic Development Authority prior to the disbursement of any grant funds.

Failure to execute the Grant Agreement within the timeframe established by the EDA may result in forfeiture of the grant award.

3. Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds shall be used in good faith to establish, expand, or improve childcare services as described in the approved application.

The EDA reserves the right to request information or documentation reasonably necessary to verify that grant funds were utilized for the approved childcare project.

4. Repayment Requirement

Recipients acknowledge that the purpose of this program is to increase childcare opportunities serving the Sherburn area.

If the recipient voluntarily ceases providing childcare services, permanently closes the childcare operation, or otherwise discontinues the approved childcare project within four (4) years of receiving grant funding, repayment shall be required according to the following schedule:

Time in Operation	Repayment Required
Less than one (1) year	80%
One (1) year to less than two (2) years	60%
Two (2) years to less than three (3) years	40%
Three (3) years to less than four (4) years	20%
Four (4) years or more	No repayment required

Repayment shall be due within sixty (60) days following the cessation of childcare operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Sherburn Economic Development Authority.

5. Notification Requirement

Recipients agree to notify the Sherburn Economic Development Authority in writing within thirty (30) days of any permanent closure, discontinuation of childcare services, or other event that may trigger the repayment provisions of this program.

6. Default

Failure to repay grant funds as required may constitute a default under the Grant Agreement.

In the event of default, the Sherburn Economic Development Authority reserves the right to pursue any remedies available under Minnesota law to recover the outstanding repayment amount, including reasonable costs of collection and attorney's fees where permitted by law.

7. Waiver

The Sherburn Economic Development Authority recognizes that unforeseen circumstances may arise.

The EDA may waive all or a portion of the repayment requirement when, in its sole discretion, it determines that repayment would be inequitable due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the recipient's reasonable control, including but not limited to serious illness, disability, natural disaster, or other substantial hardship.

8. False or Misleading Information

If the EDA determines that grant funding was obtained through knowingly false, misleading, or fraudulent information, the recipient may be required to immediately repay the full amount of grant funds awarded and may be deemed ineligible for future EDA assistance.

9. Amendments

The Sherburn Economic Development Authority reserves the right to amend, suspend, or discontinue the Sherburn Childcare Development Grant Program at any time. Such action shall not affect grants previously awarded unless otherwise provided within the executed Grant Agreement.

10. Governing Law

This program and any Grant Agreement executed pursuant to this program shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Venue for any legal action arising under the Grant Agreement shall lie in the appropriate state district court having jurisdiction over Martin County, Minnesota.