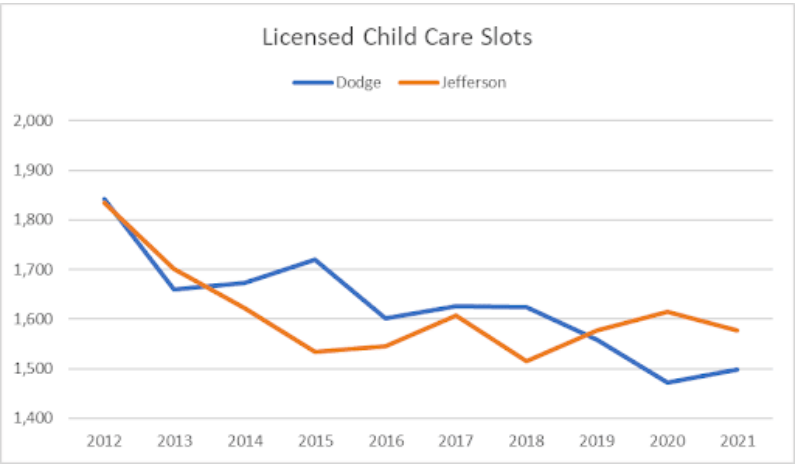


Report: Access to Quality Early Care and Education

Challenge

The costs to operate a childcare businesses are greater than the tuition fees working parents can afford. A broken childcare business model has forced provider closures and significantly limited access to care. Dodge and Jefferson Counties have fewer than 1 slot for every 3 children available.



Strategy

With critical support from local, county and state sources, we continue to activate needed investment in childcare as a key economic driver for our region. Our collaborative workgroup has focused on:

- Access: Adding new childcare slots, supporting existing providers with Shared Services Network, and piloting employer-supported care model
- Advocacy: Working for policy change
- Workforce development: Building and supporting a pipeline of qualified, passionate professionals

Dodge County

Jefferson County

City of Watertown

Dream Up Grant (state)

GWCHF (Foundation)

Local Business Owners

Results



216 new childcare slots added by the end of 2023!

- 126 at new YMCA Early Education Center at the Collective
- 38 via expansion at Willows Christian Childcare Center in Iron Ridge
- 52 via expansion at Gingerbread Preschool & Childcare Center in Watertown (including 20 after-school slots for ages 5+)



Grew number of providers using the Shared Services Network from 31 to 44.



3-year partnership with Madison College to offer FREE early childhood classes (and provide access to scholarships for associate's and/or bachelor's degrees) at their Watertown campus to bolster pipeline of highly qualified employees.



Professional development and support for existing childcare staff provided through the Pyramid Model framework.