



INCREASE QUALITY CHILDCARE ACCESS

- Nearly 80% of survey respondents responded that the Brookings area does not have enough childcare options*
- About 28% of parents invest greater than two months' time into securing childcare*
- Annual cost of registered family childcare is \$5,850 - \$7,250**
- Annual cost of licensed center childcare is \$7,020 - \$9,830**
- Approximately 50% of survey respondents responded that they are willing and/or able to spend \$4,212 – \$6,240 annually, and 30% \$6,292 – 9,360 annually*
- There is an identified need for 915 additional licensed slots to support families with children from birth to 5 years**

Childcare availability has reached a point that it is restricting the potential labor pool in the Brookings region and impacting the quality of life for residents of throughout Brookings County. A comprehensive countywide Childcare Supply Plan was completed in the March of 2022. The plan was conducted through First Children's Finance, a national leader in Childcare research, planning and solutions. The Childcare Supply Plan identified several facts and projections in our existing childcare delivery and areas of needed focus moving forward.

- There are 1,544 children under 5 years who have all of their parents working in the Brookings County workforce
- Brookings county has a capacity of 628 licensed and regulated slots

There is a need for 915 licensed and registered slots. The gap is supported today with unregistered care, under employment or no employment, and parents aligning shifts to take care of their children.

Vision Brookings will look to support and leverage funding for plans that are “**GAME CHANGERS**” addressing the shortage of slots for children birth to age 5. Vision Brookings funding will focus on increasing access to affordable quality childcare.

*2020 Brookings County Child Care Survey Report Completed by Brookings Economic Development Corporation

** 2022 Brookings County Childcare Supply Plan