

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) FAQs

- 1. What are Family, Friend and Neighbor child care providers?**
Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care is unlicensed care provided by a relative, friend or someone in the community. It can occur in the child’s home or in the caregiver’s home. Caregivers may include grandparents, other relatives and non-relatives. It may be full or part-time, paid or unpaid care. To learn more about FFN providers in Minnesota and a DHS funded program that was implemented to support them using CARES Act funds, please read this recently published [report](#).
- 2. Are FNN providers licensed?**
Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care is unlicensed care.
- 3. How many FNN providers are there throughout Minnesota?**
According to the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Department of Human Services’ National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) the number of “unlisted” (aka FFN) providers in Minnesota in 2019 was 82,700.
- 4. Are there special restrictions, regulations or requirements for FFN providers?**
There are no restrictions for FFN caregivers unless they register with the Child Care Assistance Program as a Legal Nonlicensed Provider (LNL). LNL’s must meet various criteria, including completion of a background study and health and safety trainings. [Legal Nonlicensed Provider Registration and Acknowledgment](#).
- 5. Does the state oversee or regulate FNN providers to ensure they provide safe and adequate care?**
Child Care Assistance Program Agencies monitor Legal Nonlicensed Providers who are not related to the children they care for. Monitoring visits are scheduled with the Legal Nonlicensed caregiver and should occur every 12 months. [Child Care Assistance Program Legal Nonlicensed Provider Monitoring Checklist](#).
- 6. What is the Family, Friend and Neighbor Grant Program?**
Grantees will work with the Department of Human Services Child Care Services Division to provide direct supports to FFN caregivers so that they can provide high quality care to the children they care for and provide a caregiving environment that supports early learning, healthy development and improves school readiness.
- 7. Where did the grant money come from?**
Through the CARES Act (2020), federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA; December 2020) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA; March 2021), Minnesota has invested an approximate \$5.5 million to provide support for FFN providers.
\$1 million of the 2020 CARES Act appropriation was directed to provide support for FFN providers.
CRRSA AND ARPA funds of \$4.5 million are supporting a full-time FFN Project Manager, \$2.9 million for grants to support FFN providers, an Outreach Campaign and Environmental Scan to support FFN activities into FY23.
- 8. How were the grants awarded?**

A competitive Request for Proposal was released to solicit applications from racially, culturally and geographically diverse community-based organizations that serve FFN providers. An RFP evaluation team comprised of state staff and community reviewers was selected to evaluate applications. Evaluation criteria for the selection process put a heavy emphasis on serving BIPOC FFN providers and organizations with BIPOC staff and leadership.

9. How many grants were given out?

Eighteen with awards averaging \$150K-\$180K for each grantee.

10. Who are the grantees?

The supports for FFN providers grantees are culturally, racially, and geographically diverse community-based organizations. Please see the Grantee overview for more information.

11. How can/will the grant money be used?

The funding will help agencies develop new FFN networks and strengthen existing ones, offer training and materials to providers, and connect providers to services and resources. Local agencies that receive the funds may use them for:

- Training and resources for FFN providers to improve and promote children's health and safety
- Training for FFN providers to support school-age children's distance learning
- Social emotional learning, health and safety, and early learning kits for FFN providers
- Technology to support virtual connections and training on technology use
- Recruitment to get FFN providers into professional support networks
- Education about child care licensing
- Education about the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Learning Scholarships and other financial supports for families
- Hire staff and navigators to support FFN outreach efforts
- Transportation for FFN providers and children's families to school readiness and other early childhood training activities
- Culturally appropriate early childhood training.

12. How will these grants help improve child care in Minnesota?

These grants will provide opportunities to create trusting relationships and supports for FFN caregivers to enhance their knowledge and the skills that promote children's safety and healthy physical, social/emotional and cognitive development within the context of the child's family and cultural community.

13. Will these grants be available every year?

No. The current funding will end 9/30/2023.