AITKIN COUNTY
EST 1857

Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request

4A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: March 10, 2026

Title of Item: Childcare Economic Development Grant- approval to submit grant application

☑ REGULAR AGENDA	**Action Requested:**	☐ Direction Requested
☐ CONSENT AGENDA	☑ Approve/Deny Motion	☐ Discussion Item
	☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	☐ Information Only
	☐ Hold Public Hearing *provide copy of hearing notice that was published*	

Submitted by:
Mark Jeffers

Department:
Economic Development

Presenter (Name and Title):
Economic Development Coordinator

Estimated Time Needed:
10 minutes

Summary of Issue:

Staff has identified a grant opportunity to support new child care development facilities in Aitkin County.

DEED, through its Economic Development Division, is offering grants designed to support and implement solutions to reduce the childcare shortage in the state, including but not limited to funding for child care business start-ups or expansion, training, facility modifications or incentives to retain employees. The deadline to submit this grant is March 17, 2026.

Aitkin County applied for this grant in August of 2022 and was awarded $100,000. This grant award enabled us to help support the Tamarack Learning Center Childcare Center.

A final version of this grant application will be available when completed.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Approve motion to apply for DEED Childcare Economic Development Grant and authorize the County Administrator and Economic Development Coordinator to manage the grant if awarded.

Financial Impact:
Is there a cost associated with this request? ☐ Yes ☑ No
What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? $
Is this budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No *Please Explain:*

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.