



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Linton Childcare Startup Receives Grant Funds**

BEK Communications Cooperative is pleased to announce the award of a Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) grant to a new startup in Linton, ND.

The Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND) awarded the \$2000 RDFC grant to the Emmons County Interagency Forum Corporation, a 501c(3) nonprofit. The funds will be used to buy furniture and supplies for a new childcare facility in Linton. BEK Communications is a member of BAND, who in turn is a member of RDFC

Balancing the supply and demand in licensed childcare is critical to attracting and retaining qualified employees in small communities. Over the past year, a steering committee of community members has volunteered their time to bring this new childcare startup to fruition.

Acacia Stuckle, a steering committee member, says the facility is sorely needed. "During our parent focus groups, we learned that parents aren't expanding their families because of the daycare shortage. That's devastating to the future of our communities." She goes on to explain the effects on recruiting, "Without adequate childcare to fit the needs of our communities, employers cannot retain employees, and it is difficult to attract families to move to our area."

The project is already off to a running start, having identified the local needs, a capable facility, and possible staff to manage the service.

BEK Communications Cooperative board member Vickie Martin attended the grant presentation ceremony. "This is a wonderful boost to a needed local service. Everyone is affected by the lack of child care at some level. It's encouraging to see so many folks in Emmons County working together to address this issue."



### **About Rural Development Finance Corporation**

The Rural Development Finance Corporation is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperatives, nine of the North Dakota Rural Telecommunication Cooperatives and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. Funding for these programs comes from fee income generated by Dakotas America LLC, a certified development entity providing New Market Tax Credits in the Dakotas. More information on Dakotas America can be found at [www.dakotasamerica.com](http://www.dakotasamerica.com).

### **About BEK Communications Cooperative**

BEK Communications Cooperative, founded in 1952, is a communications services company headquartered in Steele, North Dakota. In the last 67 years, the company has grown to include branch offices in Bismarck and Valley City, and now serves nearly 11,000 customers. BEK provides fiber-based voice, Gigabit broadband, and IP television services; cloud-based security, automation, surveillance, voice, and storage services; and hospital and business communications solutions in North Dakota. The company also provides statewide sports broadcasting on the BEK Sports Network, and television content across North Dakota through KNDM, KNDB, KRDK.

BEK emphasizes their fast, friendly, local service experience and a broad portfolio of high-quality communications, broadcasting, and advertising services.

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