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We've been talking about some of the adverse impacts energy development has created, particularly in western North Dakota. A child care shortage is one of them. North Dakota Child Care Resource and Referral says a community should supply 50% of the demand for child care. Or for every 100 kids who need care, there should be 50 available spaces at a licensed provider. North Dakota averages about 30% but it says there is a solution in progress that is working.

Super Kids Junior Academy in Bismarck provides child care for about 125 kids from birth to 12 years old, and the children seem to enjoy their time there.

"They do. We have a library they can visit, an activity center, and a large playground for them to go out and play," says the owner of Super Kids, Tammy Anderson.

The child care center has encountered some challenges since it opened about four years ago. But a state child care recruitment and retention grant has helped combat them. The legislature supported the \$3.6 million program during the 2009 session. It offers things like online training and onsite consulting for providers.

"We have an education consultant, a health care consultant; we also have a business consultant that usually I meet with once a month. Right now, we're re-writing our business plan," says Anderson.

"Each community has their unique child care need. It's going into a community, looking at that that need might be, doing some assessments and targeting recruitment to address that specific need," says Linda Reinicke with Child Care Resource and Referral.

Child Care Resource and Referral implements the program and has noticed some positive progress in 18 months.

"Absolutely it's working. We have fulfilled all of the objectives. We said we would recruit "X" number of child care providers, over 100 and we've done that. We've worked with over 100 existing child care providers, and we've done that," says Reinicke.

Child Care Resource and Referral says more work still needs to be done. The program was only funded for two years and will expire if the legislature doesn't renew funding this session.

Child Care Resource and Referral says to move North Dakota's child care supply to 50% of demand, 8000 spaces must be generated. No action has been taken yet by the legislature to continue the program.