



February 2021 - Vol. 5, No. 2  
*Lakeville, Minnesota - Positioned to Thrive*

The Thrive! Business Newsletter is intended to provide timely information on new and expanding businesses, information on community business events and monthly development statistics for the City of Lakeville.

To learn more about economic development projects, visit [LakevilleMN.gov/developmentmap](http://LakevilleMN.gov/developmentmap).

## ***Children's Minnesota Opens New Specialty Center in Lakeville***

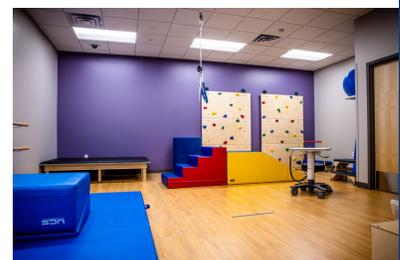
Children's Minnesota opened a new specialty center in Lakeville in January 2021 that offers outpatient pediatric rehabilitation services, with plans to add behavioral health services later this year. The new specialty center expands Children's Minnesota's presence into the south metro, giving families a more accessible and convenient option for pediatric specialty care.

The Children's Minnesota Specialty Center – Lakeville, located at 18432 Kenrick Avenue, is located off I-35 and 185th Street, near Target and Citizens Bank. Rehabilitation services offered include occupational therapy, physical therapy, feeding therapy and speech therapy.

“We are excited to be opening our newest specialty center in Lakeville and helping more families in the south metro get the care they need, where they need it,” said Dr. Marc Gorelick, President and CEO of Children's Minnesota. “Lakeville is one of the fastest growing cities in Minnesota. This expansion is part of our efforts to improve patient access to the high-quality care and services our specialists offer.”

Children's Minnesota is the seventh largest pediatric health system in the United States and the only health system in Minnesota to provide care exclusively to children, from before birth through young adulthood. An independent and not-for-profit system since 1924, Children's Minnesota serves kids throughout the Upper Midwest at two free-standing hospitals, 12 primary and specialty care clinics, and seven rehabilitation sites.

All photos courtesy of Children's Minnesota.



## ***Ribbon Cutting Held for ETS Performance South Metro's New Location***

A ribbon cutting was held on January 25 to celebrate ETS Performance South Metro's expansion into its new location at 21017 Heron Way, Suite 101. ETS Performance offers specialized training programs for "all athletes, at any ability level, from every sport and customized to fit their needs."



To learn more about the business, visit [ETSPerformance.com/south-metro](https://ETSPerformance.com/south-metro).

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## ***David Olson Named Economic Developer of the Year***

Lakeville's Community & Economic Development Director, David Olson was recently named Economic Developer of the Year by the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM).



The [\*\*EDAM Economic Developer of the Year\*\*](#) award recognizes a true leader in the industry from the past year. This person exemplifies excellence in economic development and leadership. The award is intended for a professional who utilizes best practices, collaborative thinking, creativity and a spirit of innovation.

The City of Lakeville experienced a record development year in 2020 and Olson played a crucial role in making sure that not only were developers looking at Lakeville, but that projects got through the planning, review and construction processes. In addition, he administered three small business grant program rounds to help Lakeville's business community during the pandemic.

Congratulations Dave!

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## ***Dakota County 2021 Employers of Excellence Survey Open***

The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board invites employers to participate in the 2021 Employers of Excellence Awards. Survey costs are covered by the Workforce Development Board and area sponsors, including Dakota County Community Development Agency, Scott County Community Development Agency, Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College.



The Workforce Development Board works with Personnel Dynamics Consulting to collect the data from area businesses. Personnel Dynamics will analyze the data and calculate the turnover rates, growth percentages, promotion percentages and benefit packages for each company. A total of 37 measurements are analyzed. Every participating company will receive a confidential, personalized report detailing how they compared with other area companies and suggestions for improving their work environment. This year's survey will include new qualitative questions to gather feedback organizations have used adjusting to COVID-19.

"The Employers of Excellence program has been valuable both internally and externally for Hydra-Flex," said Carrie Berran, human resources manager for Hydra-Flex, Inc., a previous winner. "Our job applicants appreciate that we are recognized as an Employer of Excellence. We also use the survey report information to see how we stack up against other area companies and look for ways to improve the employee experience for all our team members."

Contact [\*\*Workforce Development Board Director Mark Jacobs via email\*\*](#) or at 651-554-5622 for more information. Go to [\*\*personneldynamics.net/survey.asp\*\*](https://personneldynamics.net/survey.asp) to start the survey. Deadline for survey completion is March 5. The Workforce Development Board will



Open to Business is thrilled to announce our new **Business Bootcamp!** Designed to sharpen skills and plans for the New Year, participants will finish the program with:

- A tailored 360 degree business review with subject-matter experts.
- A work plan for 2021 with concrete steps.
- Tailored mentorship on marketing, website development, SEO, financing, forecasting, sales strategies and more.

This free program is designed for existing businesses. Applications will be accepted beginning in early 2021.

For more information, please contact Open to Business at [info@mcedmn.org](mailto:info@mcedmn.org) or visit [opentobusinessmn.org](http://opentobusinessmn.org).

## ***Dakota County Accepting Small Business Grant Applications Through February 12***

Dakota County has \$8.3 million available to assist businesses and nonprofit organizations suffering financially due to COVID-19. Grant funds can be used for operating costs, payroll, rent, mortgage, inventory, personal protective equipment and other qualifying expenses.



Eligibility requirements include:

- Be a private for-profit business or nonprofit that has a permanent physical location in Dakota County, Minnesota.
- Home-based businesses and franchisees are eligible.
- Eligible nonprofit organizations include arts organizations, museums and fitness centers, that earn revenue similar to businesses.
- Employ 75 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees. Sole proprietors are eligible.
- No current tax liens on record with Minnesota Secretary of State and in good standing with Dakota County.
- Impacted, directly or indirectly, by an Executive Order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In operation on or before November 1, 2020.

Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received grant funding from Dakota County or the State of Minnesota (DEED or Department of Revenue).

Complete program guidelines, priority groups and frequently asked questions are available online at [dakotacounty.us](http://dakotacounty.us) or [dakotaeda.org](http://dakotaeda.org).