

STARFISH

FAMILY SERVICES

ABOUT US



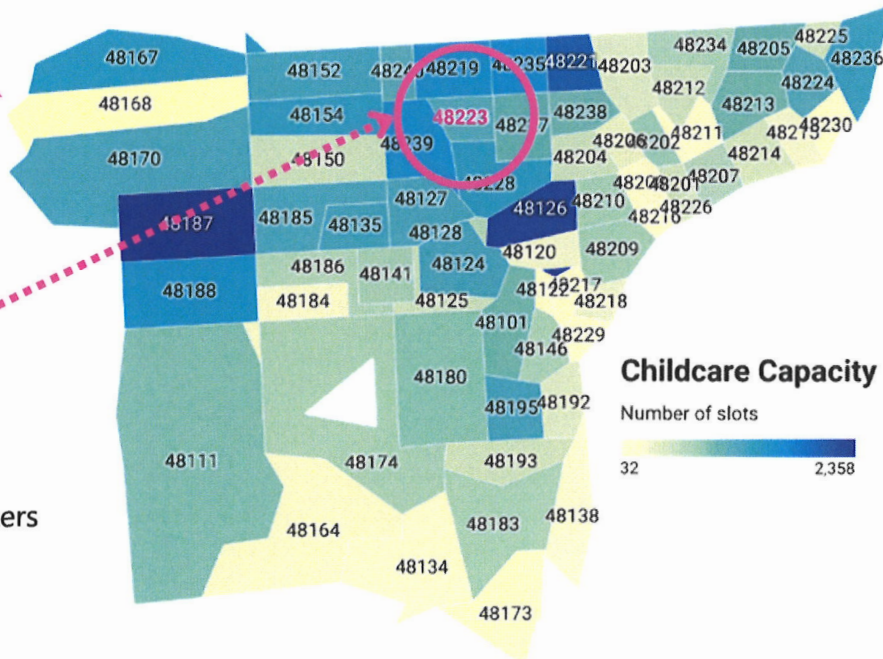
IMPACT IN DETROIT



CHILDCARE DESERT



3 children for every 1 available seat
* even less availability for infants and toddlers



THE NEED IN BRIGHTMOOR

The Need

In the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit, families face a critical lack of access to licensed early childhood education. Of the 6,500 children under 18 in the neighborhood, 27% are under the age of five, yet there are virtually no licensable, high-quality child care options. This contributes to Detroit's broader child care desert, where 22,000 children citywide under age five are not enrolled in licensed programs.

Access to early childhood education is essential for economic mobility, workforce participation, and community revitalization. Parents can only work and help their neighborhoods thrive when safe, trusted care is available.

The Solution

Starfish Family Services proposes to purchase and renovate a vacant building in Brightmoor to create a vibrant new neighborhood space that provides early childhood education and access to behavioral health services.

This new site will:

- Offer a multidisciplinary approach serving both children and caregivers.
- Become a trusted hub for family support, health, and learning.
- Create up to 96 new early childhood education slots, reducing scarcity and empowering families.

The Design

Inspired by the Marygrove Early Education Center, the Brightmoor location will reflect:

- Natural playscapes and outdoor classrooms.
- Thoughtfully designed spaces.
- On-site behavioral health and family wellness supports.
- Community gathering and flexible learning spaces.

Funding Request

Our FY26 request is for \$4 million to fund:

- Property acquisition in Brightmoor.
- Extensive renovations needed to meet licensing and quality standards.
- Furniture, equipment, and build-out aligned with Starfish's multidisciplinary model.

