**Community Assessment Update 2020**

Overall, there have been limited community updates since the 2017 Community Assessment was completed for the SENDCAA Head Start program.

In West Fargo, Grace Garden opened in 2019. Grace Garden provides an environment of stability, safety, and support for once-homeless individuals and families, many who are domestic violence survivors. Onsite there is a YWCA team, and with their support families living at Grace Garden will gain jobs, grow in health, and find new opportunities. Grace Garden provides housing to 30 families at risk of homelessness, many of them transitioning from domestic violence. This facility is less than a 10-minute drive from our West Fargo Site.

The Fargo-Moorhead Dorothy Day House of Hospitality and Churches United for the Homeless began as one organization. On Jan. 1, 2019 the Dorothy Day House and its two food pantries located in Moorhead and West Fargo became part of Churches United for the Homeless. The changes seen will be that all organizations will be under one executive director, they will have one board, and one business office. This will help bring a unified approach to services in the Fargo-Moorhead community.

Friends of the Children in Fargo/Moorhead was established in July 2019. They are a professional mentoring agency that works with the youth for four hours per week, two hours in school and two hours outside of school. The organization then works with the youth and their caregivers for 12 plus years, no matter what.

Overall, the impacts of these changes in our community provide more services and resources to families and children in need. With the opening of Grace Garden, stability, safety and support for once-homeless families find a home and support within our community. SENDCAA Head Start has reached out to Grace Garden to spread awareness of our program and how we can collaborate and coordinate services. With the change of structure of the Dorothy Day House and Churches United, the process for supporting families in need have been streamlined and are more efficient in working together due to having one executive director and one overall board to oversee the organization. With the addition of Friends of the Children, children born into poverty are provided with opportunities of support and a professional mentor, called a Friend, for their entire childhood, from kindergarten through graduation. 12.5 years.