

\$1.5Bln to Be Spent on Maternity Care Centers in Fight With Demographic Decline

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Facing a demographic crisis for about two decades, the government is spending \$1.5 billion to build 32 maternity care centers across dozens of regions "in dire need of support," Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Monday.

The centers, to feature advanced facilities for caring for high-risk newborns, will be constructed in 30 regions by 2016, Medvedev said at a meeting in his residence in Gorki, outside Moscow.

The country has been dealing with ebbing demographics, including through brain drain and lower birth rates, since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia's population in 2009 grew for the first time in 15 years.

The government has been providing \$330 a month to mothers with three or more kids since

last year, more than double the previous payout, in an effort to boost birth rates.

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