

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



**In 2023, the Oregon legislature must keep its promise to strengthen the way the state serves children and families through community driven solutions and equity-centered decision making.**

This year brings a unique opportunity for legislators to keep the momentum going and stay focused on child-centered policy. State leaders must continue to build the early learning and care system that children families, providers, and the state economy need .

Oregon’s Early Childhood Coalition has worked to create policy with and for families. When we do this, we influence better policies, programs, and services that more effectively provide each child and family with what they need.

State investments in early childhood are a win for every Oregonian. They support brain development, the health and wellbeing of children, families, and communities, and the broader economic wellbeing of our state.

The right investments will strengthen child care and preschool, key components of Oregon’s economic infrastructure. They will expand child care and preschool facilities, and grow the workforce needed for a strong early learning and care sector.

These are the essential pieces of a strong state economy that strengthens family and community resilience. They are investments the legislature must make today so that our children, families, and communities thrive.

Oregon has made progress in its effort to help each child reach their full potential. That work stems from the promise to build a strong early learning and care system designed for and built by families and communities.

That promise is in the hands of the 2023 state legislature, today’s leadership must ensure the progress continues.

**— Oregon’s Early Childhood Coalition**

## COALITION PARTNERS



# 2023 PRIORITIES FOR EARLY LEARNING & CARE

## CONTINUE TO EXPAND SERVICES TO REACH MORE CHILDREN

### Relief Nursery Capacity Expansion

\$21.1 million

Support the Department of Early Learning and Care budget request of \$5.3 million above current service level to sustain Relief Nursery operations and prevent unnecessary foster care for over 2,300 children and families at 38 sites across Oregon. Request an additional \$15.8 million to expand infant and early childhood mental health and early childhood services to 855 children by adding 35 therapeutic classrooms and 21 home visitors. Four new Relief Nurseries will be added in La Pine, Sweet Home, Coos Bay, and Beaverton.

Lead Advocate: Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

### \*Early Childhood Equity Fund Expansion and Enhancements

\$10 million

Increase funding to the Equity Fund to serve more rural and tribal communities, serve more kids and families through existing early childhood programs, and enhance wages to stabilize programs.

Lead Advocate: Early Childhood Equity Collaborative

### Increased Funding for Healthy Families Oregon

\$14.4 million

Achieve pay parity for home visitors. Make continued progress on wages, staffing, and quality assurance at the Department of Early Learning and Care.

Lead Advocate: Council for a Strong America – Fight Crime: Invest in Kids & ReadyNation

## BUILD A DIVERSE, SKILLED, FAIRLY COMPENSATED WORKFORCE

### \*HB 2991, HB 2993: Equity in Early Childhood Workforce

Address structural barriers through policy change to remove institutional barriers to entering the early childhood workforce. Create clear pathways to training & jobs, increase culturally and linguistically responsible training curriculum, and expand diversity of trainers.

Lead Advocate: Early Childhood Equity Collaborative

## EXPAND NEEDED FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

### \*SB 599: Protecting Providers in Rental Homes

Ensure Landlords cannot discriminate against home-based child care providers. Increase liability protections for providers and landlords.

Lead Advocate: Children's Institute

### Child Care Zoning and Building Code Study and Recommendations (HB 2727)

Conduct a review of five local government zoning, land use, and building code requirements; and their impact on early learning and care facilities in homes and centers, including disproportionate impacts. Make recommendations for change.

Lead Advocate: Children's Institute

### \*HB 3005: Early Learning and Care Facilities Fund

\$100 million

Create an early learning and care facilities fund to expand quality, culturally relevant programs in Oregon.

Lead Advocate: Children's Institute

## SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING

### State Payment Non-Federal Match for Nurse-Family Partnership Medicaid Billing

\$8 million

NFP empowers first-time parents facing economic and social barriers by partnering them with a nurse home visitor who visits families beginning during pregnancy through age 2 of the child. This investment will ensure counties don't face the barrier of paying the non-federal match required to bill Medicaid for serving families. This will provide sustainability for current programs and let new counties start to serve families.

Lead Advocate: Nurse-Family Partnership

\* Coalition partners identified these priorities as most important for advancing racial equity and meeting the needs of the whole early childhood community.