Nearly 75 percent of communities in Oregon are child care deserts. For children ages 0-2 every county in Oregon is a child care desert. Less than a third of children age 0-5 have access to regulated facilities. Child care supply dropped by 20 percent during the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents are often unable to work or get education and training when they can’t access care, undermining the strength of Oregon’s workforce.

Investments in child care and preschool are upstream investments that support children, families, communities, businesses, and the state economy. Great facilities support brain development, child and staff well-being, and provide quality opportunities for healthy development and early learning. Infrastructure investments will strengthen the child care and preschool workforce. Early childhood workforce investments will have a positive impact on women of color in the workforce and families of color looking to access care.

This approach is supported by Oregon’s Early Childhood Coalition, comprised of more than 70 organizations advocating for a stronger statewide early childhood system. Learn more at: childinst.org/ecc