

Oregon's Early Childhood Infrastructure



Greater public investment to expand early childhood facilities is crucial to build the capacity of Oregon's child care and preschool system. Across Oregon, demand for preschool and child care far exceeds the supply. We need to grow capacity across the state to meet demand and provide essential services for parents, families, and children.

2023 Priorities

- Create an **Early Childhood Infrastructure Fund** and continue co-location investments: **\$100 million - HB 3005**
- Initiate a **review of local barriers** to expanding facilities: **HB 2727**
- **Protect child care providers** operating in rental homes: **SB 599**
- **Fund shovel-ready bonding requests** for early learning & care projects across Oregon: **Capital Construction budget request TBD**

Why Now

- 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

