



2024

Oregon Early Childhood Coalition LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

In 2024, providers, families, and advocates from across Oregon call on the Legislature to make urgent investments to support early learning and care, and early childhood health.

The Oregon Legislature has unfinished business from 2023, to prioritize young children prenatal through age 5. Immediate crises in housing and addiction are urgent. Yet the stories of Oregonians and decades of research tell us that these crises are often rooted in trauma experienced in early childhood.

Investing in proven services for children, prenatal through age 5 and their families, improves equitable opportunities now and prevents future challenges. Oregon must continue its progress and keep promises from previous sessions to invest in a brighter future for every child.

Support Economic Well-being of Children

Employment Related Daycare (ERDC)

Oregon instituted a waitlist for the [ERDC](#) program on November 4, 2023. ERDC allows families to go to work, school, and support their families' well-being. Urgent investment in this program is needed to fill a deficit and lift the waitlist.

Funding ask to be determined for 2024. The Department of Early Learning and Care's (DELIC) Policy Option Package for 2023 was \$250 million.

CHIPS Childcare for Construction Workforce

The Federal [CHIPS Act](#) provides Oregon CHIP manufacturers subsidies to build the infrastructure they need to grow this sector. Leveraging existing state child care systems will ensure CHIPS applicants meet application requirements.

\$5 million

Child Care Infrastructure Fund

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed [HB 3005](#) and provided \$50 million in lottery bond funding for child care facilities. However, licensed home-based and small center child care providers will be better served by a general fund investment in facilities.

\$5 million

Provide Educational Opportunity

Early Literacy Success	Distribute funding for the Birth through Five Literacy Plan in alignment with the Department of Early Learning & Care (DELIC) recommendation.	\$10 million <i>(already allocated)</i>
Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education	Special Education services for children 0-5 increase school readiness, reduce later costs, and support families to foster life-long success. The program was funded anticipating no growth in caseloads. A \$22 million investment would support 5% caseload growth and help prevent devastating cuts.	\$22 million
Early Learning Educator Scholarship Program	Higher education is out of reach for many in early childhood. Yet access to education can increase outcomes for children and economic opportunity for providers. In 2023, the legislature passed HB 3561 to expand this program, but failed to allocate funds to implement.	\$2.5 million

Stabilize Services That Support Family Well-being

Relief Nurseries	Relief Nurseries partner with families to be the best parents they can be, support child development, and prevent unnecessary foster care. This investment stabilizes services for 2300 children and families in 38 communities.	\$2.7 million
Healthy Families Oregon	Healthy Families promotes child well-being and prevents neglect and abuse through in-home support. This investment will advance pay parity for staff to stabilize this workforce, allowing these proven services to reach more children and families.	\$2.7 million
Nurse Family Partnership	Nurse Family Partnership empowers first time parents experiencing economic and social barriers by pairing them with a nurse home visitor who works alongside them and their children, from prenatal to age two. This investment will ensure greater stability for services for families.	\$3.16 million

