

In 2026, providers, families, and advocates call on the Oregon Legislature to stabilize essential early learning and care services that thousands of Oregon children and families rely on.

These are the steps the Oregon Legislature must take to meet this urgent moment:

1**Protect and maintain**

funding for essential early childhood programs.

2**Restore**

a portion of recently reduced program funding.

3**Use revenue and reserves**

to stop further cuts and restore early childhood programs.

Protect Critical Prevention Services for Children and Families

We urge the Legislature to **protect and maintain funding for essential early childhood programs** including, child care preschool, Relief Nursery services, and home visiting.

- Restore \$10–\$20 million in cuts to services through DELC.**

The 2025–27 state budget reduced funding by \$45 million from the current service level for early learning and child care programs at DELC, limiting providers' ability to retain staff, keep classrooms open, and manage rising costs.

- Restore Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten** budget to the Legislatively Adopted Budget
- Restore \$4 million to Preschool Promise**; for inflationary increases
- Restore \$0.7 million to Healthy Families Oregon**, plus \$0.5 million that can be repurposed within DELC; for inflationary increases and to undo program cuts
- Restore \$0.5 million to Relief Nurseries**; for inflationary increases

- Address the Employment Related Day Care shortfall of \$73–88 million.**

Oregon's economy and working families rely on child care. Without legislative action **ERDC will run out of funding in January 2027, threatening access for 12,000 families** and destabilizing the child care system.

Invest in Early Relational Health Interventions Through Oregon Health Authority

Strong caregiver relationships in the first 1,000 days of a child's life lay the foundation for lifelong outcomes, underscoring the need to **invest in interventions that support early relational health**, like home visiting and Relief Nurseries.

- **Restore \$1.6 million for Nurse Family Partnership home visiting.**

Nurse-Family Partnership improves prenatal health, school readiness, maternal employment, and child safety. **Restoring state funding for the required Medicaid match would support families and draw down federal Medicaid dollars.**

- **Support a technical fix to doula legislation (SB 1568)**

Senator Reynolds, the Oregon Health Authority, and advocates have collaborated on technical fixes to doula and lactation counselor legislation that **support implementation and carry no fiscal impact.**



Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries



Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) envisions an Oregon where all children experience high quality early learning and care, and where the expertise of families and children drive policy and investment.

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