



Rethinking Child Care in Michigan

State Board of Education
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September 14, 2016



Why We Do This Work



Michigan's Child Care Subsidy

Michigan's Child Care Subsidy Basics

Investment

In FY 2015, Michigan invested almost **\$156 million** of state and federal dollars in the child care subsidy.

Children Served

In FY 2015, Michigan served nearly **30,000 children**.

Enrollment Requirements

Families are eligible if parents or guardians are working, completing high school, or participating in another approved activity. In addition, family income must be below **121 percent of federal poverty level (FPL)**.

Reimbursement

For participating families, the **state reimbursement rate starts at \$1.35 and varies** based on the setting, age of the child, and quality of care.

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Michigan's Declining Investment

Michigan's **investment in the child care subsidy is declining.** In 2007, total subsidy payments were \$416 million—ranking 11th highest in the country. Now, investments rank 11th lowest.



How can Michigan improve access to quality child care?

Research Plan

- State scan
- Online survey
- Focus groups with parents and providers
- Community forums
- Recommendations

What Parents Want

High-quality, affordable child care where their child is safe, happy, healthy, and learning

What's Working

- Increased focus on quality
- Increased access to quality care
- Expansion of the Great Start Readiness Program
- Increased access to professional development
- Increased communication and collaboration across the system

How to Increase Access to Quality Child Care

Increase financial assistance to families

Increase access to quality providers

Make it easier for providers to improve their programs

Increase access to quality information

Support the early childhood workforce

Increase Financial Assistance to Families



- 1.1 Improve the application process
- 1.2 Help families access the subsidy faster
- 1.3 Raise reimbursement rates
- 1.4 Raise the threshold for initial eligibility

Increase Access to Quality Providers



- 2.1 Continue to reassess payment policies
- 2.2 Contract with quality providers
- 2.3 Explore community-based eligibility
- 2.4 Better understand need
- 2.5 Help quality providers increase capacity

Make it Easier for Providers to Improve Their Programs



- 3.1 Create a provider advisory team
- 3.2 Continue to explore how to best support unlicensed providers
- 3.3 Provide funding to support quality improvements

Make it Easier for Providers to Improve Their Programs (cont.)



- 3.4 Align expectations across programs and funding streams
- 3.5 Create blueprints outlining how to implement multiple programs and funding streams
- 3.6 Increase support during the licensing process
- 3.7 Increase participation in Great Start to Quality

Increase Access to Quality Information



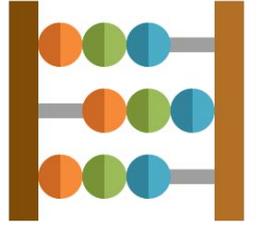
- 4.1 Support a hotline to answer questions from parents, providers, and caseworkers
- 4.2 Expand training for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services caseworkers

Increase Access to Quality Information (cont.)



- 4.3 Provide consistent information across all sources
- 4.4 Launch a statewide public awareness campaign about quality child care
- 4.5 Continually improve the Great Start to Quality website
- 4.6 Create an ombudsman position

Support the Early Childhood Workforce



- 5.1 Assess professional development opportunities for licensed providers
- 5.2 Explore how to improve benefits and wages

Questions?

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