

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

PRIORITIZING EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE



Every family in Michigan deserves access to safe, quality, affordable childcare that meets their needs—regardless of how old their kids are, where they live, how much they make, or their race, ethnicity, or immigration status. Through the pandemic, few felt the strain more than Michigan’s working families who juggled work and childcare amidst unprecedented circumstances. Governor Whitmer has continued to put families and children first by prioritizing investments in our children’s earliest years. She is expanding early learning opportunities to give every child in Michigan access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning opportunities. These investments put children on a path to success and strengthen our economy by helping parents return to work knowing their children are safe and learning.

SIGNED THE LARGEST CHILD CARE INVESTMENT IN STATE HISTORY

- Signed a record \$1.4 billion in childcare funding to expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare by:
 - Strengthening existing childcare programs and opening more childcare businesses across the state.
 - Retaining and recruiting childcare professionals with \$1,000 bonuses and access to affordable college degrees and certificates.
 - Increasing childcare subsidy rates to better align state payments with the cost of providing high quality care.



“When parents have access to affordable, available, reliable, and safe childcare, it is transformative for Michigan’s economy and children’s lives.”

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

EXPANDED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000 more four-year olds through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Created access to affordable childcare for 112,000 more children and their families. Families of four earning up to \$49,000 are eligible for free or low-cost childcare under new criteria, boosting Michigan’s economic momentum by helping parents go back to work knowing that their kids are cared for.
- Kept childcare providers open and serving kids:
 - Invested \$700 million through the Child Care Stabilization Grant to provide operational grants to local childcare businesses.
 - Invested \$215 million to support over 7,000 childcare providers with emergency federal relief through the Child Care Relief Fund.
 - Signed a budget providing \$105 million in funding for childcare businesses that accept the childcare subsidy.
- Created Disaster Relief Childcare Centers to ensure essential workers had access to care and partnered with Help Me Grow to connect workers to open childcare programs.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

- Led by example by enacting paid parental leave up to 12 weeks for state employees.
- Supported an expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit for nearly 2 million Michigan families thanks to leadership from the congressional delegation and the Biden administration.