

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.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE

- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000 more four-year olds through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Expanded the childcare subsidy to help 7,000 more families get access to quality affordable care.
- Created Disaster Relief Childcare Centers to ensure essential workers had access to care and partnered with Help Me Grow to connect workers to open child care programs.
- Kept childcare providers open and serving kids:
 - 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 child care subsidy.



“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

PLANNING FOR HISTORIC INVESTMENTS

- Proposed a record \$1.4 billion investment in federal childcare funding, expanding access to high-quality, affordable childcare.
 - Provides access to low or no cost childcare for 150,000 more children.
 - Invests in childcare professionals through increased wages and more access to affordable college degrees and certificates.
 - Increases childcare subsidy rates to more closely align state payments and the cost of quality care.
 - Expands access to childcare statewide by keeping childcare open and helping providers expand to communities without enough childcare.

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.