

Growing Together

A Local Government's Guide to Supporting Child
Care Businesses



Overview

- **The Picture of Child Care** in Michigan
- **Local Government** and Opening Child Care Business
- **Local Leaders' Role** in Supporting Child Care



Child Care in Michigan



Michigan operates in a mixed delivery environment. Care is both **publicly funded and privately funded**.



Child Care is a vital industry in Michigan: a lack of affordable care is **estimated to cost the state \$3 Billion** annually in economic productivity.



Additional local requirements can **increase the cost and time** it takes to be licensed



The Good News: several steps involve local units of government, and YOU have the power to be a child care advocate in your community.

Opening a Child Care Business

- ❑ **Learn** licensing rules
- ❑ **Choose** site location (home or center)
- ❑ **Submit** application, with supporting documentation and fees: includes zoning approval by an architect (homes) and a site use plan and plan review (centers)
- ❑ **Complete** required inspections and submit all documents
- ❑ **Complete** fingerprinting and background checks
- ❑ **Complete** required trainings, including orientation trainings for home providers
- ❑ **Pass** on-site inspection
- ❑ **Receive** license

Planning and Zoning

- Include child care in your **master plan**
- Review **fee schedules** for alignment across businesses
- Consider your community's **care needs**



Inspections

The cost and timing of inspections can be a challenge for new child care businesses. **To address this municipalities may consider the following:**

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- ✓ Informal **walkthroughs**
 - ✓ Strict **timelines**
 - ✓ **Navigational supports**
 - ✓ Publishing **fee schedules** for initial and re-inspections

Supporting a Healthy Business Climate

- How do you **talk about your current and needed capacity for child care?**
- Do you include child care in other business and economic development initiatives, such as **ribbon cuttings and newsletter mentions?**
- When **mixed use developments** and **capital investment opportunities** arise, do you think of child care businesses?
- If you have navigators for opening a business, how might child care businesses become eligible for support? **Are all businesses eligible for support?**



Other Supportive Efforts

- Talk about and treat child care like you would **any other critical industry**
- Encourage young people in your community to **work or volunteer at a child care business**
- **Share information** on existing child care in your community
- Meet with **child care providers**
- **Center families** in all discussions surrounding child care
- Encourage local employers to **participate in MI Tri-Share**



Summary

Michigan's child care system requires the **support of all levels of government** to thrive

Decisions like **local Master Plans and zoning maps** have material impact

Have **clear, equitable fees** and **reasonable timelines** will prevent unnecessary burdens

Treat child care like **any other business in a community** and give access to the same **resources, tools, and promotional materials** as their counterparts

THANK YOU!

