# **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.

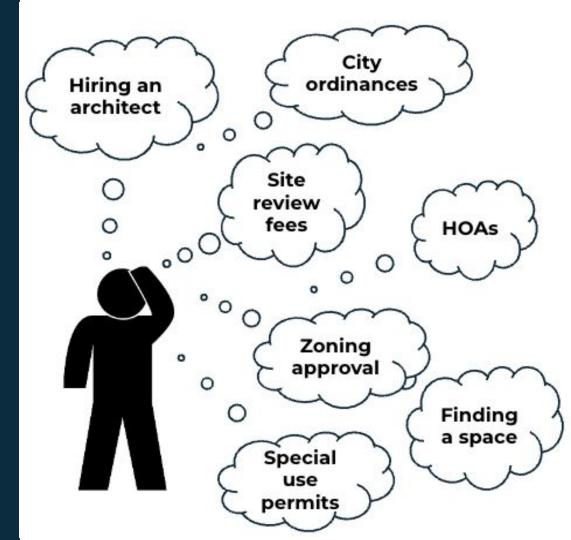
## **Opening a Child Care Business**

- **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

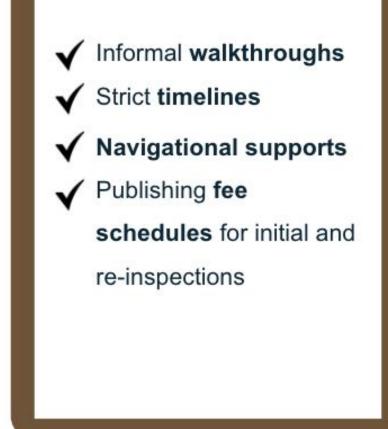
# Planning and Zoning

- 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:



## **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!**

