



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG MICHIGANDERS

Every family in Michigan deserves access to safe, quality, and affordable child care that meets their needs. Governor Whitmer has put families and children first by making record investments in our children's earliest years. These investments put kids on a path to success and strengthen our economy by helping parents return to work knowing their children are safe and learning.

Lowered the cost of child care for Michigan families

- Expanded access to free pre-K to every four-year-old so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. Announced record PreK enrollment—up 31% since 2023. 56% of Michigan's four-year-olds are enrolled in free PreK.
- Invested over \$65M in Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Start Up Grants to help open or expand more than 2,300 PreK classrooms.
- Launched Tri-Share program splitting cost of child care between families, employers, and the state, available to families in 59 counties. Participation has grown 100 percent.
- Enacted paid parental leave of up to 12 weeks for state employees.
- Signed a budget investing \$25 million to continue the Strong Beginnings preschool program for 3-year-olds.

Expanded access to quality care and strengthened child care businesses

- Achieved an ambitious goal to open 1,000 more child care programs by the end of 2024 through Caring for Mi Future—a \$100 million strategy.
- Signed a record \$1.4 billion in child care funding supporting child care businesses and professionals and expanding access to affordable child care for 150,000 more children. Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost child care.
- Invested \$700 million through the Child Care Stabilization Grant program to provide grants to nearly 6,000 local child care businesses.
- Secured \$30 million to recruit and retain skilled child care professionals and early educators by improving compensation and trying out new ways to boost recruitment.
- Signed a bipartisan child care bill package expanding access to care for families by keeping child care sites open through common-sense reforms.
- Launched Nurture Benefits Pilot Program to offer health and retirement benefits to early educators.