



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.

Making record bipartisan investments in child care

- [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.
 - Launched [Our Strong Start](#), a resource hub for child care entrepreneurs to get licensed and connect with grant opportunities.
 - Established [Regional Child Care Grants](#) to provide up to \$150,000 to bring together regional coalitions to assess and respond to local child care needs.
- [Expanded](#) access to free pre-K to every four-year-old while prioritizing families who need it most so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. [Announced record](#) PreK enrollment—up 24% since 2023.
- [Proposed a budget](#) with \$50 million further expanding access to affordable child care for families.
- [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 [Tri-Share program](#) splitting cost of child care between families, employers, and the state, available to families in [59 counties](#). Proposed [expansion](#) in budget.

Strengthening Michigan families

- [Enacted paid parental leave](#) of up to 12 weeks for state employees.
- Quintupled the [Michigan Working Families Tax Credit](#) to give over 700,000 working families an average tax refund of \$3,150.