



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG MICHIGANDERS



Every family in Michigan deserves access to safe, quality, 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 investments in childcare

- [Signed](#) a record \$1.4 billion in child care funding to:
 - Strengthen existing programs and open more facilities across the state.
 - Deliver [\\$1,000 bonuses](#) to 38,000 child care professionals and expand access to affordable college degrees and certificates to boost recruitment.
 - Increase child care subsidy rates so families have more options for care and providers are better paid for services

Expanding access to affordable early learning and care

- [Signed a budget](#) putting Michigan on a path towards [Pre-K for All](#), to make preschool free for all four-year-olds by the end of the second term by significantly expanding the Great Start Readiness Program, saving Michigan families an average of \$10,000.
- Expanded 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.
- Secured \$30 million to recruit and retain skilled [child care professionals and early educators](#) by improving compensation and piloting new strategies.
- Invested \$700 million through the [Child Care Stabilization Grant](#) to provide grants to [nearly 6,000](#) local child care businesses.
- Invested \$215 million to support over 7,000 child care providers with emergency federal relief through the [Child Care Relief Fund](#).
- Signed a budget providing \$105 million in [funding for child care businesses](#) that receive the child care subsidy.
- Set an ambitious goal to open 1,000 more child care programs by the end of 2024 and launched [Caring for Mi Future](#)—a \$100 million strategy that has already helped [nearly 700 child care](#) entrepreneurs open new programs.
 - 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.
- 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.
- Created [Disaster Relief Child Care Centers](#) to ensure essential workers had access to care and partnered with [Help Me Grow](#) to connect workers to open child care programs

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.