



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG MICHIGANDERS

Every family in Michigan deserves access to safe, quality, affordable childcare that meets their needs—regardless of how old their kids are, where they live, how much they make, their race, ethnicity, or immigration status. Governor Whitmer has put families and children first by prioritizing investments in our children’s earliest years. These investments put children on a path to success and strengthen our economy by helping parents return to work knowing their children are safe and learning.

“Access to affordable, high-quality childcare is transformative for our youngest Michiganders, working families, and Michigan’s economy.”

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Making record investments in childcare

- [Signed](#) a record \$1.4 billion in childcare funding to expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare by:
 - Strengthening existing childcare programs and opening more childcare businesses across the state.
 - Delivered [\\$1,000 bonuses](#) to 38,000 childcare professionals and expanded access to affordable college degrees and certificates to boost recruitment.
 - Increasing childcare subsidy rates to better align state payments with the cost of providing high quality care.

Expanding access to affordable early learning and care

- Expanded access to free preschool for 22,000+ more four-year-olds through Great Start Readiness Program.
- Expanded access to affordable childcare for 150,000 more children. Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost childcare.
- Kept childcare providers open and serving kids:
 - Invested \$700 million through the Child Care Stabilization Grant to provide operational grants to nearly 6,000 local childcare businesses.
 - Invested \$215 million to support over 7,000 childcare providers with emergency federal relief through the Child Care Relief Fund.
 - Signed a budget providing \$105 million in funding for childcare businesses that accept the childcare subsidy.
- Set an ambitious goal to open 1,000 more childcare programs by the end of 2024 and launched Caring for Mi Future—a \$100 million strategy to get there.
 - 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 childcare bill package to expand access to care for families by keeping childcare sites open through common-sense reforms.
- Launched the first in the nation [Tri-Share program](#) to split the cost of child care between working families, employers, and the state. Tri-Share is available at 85 employers and serving families in [59 counties](#).
- 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 childcare programs.

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Strengthening Michigan families

- Led by example by enacting paid parental leave up to 12 weeks for state employees.
- Supported an expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit for nearly 2 million Michigan families.
- Coordinated a statewide response to the national baby formula shortage.