

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

In her State of the State address, the governor will announce new policies that expand access to child care that benefit our kids, lift families out of poverty, and generate economic activity.

THE PROBLEM

Parents need quality, affordable child care that is available when they need it and in a convenient location. However, across Michigan and for families at all income levels, care is too expensive and difficult to find. This is especially true for parents with infants and toddlers, and those needing care during non-traditional hours. That's why in Michigan, we're making child care a top priority. Child care keeps Michigan working and builds a stronger tomorrow.

THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN:

Improve Affordability

Care is too expensive for middle class families, but Michigan's child care subsidy is only available to very low-income families. The eligibility is currently set at 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is the second lowest in the nation.

- THE PLAN:
 - Raise the entry threshold to 150% FPL (for a family of four, this would raise the annual income limit from \$34,060 to \$39,300).
 - Cut the red tape and help people navigate the system to make it easier to sign up for this child care program.
 - As people earn a promotion, pay raise, or pick up extra hours at work, they shouldn't have to worry about losing their child care. We will help them stay in the program as they improve their financial position.

Expand Pre-K for kids that need it most

Children who attend a full-day pre-school program have an increased vocabulary and outperform their peers in cognition, literacy, math, and physical development. Investing in quality early education is essential to eliminate the disparity of low-income children who fall behind in third grade reading.

- THE PLAN:
 - Provide additional funding to Great Start Readiness Program.
 - Coordinate with existing structures to direct the increased funding to the kids who need it the most.
 - Create a continuum of care from birth through kindergarten for low- and moderate- income families.

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