



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, or 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.
 - Retaining and recruiting childcare professionals with [\\$1,000 bonuses](#) and access to affordable college degrees and certificates.
 - 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 and proposed grants to [open classrooms in more communities.](#)
- Expanded access to affordable childcare for [112,000 more children.](#) Families earning less than \$49,000 are 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.
- Created [Disaster Relief Childcare Centers](#) to ensure essential workers had access to care and partnered with [Help Me Grow](#) to connect workers to open childcare programs.
- Launched pilots of the [Tri-Share program](#) to expand childcare access to more families in [59 counties.](#)

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.](#)