

Early Learning and Care Facilities

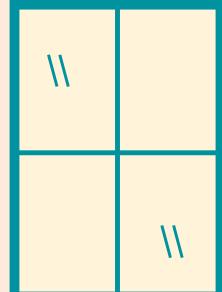


Problem

Quality early childhood facilities are critical for safety, healthy child development, good working conditions, and thriving communities, but public, private and philanthropic investments in the physical conditions of child care facilities are rare. Even when programs secure funding they can struggle with complex zoning issues.

Quality early learning and child care buildings, classrooms, and outdoor areas:

- Support child brain development
- Promote educator well-being
- Support families to be able to work



Solution

Oregon's proactive funding of child care facilities makes the state a leader in child care facilities investments and a model for other states. The Oregon Legislature has taken positive steps by funding three coordinated efforts to address the need for quality, affordable child care facilities:

- **Co-Location of Affordable Rental Housing** and Early Care and Education Fund, a part of BuildUp Oregon (OHCS & Craft3, 2021)
- **Child Care Capacity Building Fund**, which fund community organizations to work with child care providers to start & grow their businesses (DAS & Seeding Justice, Neighbor Impact, & Euvalcree, 2022)
- **Child Care Infrastructure Fund**, which funds brick & mortar infrastructure (Business Oregon, HB 3005, 2023)

These funds will be entirely spent in 2025, and need to be refunded to continue.

HB 2727

In 2023, Oregon passed HB 2727 to assess how zoning, building code, and permitting processes impact child care providers and their ability to renovate or expand. The bill created a workgroup that identified changes to state zoning laws to make it easier for child care providers to find viable locations.



To build enough child care facilities for Oregon's children ages 12 weeks to 5 years old with working parents is **estimated to cost \$7 billion**.

Take action! 2025 Legislative Priorities

The 2025 Legislature must act to continue efforts to build essential early learning & child care infrastructure. We urge your support of this package of investments & actions:

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“There is a huge need for additional child care places, but it's extremely difficult to find appropriate spaces and initial remodeling costs are not affordable.”

Odi Campos, Program Director
Oregon Child Development Coalition

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- **BuildUp Oregon:** Renew investment in co-location of affordable housing and child care. OHCS, **\$10 million**.
- **Child Care Capacity Building Fund:** Ensure community organizations continue to receive funding that supports child care providers to open or expand their businesses. This investment would continue 2022 commitments to Neighbor Impact, Euvalcree, and Seeding Justice. DELC, **\$25 million**.
- **Child Care Infrastructure Fund:** Support brick & mortar renovations & expansions of child care facilities. Business Oregon, **\$30 million Lottery Bonds + \$20 million GF/LF**.
- **Guidance and Model Zoning Code:** Ensure cities and counties have the tools they need to comply with state law and expand child care infrastructure locally. DLCD, **HB 3496**.
- **Inclusive Zoning for Child Care:** Allow child care centers by-right in residential zones when co-located with community institutions (i.e. churches, community centers) & apartments. **HB 3560**.
- **Reduce barriers for co-location:** Address the biggest challenges small, non-profit housing developers face when they try to co-locate child care. **SB 436 & SB 439**.