



STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Governor's Task Force on Child Care

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Presentation Outline



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Moving Forward

Governor's Task Force on Child Care



Administrative Order 346

Purpose

- Develop a plan to improve availability and affordability of quality child care
- Consult existing resources
- Develop policy recommendations

Focus Areas

- Background Checks
- Workforce
- Licensing
- Access
- Quality
- Subsidy

Structure

- Eleven voting members
- Representatives from across the state

Summary of Efforts



14

Governor's Task Force Meetings

76

individuals provided written comments

26

individuals provided testimony during two public comment meetings

Public Comment Topics

Support of the Recommendations

Workforce Support

Wage Increases

Recognition/Professionalization

Child Care Access and Affordability

Licensing and Requirements

Education and Training

Background Checks

Funding and Sustainability

Collaboration and Municipal Involvement

Zoning Challenges

Report Recommendations



- Task Force Initial Report submitted on December 31, 2023
- 33 recommendations across five areas of focus:



Background Checks

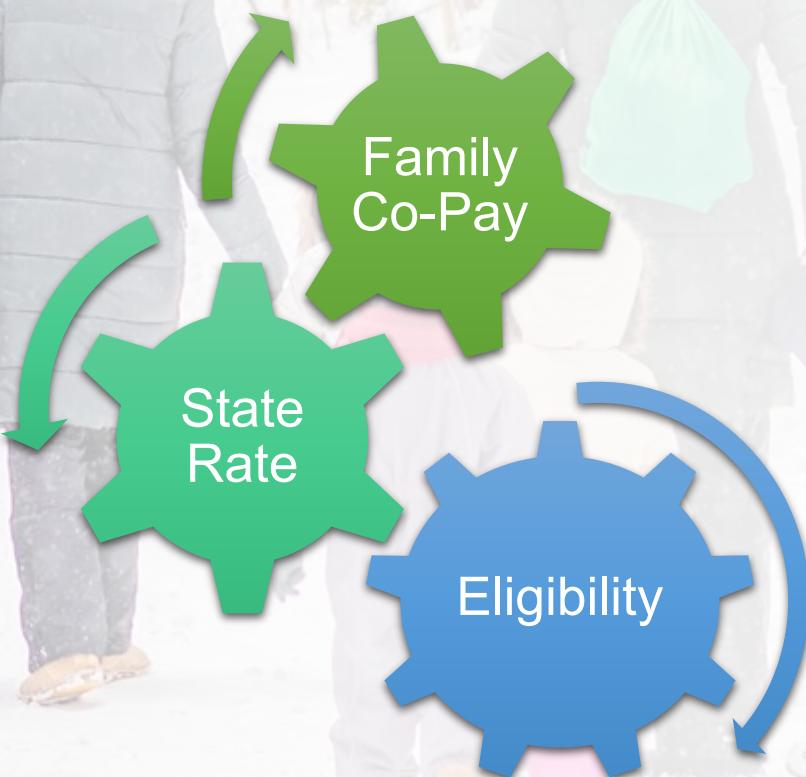
Licensing

Workforce

Employers

Tribal Authority

Subsidy, Access and Affordability, Quality

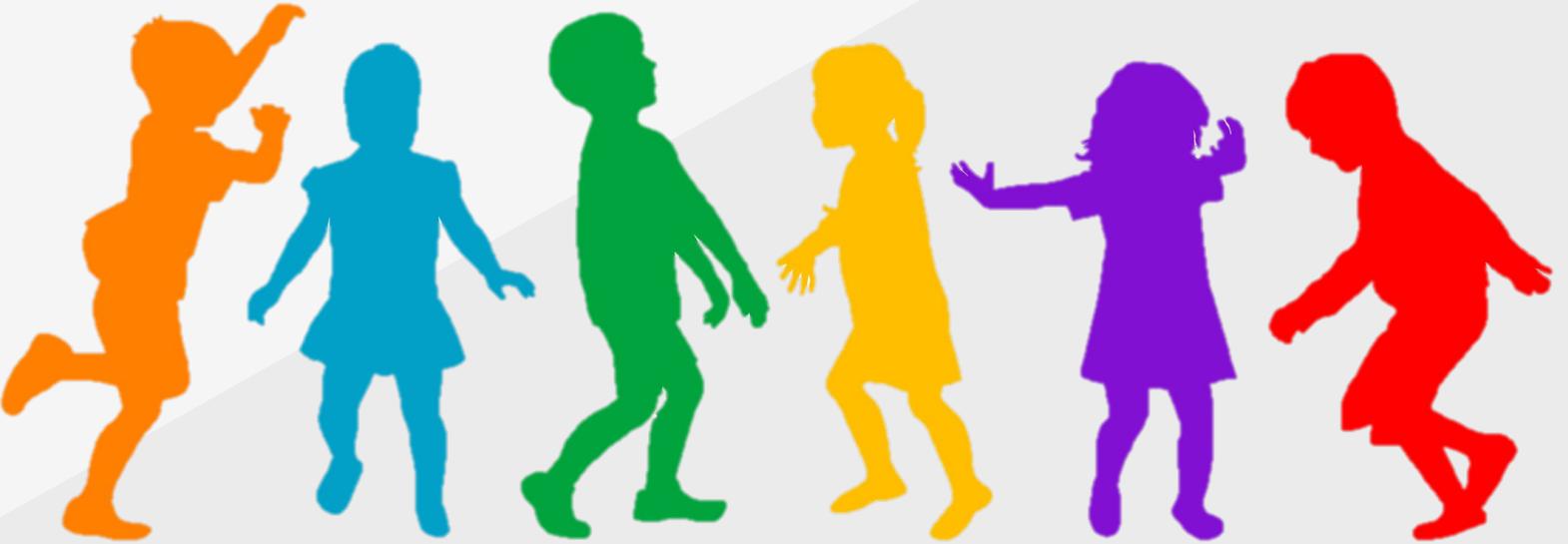


- Models used in other states to **share the cost of care**
- **Innovations** to incentivize new early childhood education and child care centers
- **Increasing access** for children with special needs
- Supporting children's behavioral health



The final Governor's Task Force on Child Care report is due to the Governor on July 31, 2024.

Questions?



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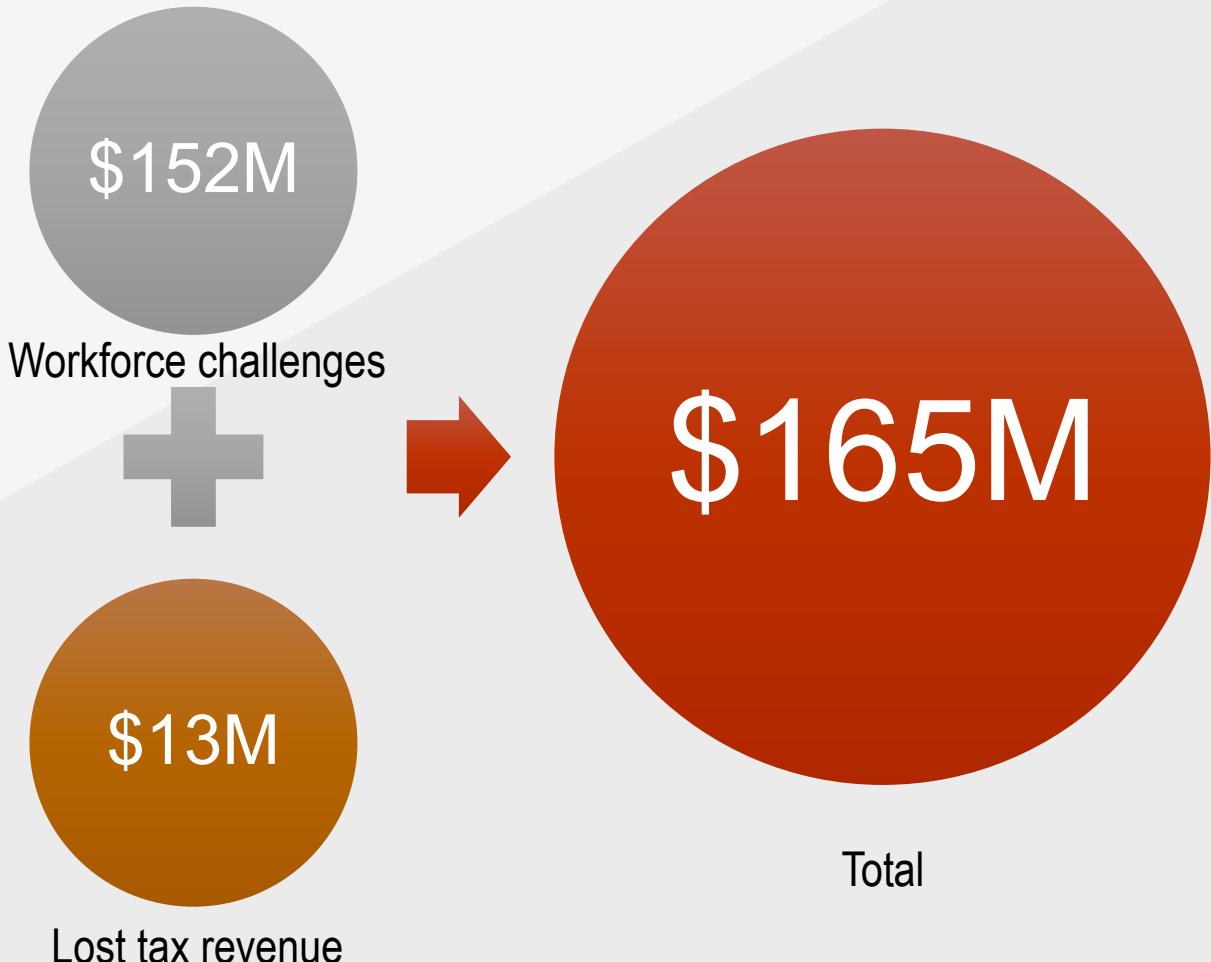
Appendix Slides



Economic Importance of Child Care



- Estimated \$165 million annual loss for Alaska's economy associated with child care scarcity
- 77 percent of parents reported missing work due to child care issues



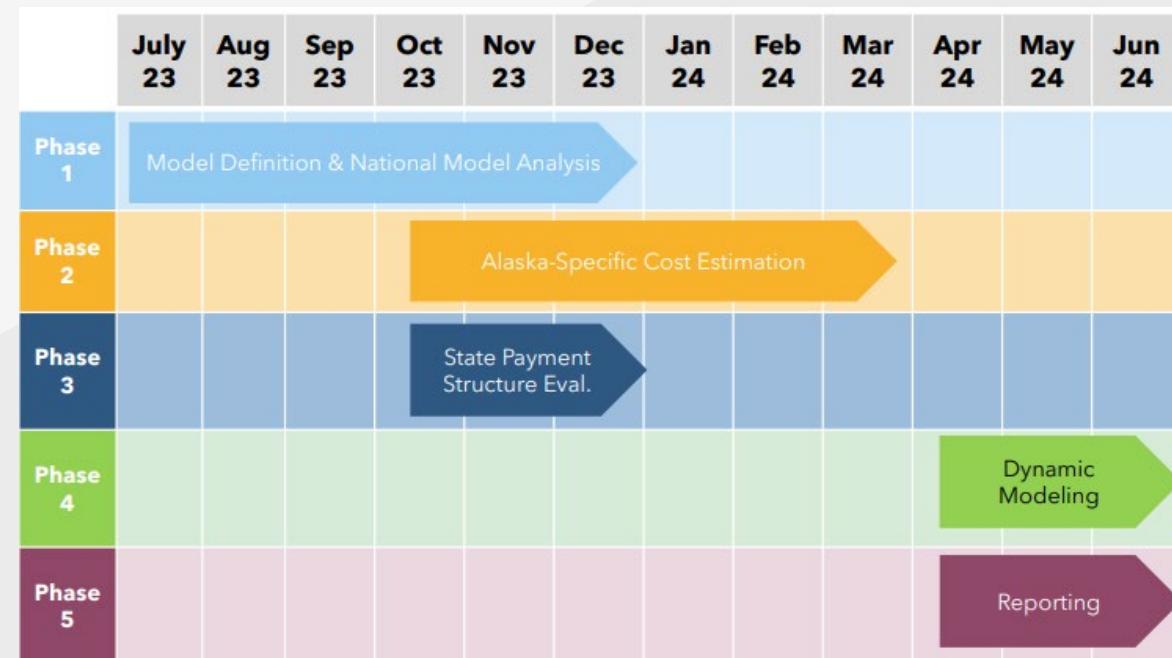
Source:
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2021)

Child Care Cost of Care Model



- 1 Child Care Cost of Care Model Estimates Cost per Child
- 2 CCPO may Recommend Alternative Method for Subsidy Payment Rates
- 3 Estimate Total Cost to State of Alaska

The Alaska Child Care Cost of Care Study will provide the most reliable estimates of the true expenses associated with operating an Early Childhood Education (ECE) business in the state.



New Studies to Inform Recommendations



New studies across **four areas** to inform further Task Force recommendations:

