



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### *Governor's Task Force on Child Care*

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# Presentation Outline



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# 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

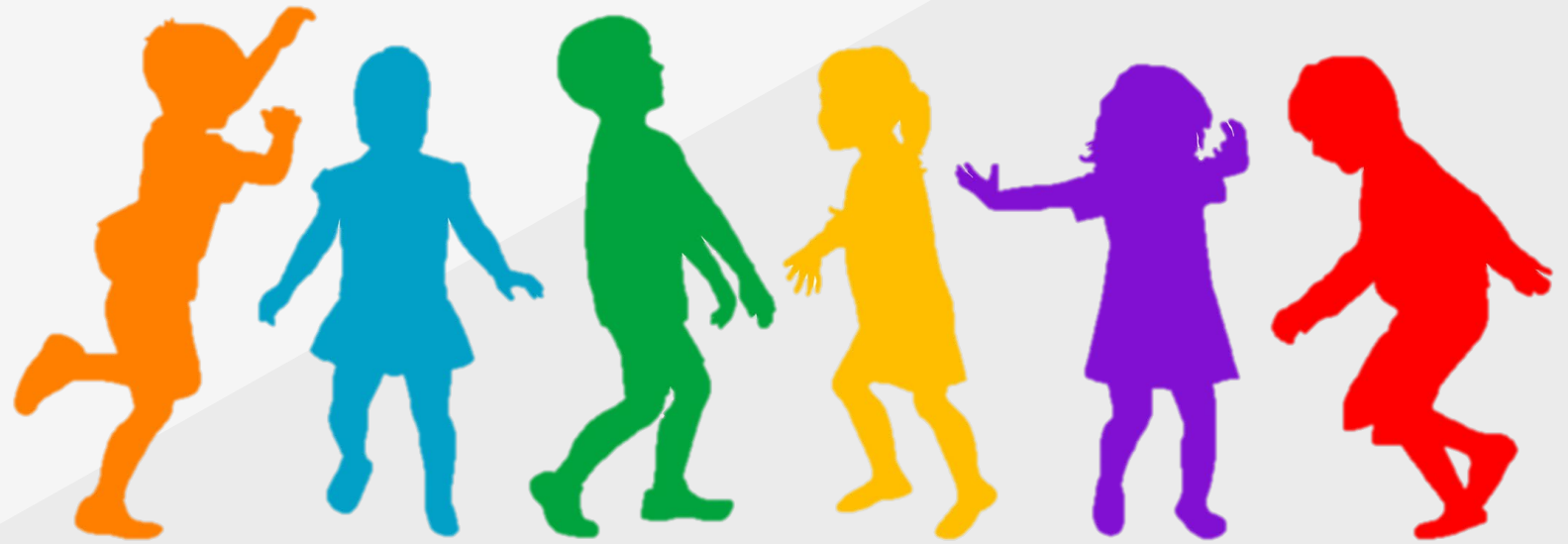
## Subsidy, Access and Affordability, Quality

- 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

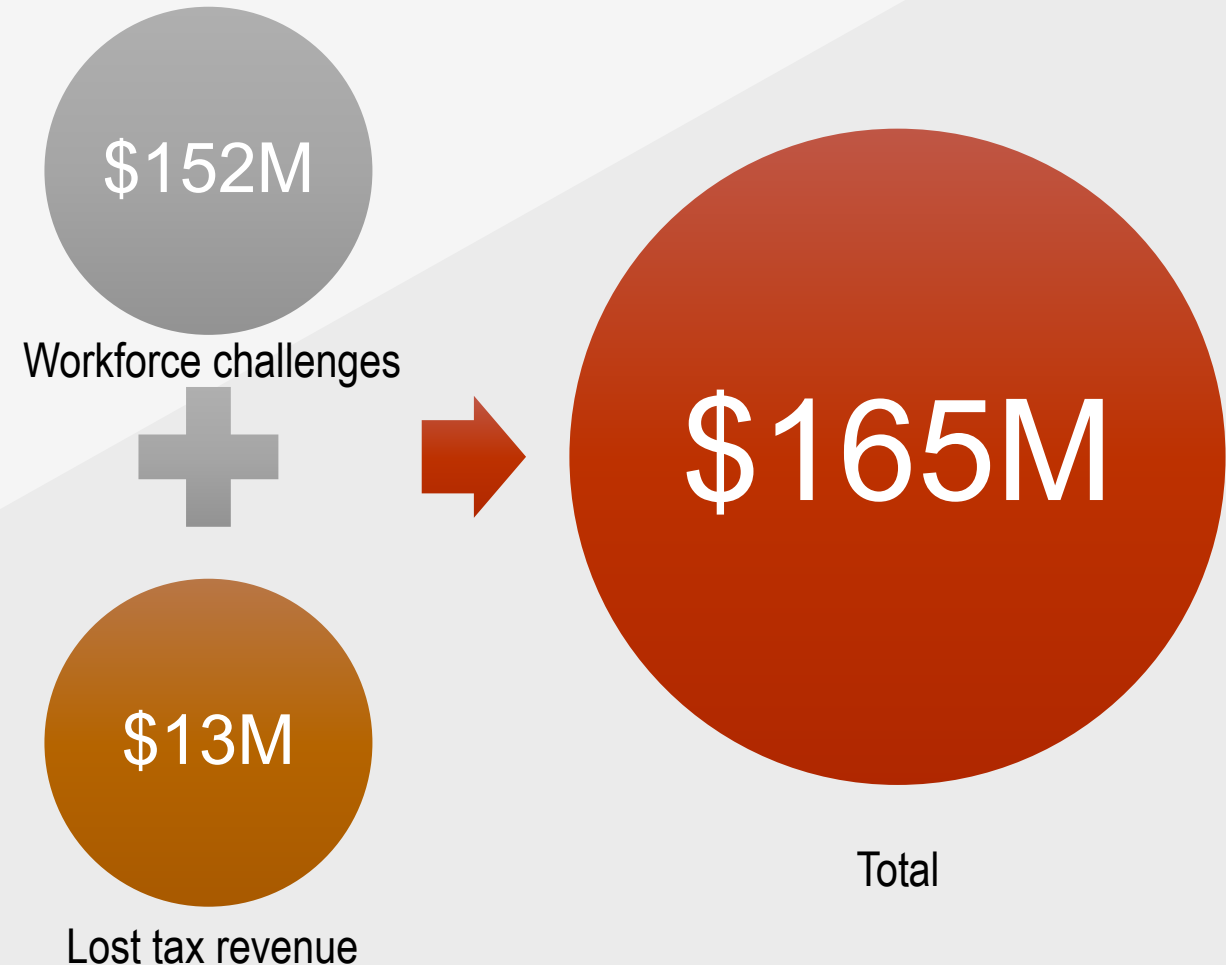




# Economic Importance of Child Care

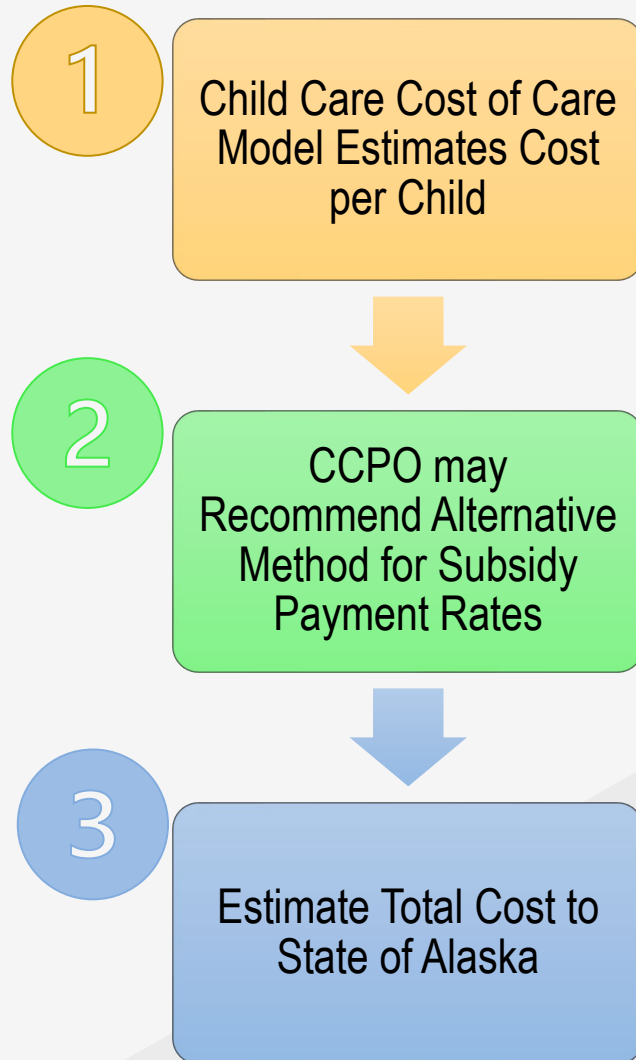


- Estimated \$165 million annual loss for Alaska's economy associated with child care scarcity
- 77 percent of parents reported missing work due to child care issues

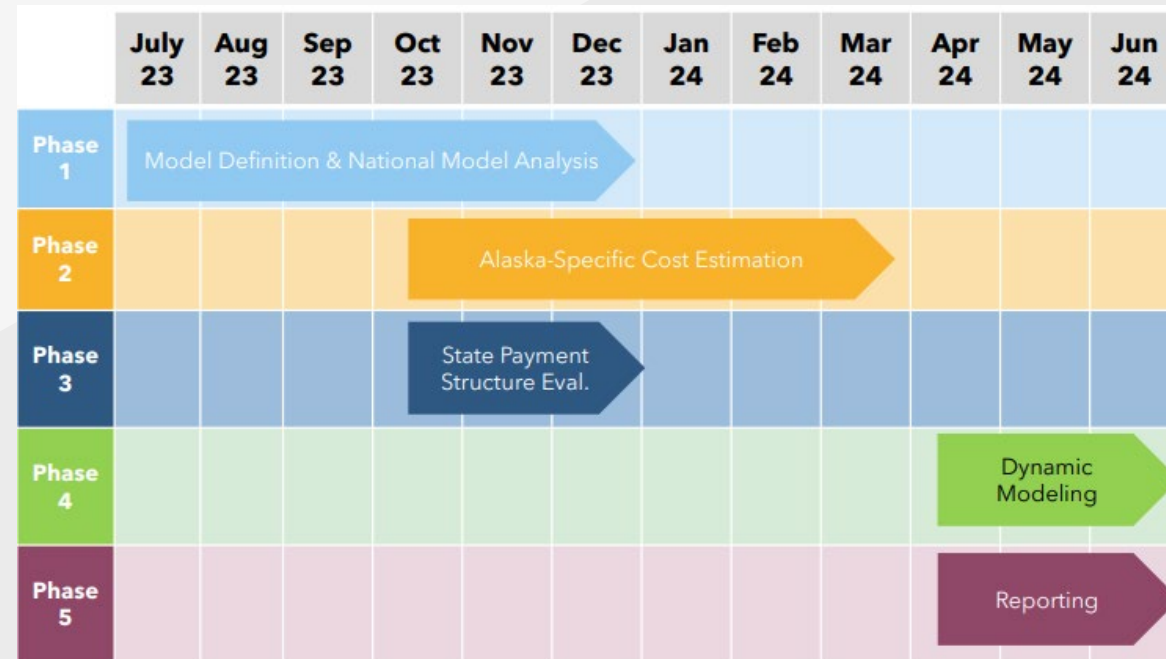


Source:  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2021)

# Child Care Cost of Care Model



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:

