



Taking Action for Child Care Today

thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource & Referral Network, has a vision that every family in Alaska has access to high-quality, affordable child care. A thriving child care system supports children's growth, development, and education, and has a positive economic impact for families and communities.

thread

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Action 1 – Invest \$30M to ensure the child care sector is stable as federal relief funding expires.

State of Child Care

- Federal relief funding via the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program (administered by the Child Care Program Office and **thread**) has helped to stabilize the child care system, keeping child care doors open. It has not solved the long-term challenge: how to provide quality services and pay workers a competitive wage while keeping prices affordable for parents.
- Final phase of the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program ends in March 2023.

Impact of Action 1 – Targeted investment of \$30 million, leveraging federal (CCDBG) child care dollars and state programs, will continue emergency relief support to soften the impact of expiring federal relief funding.

- Working Parent Support: Reinstate covering child care co-pays for families using child care assistance; and provide child care assistance to the child care workforce regardless of income.
- Child Care Workforce Support: Invest in supplement wages to individual early educators.
- Child Care Program Support: Continue support to licensed child care programs to ensure Alaska's workforce has access to child care.

Action 2 – Establish legislative child care policy workgroup to develop an actionable policy plan for child care.

State of Child Care

- The child care system is complex, with three factors needed for a thriving system: affordability, quality, and availability (access/workforce). Alaska's child care system is broken and new policies and support are needed.

Impact of Action 2 – The first step towards a thriving child care system supporting Alaska's families and economy.

- Sustainable funding: Explore public-private funding model that leverages state, local, business and philanthropic investment now and into the future.
- Cost of care survey: Understand the actual cost of quality care in order to develop policies to increase access and affordability.