

# Bridging to the *future*

Presented by:  
Stephanie Berglund, CEO of **thread**





# Trends in Child Care

- Child care is in focus
- Child care data and research
- New and growing partnerships
- More money for child care
- Child care is in crisis





# Child Care is in Focus

## Alaska child care providers struggle to stay open as pandemic-era relief funds dry up

ALASKA

End of funding that brought more than \$95 million to providers in state leaves some saying they must now raise prices for families or risk closing.

## Alaska nonprofit examines ways to attract child care workers

Business/Economy

## New state child care task force faces bleak reality of Alaska's system

It has one year to

By Claire Stremple, Alaska Beacon

## Lack of child care keeping Alaska families out of the workforce

STUDIO

NEWSROOM

Business/Economy

Caught in the middle: Alaska needs more child care to aid economic recovery, but facilities are pinched

By Morgan Kokom  
Updated: April 24, 2022  
Published: April 24, 2022

## Alaska's business advocates call for making child care a priority

By Claire Stremple, Alaska Beacon  
Updated: August 27, 2023  
Published: August 26, 2023

## The US needs a major federal investment in child care

## Alaska's child care crisis is hitting foster families especially hard

By Wesley Early, Alaska Public Media - Anchorage - August 21, 2023

## Report: 61% of Alaskans live in child care deserts

Local providers say the struggle is real

f SHARE

By Dana Zigmund

Saturday, January 29, 2022 10:24am |

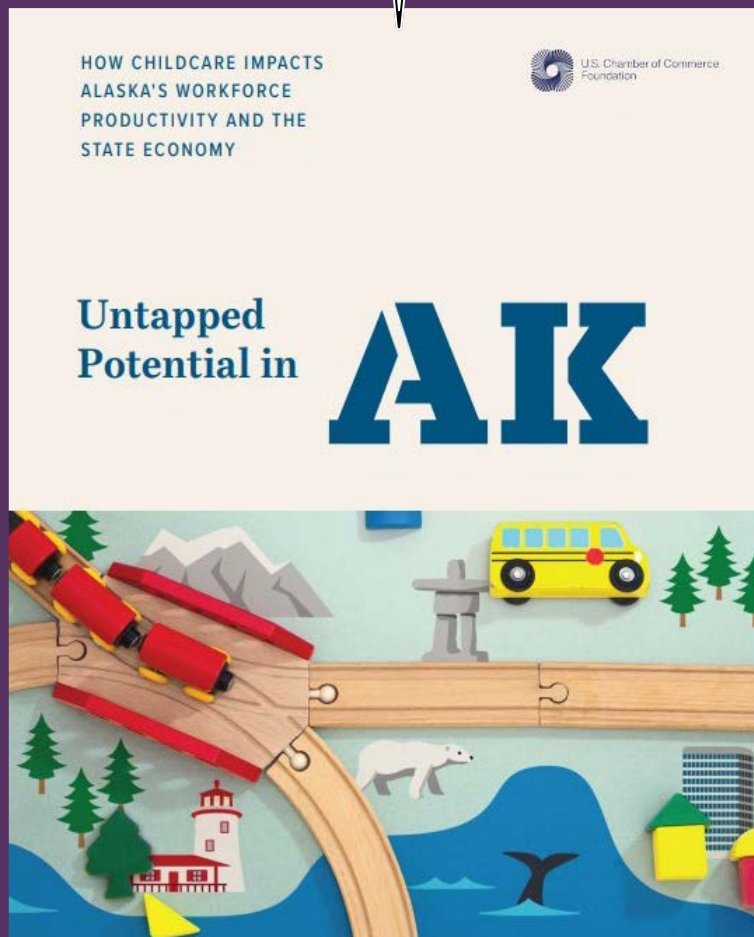
NEWS

CHILD CARE POLICY

STATE & LEGISLATURE



# Data and Research





# New and Growing Partnerships





# Investments in Child Care

- Over \$120M invested in child care, including:
  - \$60M in Child Care Stabilization and Program Improvement Grants
  - \$15M in Community Innovation Grants
  - \$4M in ROOTS awards to early educators  
ROOTS = Retaining Our Outstanding Teacher Stipends
  - Increased local community investments
  - Focused support on early educator wellness





# *Alaska Legislature*

Invested:

- \$1M in 2023
- \$7.5M in 2024







# ↑ *Growing Pressures*

- More family stress
- High competition for workers
- More challenging classrooms
- Teacher stress





# Child Care is Fragile

There are currently 406 licensed child care programs with a capacity to serve approximately 10,500 children.

133 licensed programs have closed in the last 3 years.

62 have opened since early 2020.

**2019:** 500 licensed child care programs serving an estimated 17,700 children.

**2014:** 589 licensed child care programs with the capacity to serve over 20,000 children.

# thread is Focused

## ➤ Resource and Referral

- Child care referrals
- Professional development training
- Consultation and coaching to child care programs
- Community and business resources
- SEED career ladder and financial support for early educators
- Learn & Grow, Quality Recognition and Improvement System. A framework for improved child care program quality

## ➤ Stabilize Child Care

- Funding for child care programs and early educators
- Tailored support and services

## ➤ Innovate, Educate and Advocate

- Child care works initiative
- Data and advocacy
- Increase investment in child care



# We Know That...



- Child care is critical infrastructure
- Investments in child care work
- Early educators and professionals deserve better
- Child care is important to business

Alaskan  
children  
are counting  
on YOU!







- Talk to your elected representatives about the importance of investing in quality child care.
- Share information and facts with a friend.
- Connect with a local business to drive change.
- Creatively respond to community needs.
- Propose child care solutions at your organization for employees and coworkers.
- Share your story with thread.
- Join thread's advocacy news and opportunities for action.







*Thank you!*