Bridging to the future

Presented by:
Stephanie Berglund, CEO of thread
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

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

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

Alaska’s business advocates call for making child care a priority

By Claire Strange, Alaska Beacon
Updated: August 27, 2023
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The US needs a major federal investment in child care

Alaska’s child care crisis is hitting foster families especially hard

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

It has one year to

Lack of child care keeping Alaska families out of the workforce

Report: 61% of Alaskans live in child care deserts

Local providers say the struggle is real

By Dana Zigmund
Saturday, January 29, 2022 10:24am
New and Growing Partnerships
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.
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!
Join Us!

- 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.