

Child Care Expansion Grants

Child care is one of the most critical work supports for parents to successfully participate in the labor market. Since the pandemic, labor force participation rates in Idaho have decreased and one of the major factors is lack of child care options. According to Idaho’s most recent Child Care Gap Assessment 74,670 children have the potential need for child care, and there are only 55,850 child care slots (the full report can be found here: <https://childcaregap.org/assets/onePagers/Idaho.pdf>).

Child care needs exist throughout the State and long wait lists exist at most high-quality child care centers. According to the study, the top five counties with the largest gap between the number of children who potentially need care but whose families cannot reasonably access formal care are Canyon, Ada, Bonneville, Twin Falls, and Bingham. *See page four for a breakdown of needs by county.*

With a gap of nearly 20,000 child care seats in Idaho, there is a significant need to invest in Child Care Expansion Grants so that Idaho can continue to get back to work. This funding, administered by the Workforce Development Council, will increase the number of child care seats available to working families by targeting employers and/or child care providers willing to build new on-site or near-site child care facilities or expand existing facilities.

Program Highlights: An increase of approximately 1,000 child care seats statewide, by the end of 2024.

- Through a \$15m grant program (utilizing one-time ARPA funding), these funds will provide infrastructure or operating grants for start-up or expansion of child care where there is a significant gap between the number of child care slots available and the number of children needing care.
- Idaho’s child care capacity is **expanded** supporting families to return to work or their ability to receive training that will assist them in returning to work.
- Coordinated licensure process for grantees.

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Programs		Idaho Workforce Development Council Program
Investments that Support Children and Working Families	Investments that Stabilize Child Care Provider Business Owners	Investments that Expand High-Quality Child Care Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded eligibility criteria and lowered copay for families needing child care • Expanded mental health support and developmental screening for kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care provider support grants for existing operations. • Expanded support to after-school programs • Wage enhancement per worker • Expanded training and education for employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to offset start-up costs for employers providing on-site/near-site child care • Grants to child care providers who are working with employer partners to expand number of children served • Support with recruiting and training staff

*Note: There is a separate budget recommendation for the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare to **sustain** current daycare facility operations.*

Who Can Apply:

- Employers and/or child care providers that are seeking to add or expand capacity in Idaho.

Grant Parameters:

- Applicants will complete and submit a business plan as part of the application process. Family/Group and Child Care Centers are eligible for the grants, when partnering with local employers and complying with local and state licensing requirements. Business plan guides can be found here: <https://wdc.idaho.gov/child-care-guides/>
 - Financial statements must show private investment of at least 50% of grant funds requested and a cash flow analysis showing when sustainability will be achieved.
 - A risk assessment focused on sustainability beyond the one-time investment of grant funds will be developed and utilized by a WDC Grant Review Committee comprised of Council members and subject matter experts.
- Applicants will be eligible for up to \$15,000 per full-time seat in their start-up or expansion plan. Funds may be used to acquire and/or renovate buildings, purchase equipment, supplies and other items necessary for start-up, pay staffing and other operating costs until ongoing revenue is generated.
- A minimum of \$4,000,000 will be set-aside in the first year for providers with less than 15 seats.
- Preference will be given to entities that will focus on evidence-based programming and services and have parent engagement activities.
- WDC contractual terms require:
 - Reimbursement for verified expenses.
 - Quarterly reports.
 - A requirement that the provider stay in business for at least one year beyond the end of the grant period or the Council may seek repayment of funds.

“Shovel Ready” Projects

Idaho Forest Group. Headquartered in Coeur d’Alene and several mill sites across the state, Idaho Forest Group is committed to their employees and has been looking into child care support options. Currently, IFG is working with local child care providers in two communities, exploring ways to help them increase capacity such as additional employees and site expansion. They are hopeful a model can be developed to replicate in other locations.

Kaniksu Health. As one of the larger employers in Bonner County, Kaniksu Health recognizes the importance of providing child care to recruit and retain employees. Following the closing of the community’s largest child care center, Kaniksu is working to develop a child care center for their employees.

Meadows Valley School District. Meadows Valley School District is having severe challenges retaining teachers because there are no child care providers in the community. The district seeks to partner with a local entrepreneur to start a new family/in-home business to serve the community of 430.

Homedale School District. This past year, the Homedale School District purchased a building to serve as a child care center for district employees and the community. Funding for capital improvement is needed to refurbish the building to create an environment suitable to serve children in a healthy and safe environment.

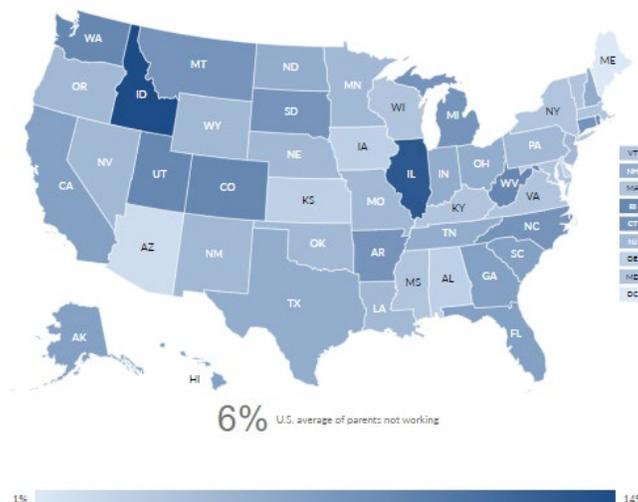
Advocates Against Family Violence. AAFV in Caldwell provides Hope, Help, and Crisis Care for Domestic Abuse Victims in Caldwell, Nampa, Meridian, Boise, and surrounding areas. Over 14,000 individual services were provided in 2021 with just over 1,000 of them involving temporary housing. The on-site Hope Lane Learning Center can only provide care to 27 full-time children and AAFV has long-term plans to double capacity on land they already own. With this grant program, they can begin the expansion immediately.

Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers. The JATC's are looking to partner with local child care providers in Pocatello, Boise and Coeur d'Alene/Post Falls to offer on or near-site child care for apprentices. Regular daycare hours don't typically support an apprentices' training schedule, preventing many interested individuals from pursuing careers in the trades.

Twin Falls. In partnership with CLIF Bar, the United Way of South Central Idaho wants to refurbish and expand a newly acquired facility to expand child care options for the regional business community. Funding for refurbishing and expansion is needed for the building to best serve working families.

Bonneville County. As one of the largest employers in Southeast Idaho, Idaho National Lab is exploring the feasibility of partnerships with local childcare facilities within the Idaho Falls community. INL is looking at several possible partnerships, one with Club Apple. Club Apple has land adjacent to their current facility and will start construction of a new daycare center in the spring of 2022. Within the parameters of this partnership, a certain number of spots will be held for INL employees and their children.

Lack of Child Care, School Closures Prevent Some Parents From Working



Source: *Stateline*, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2022/02/24/parents-still-struggle-to-work-without-child-care>

Alphabetical List of Counties

In Idaho:

74,670 children have the potential need for child care.

There is a supply of **55,850** child care slots.

The families of **20,910** children do not have access to child care.

Child care gap: **28%** of the potential need.

The long term economic impact ranges between **\$695.4M** and **\$1.1B**

Equating to between **\$33,260** and **\$50,720** per child care gap.

County	Child Care Gap	Gap Percentage
Ada County	2,050	10.10%
Adams County	60	84.50%
Bannock County	1,010	25%
Bear Lake County	200	64.60%
Benewah County	240	60%
Bingham County	1,170	46.60%
Blaine County	640	56.70%
Boise County	43	46.20%
Bonner County	280	24.10%
Bonneville County	1,750	31.80%
Boundary County	120	60.60%
Butte County	53	100%
Camas County	25	100%
Canyon County	3,450	33.50%
Caribou County	130	54%
Cassia County	720	56.50%
Clark County	40	100%
Clearwater County	9	5%
Custer County	78	100%
Elmore County	240	20.40%
Franklin County	390	70.40%
Fremont County	380	86.10%

County	Child Care Gap	Gap Percentage
Gem County	230	38.70%
Gooding County	490	70.60%
Idaho County	200	36.30%
Jefferson County	1,040	66%
Jerome County	510	39.70%
Kootenai County	58	0.90%
Latah County	290	23.70%
Lemhi County	94	36%
Lewis County	67	37.40%
Lincoln County	81	71.60%
Madison County	1,120	69.20%
Minidoka County	450	45.90%
Nez Perce County	330	17%
Oneida County	64	47%
Owyhee County	280	59.30%
Payette County	79	9.80%
Power County	120	59.50%
Shoshone County	65	17%
Teton County	380	66.20%
Twin Falls County	1,390	32.60%
Valley County	320	76.40%
Washington County	200	49.30%