

Child Care Expansion Grants

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.

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 reverse 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 (WDC), is increasing the number of child care seats available to working families by targeting employers and/or child care providers willing to build new or expand existing facilities.

Program Highlights: An increase of over 2,400 child care seats statewide by the end of 2024, based on funding recommendations of nearly \$12M through January 20, 2023.

- The 2022 Legislature approved \$15M utilizing one-time ARPA funding for grants. Through 3 application cycles, the WDC received 70 proposals totaling nearly \$40M. These proposals could add a total of 4,386 additional seats. All funding will be obligated by March 9, 2023.
- **An additional \$15M is requested in the FY24 budget for the WDC to continue to fund expansion of child care so that Idahoans can get back to work.** These funds 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. Of the \$15M, the Governor recommends \$3M for projects that support child care options for our public safety personnel.

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.*

Child Care Gap - Alphabetical List of Counties

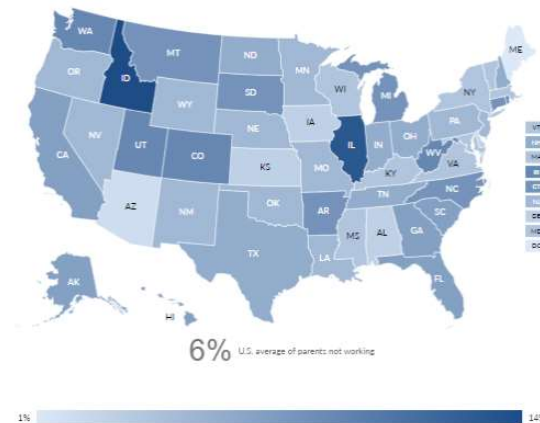
Source - <https://childcaregap.org/assets/onePagers/Idaho.pdf>

Blue shading indicates a project in the county has been recommended for funding.

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%

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



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