

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 2,850 child care seats statewide by the end of 2024, based on funding recommendations of nearly \$15M through.

- The 2022 Legislature approved \$15M utilizing one-time ARPA funding for grants. Through 3 application cycles, the WDC received 70 proposals totaling over \$41M. These proposals could add a total of 4,900 additional seats.
- **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

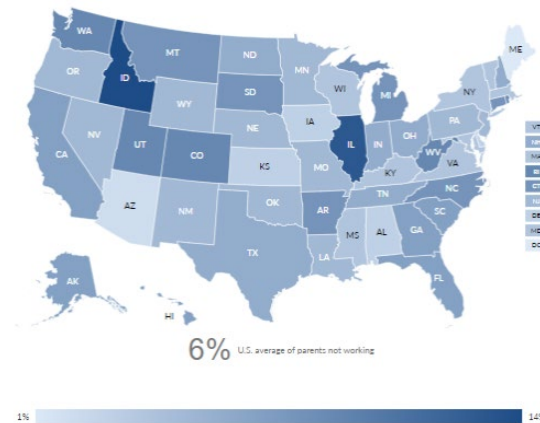
Source - <https://childcaregap.org/assets/onePagers/Idaho.pdf>

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

**Child Care Expansion Grants
Recommended Projects as of January 20, 2023**

Provider	Location	Added Slots	Employer Partners
Baby Bee Daycare	American Falls	26	1
Boise State Children’s Center	Boise	53	2
Boys and Girls Club Ada County*	Kuna	700	1
Boys and Girls Club Lewis Clark Valley*	Lewiston	250	6
Boys and Girls Club Magic Valley*	Rupert	150	5
Bright Stars Childcare	Caldwell	70	1
Care House Learning Center	Nampa	7	1
Chita's Kids Preschool	Nampa	17	3
Cookies N Milk Daycare	Chubbuck	40	4
Get Ready to Learn Kuna	Kuna	20	1
Giraffe Laugh	Boise	72	4
Kaniksu Community Health	Sandpoint	70	1
Lil’ Rascals Preschool and Daycare	Preston	75	3
Little Me with Daycare	Nampa	6	1
Lost Rivers Medical Center	Arco	18	1
Lucky Duck Preschool	Blackfoot	319	1
Magic Stars Spanish Preschool	Nampa	14	1
Micron*	Boise	124	1
Saggy Britches dba The Barnyard Daycare & Learning Center	Boise	47	1
Storybook Adventure	Sandpoint	150	2
Tamarack Resort	Donnelley	20	1
Teton Regional Economic Coalition*	Driggs	78	3
The Little Red Roost Child Care	Fruitland	34	1
Tiny Tots Learning Center	Lewiston	50	2
Tiny Town*	Pinehurst	100	1
Treasure Valley YMCA*	Boise	96	6
United Way of South Central Idaho; E-Street	Twin Falls	60	1
West Central Mountains Econ. Dev. Council	McCall	60	2
Whole Child	Rexburg	9	1
WICAP (8 locations)	Canyon & Gem	134	24
Total – 30 projects	\$14,803,696	2,869	84

**Projects have only been partially funded.*

Additional Applications by Region

Region	# Unfunded Projects	Grant Request	Added Slots	Employer Partners
Region 1	5	\$2,458,329	185	6
Region 2	1*	\$1,360,000	0	6
Region 3	30*	\$17,965,376	1319	66
Region 4	2*	\$666,732	56	0
Region 5	6	\$3,062,578	334	8
Region 6	3*	\$919,408	134	3
Total	53	\$26,432,423	2,028	83

*includes the balance of projects that were partially funded.

Current Program

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

Grant Parameters:

- Applicants 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
 - 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.
- Applicants are 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.
- \$4,000,000 was set-aside until March 1, 2023 for providers with less than 12 seats.
- WDC contractual terms require:
 - Reimbursement for verified expenses. The WDC is providing an exception for providers serving fewer than 24 children in that they may request 50% of the funds in advance. Additional funds will not be dispersed until all documentation for expenditures is received.
 - 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.

Anticipated Outcomes

- The WDC expected to fund the expansion of 1,000 child care seats with the original \$15M appropriation. As shown on the reverse side, the funding will expand child care capacity by 2,869 seats.

Potential Changes if Additional Funding is Received

1. Target funds for in-home and/or small providers and provide a higher level of technical support to develop their business plan.
2. Support expansions that will provide care for extended working hours – i.e. to help public safety/first responders, shiftwork, etc.
3. Adjust scoring rubric for different types of providers: small, medium, large, and after-school care.
4. Reduce maximum funding per seat and/or maximum cap on grants. Consider different levels for small, medium, large, and after-school care. Alternatively, set funding levels according to project components (i.e. construction vs. renovation vs. expansion into existing suitable space).