

# Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) Works

Whether we are concerned about improving the work experience of parents, the economic security and healthy development of children, or the local economy by growing the labor pool – we agree that Employment Related Day Care works for Oregon.

In October a reservation list for ERDC was started so that available funds lasted through the biennium. As of February, there are more than *1,600 families* waiting for the opportunity to afford child care while they work. Without a child care subsidy, these families are at risk of losing employment and relying on welfare.

## Helping low-income working families

Parents entering the workforce improve the health and opportunity for their families *and* the productivity of businesses throughout the state. With ERDC parents can afford to work, keep their families strong, and their children safe and thriving.

In 2014, the average cost of infant care in Oregon was \$11,078 or 51.6% of the median income for a single parent.

## Oregon needs a strong child care subsidy program

ERDC serves thousands of families, but needs additional investments to serve all the families that need the service.

- **Remove the Cliff Effect** Currently when a family reaches 185% of the federal poverty level they lose their ERDC and SNAP benefits. Increasing the ERDC exit to 250% income level means the family will be more stable when the subsidy ends.
- **One-year Protected Eligibility** A change in income or work hours would no longer force a family disruption to child care arrangement during the one-year period, which negatively impacts children and families. Families would still be required to report a change of child care provider during that period.
- **Cover the Self-employed** Low-income parents who are self-employed with occupations like housecleaners, cosmetologists, or delivery drivers would be added back to the program so they can afford child care as they grow their business.
- **Encourage Parent Education** The class time spent improving their employment prospects would be eligible as well.



## Supported by:



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