a.   Use an alternative method to determine ERDC rates that shift to a cost estimation that determines a rate based on the actual delivery of care rather than the based on current market rates.

b.   Permanently waive parent co-pays or revise how parent co-pays are determined with a specific focus to reduce the high co-pays in rural Oregon.

c.   Explore the expansion of contracted slots, such as those administered through Preschool and Baby Promise. The contracted slot payment could follow the child to whatever location is selected by the family that are part of the network.

d.   Explore piloting automated to provider-based child care management systems (CCMS) so that ERDC billing can be electronically processed and tracked to increase efficiencies and simplify the process for families and child care programs. Also, automated systems will align referral availability of child care slots. This is possible by enabling open APIs with software vendors (such as Wonderschool) or creation of a web-based Data Trust

e.   Background checks are an essential component to ensuring the safety of children in child care settings. An exploration of solutions is needed so that background checks are conducted in a timely process and are transferable across all education-related settings. This would not only enable a shared substitute pool but would also save time and money for all involved.

f.   Embed supports for providers: including funding, for start up costs and business planning services - this needs to be shown as a profitable business in order to incentivize providers; co-learning opportunities; supports for providers that care for kids with special needs; embedding trauma practices and supports for families.

g.   Consider allowing short-term substitutes that would enable a substitute to work without meeting the teacher requirements (modeled after the South Coast Education Service District that provides this approach for K-12 substitutes).

h.   Embrace job-embedded professional development to enable training to occur on-site, under supervision, while working towards the teacher requirements. This builds on a state-of-the-art approach embraced by ECE leaders such as the Ounce of Prevention, the University of Chicago, EarlyEdU at the University of Washington, the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida, and others.

i.   Consider a regulator review of licensing requirements with a focus on expanding access and ease of burden for providers to initiate a childcare business

*Reimbursement rate being closer to the actual cost of care.
*Payment upfront
*Contracted slots
*Lower parent copays
*Automated central portal system for ERDC payments and communication between providers, parents and DHS staff
*Keeping provider information at a central location
*Continue allowing email of billing form for providers with some improvements, possibly uploading to a sharepoint system
*ERDC eligibility process and connection with providers process