

# FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

## 2021 PRIORITY: CHILD CARE



### THE PROBLEM

Child care policy has been shaped by a history of systemic and structural racism. Child care workers are disproportionately women of color<sup>3</sup>, and their incredibly low wages reflect the combined institutional racism, sexism and devaluation they experience.

Child care is primarily funded by families that cannot afford the true costs associated with care for children. While parents are unable to afford care, child care providers are not charging enough to cover the costs to provide care. Young children need responsive and nurturing relationships with caregivers to stimulate their growing brains, but the current funding structure creates barriers to access, and as a result, every county in Oregon is a child care desert for at least one age group of children.<sup>4</sup>



Every single one of Oregon's 36 counties is currently a child care desert for at least one age group, meaning there are 3+ children for every one child care spot.

Sources:

<sup>3</sup>[www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm)

<sup>4</sup>[health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/oregon-child-care-deserts-01-29-2019.pdf](http://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/oregon-child-care-deserts-01-29-2019.pdf)

### THE SOLUTION

The need for sustained public investment has never been clearer. It will take a long-term, sustained effort to build a new publicly funded statewide child care system that is universal, equitable, and truly works for all our families. In the meantime, we can start by passing HB 3073B to:

- Streamline governance by housing ERDC with other early learning and child care programs.
- Ensure affordability for parents by capping copays to no more than 7% of a family's income.
- Increase the flexibility of the program for parents to utilize their child care assistance outside of just working hours.
- Expand access to all children, regardless of documentation status.
- Protect eligibility for children for at least one year, increasing financial stability for providers and continuity of care for children.
- Provide financial stability to providers by paying based on enrollment—not attendance, protecting eligibility for children for at least one year, setting rates for providers based on the true cost of care.



Fair Shot for All is an economic justice coalition of grassroots organizations and labor unions working together to build power with our communities, to create opportunities for all working families to thrive, and to dismantle historic and systemic economic inequities for Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BIPOC); women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Fair Shot's work centers racial and gender equity that seeks to address inequalities through organizing and concrete policy change.

[WWW.FAIRSHOTOREGON.ORG/COALITION](http://WWW.FAIRSHOTOREGON.ORG/COALITION)

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From the desk of Rep Alonso Leon



# CHILD CARE THAT WORKS. FOR EVERY FAMILY.



## YES ON HB 3073B

As COVID-19 has revealed, our entire economy is dependent on a child care system that works—and as many parents and providers can tell you, Oregon's child care system desperately needs to be rebuilt. Every Oregon family deserves access to high quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care, and every child care provider should be paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do. And it shouldn't fall on parents or providers to foot the bill for an adequate system.

Instead of trying to repair a clearly broken system, we should think big and reimagine what we want a new and better child care system to look like. Our vision is a targeted universal child care system that centers the needs of mothers, providers, and children who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color.

## BY RECOGNIZING CHILD CARE AS NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE, WE CAN HAVE JOYFUL CHILDREN, THRIVING FAMILIES, AND A STRONG ECONOMY.

Today, Oregon parents pay double what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends a family pay for child care (no more than 7% of your income), and single-parent families pay closer to five times that amount. Without affordable, accessible child care options, many parents are faced with little choice but to leave their jobs. In fact, nearly 80% of the 1.1 million people who left the job market in September 2020 were women.<sup>1</sup>

We had a child care crisis before COVID—this pandemic is revealing how significant that problem has always been. The crisis is worse now with 50% of Oregon's pre-COVID child care slots gone. And 40% of providers are closed, unlikely to ever reopen.<sup>2</sup>

Sources:  
<sup>1</sup> [www.npr.org/2020/10/20/925944351/why-women-are-leaving-the-workforce](http://www.npr.org/2020/10/20/925944351/why-women-are-leaving-the-workforce)  
<sup>2</sup> [www.opb.org/news/article/oregons-childcare-system-faces-uncertain-future/](http://www.opb.org/news/article/oregons-childcare-system-faces-uncertain-future/)



## ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Our work as a coalition is centered on ideas and input from those both historically and currently bearing the burden of Oregon's broken systems and the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ideas will work for the state as a whole because they work for those of us who are most impacted.

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