

Address Regulatory Barriers to Expanding Early Learning & Care Facilities

[House Bill 2727](#)

PROBLEM

Oregon is facing a child care crisis - every county in Oregon is a child care desert for infants and toddlers, and the situation is not much better for families with older children. Solving this crisis is going to take strategies to serve more children & families, build the workforce, and expand facilities.

- **Currently, Oregon has no plan to expand early learning and care facilities.** We need to get started with strategies to address this problem. Providers and partners have been meeting for months to identify and prioritize legislative and non-legislative strategies.
- **Facilities solutions must expand an array of provider types.** Oregon's mixed delivery child care system had been effective in meeting a variety of needs and preferences. We need home-based, center-based, school-based, community organization-based, and co-located early learning and care to serve children and families well.
- **Early Learning & Child Care providers name land use, building codes, and permitting processes as significant barriers to expanding facilities.** Providers have viewed dozens of properties, only to learn they aren't appropriately zoned, child care is prohibited in a zone, or it will take months, a year, or more to get the appropriate permits to build or renovate a facility.
- **These barriers impact all providers, and they have the greatest impact for providers who our systems are not designed for.** This includes women, providers of color, providers who speak languages other than English, and providers in remote, rural communities.

HB 2727 IS A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Addressing these challenges across local and state levels and between various agencies and departments requires us to bring people together to find solutions. Oregon has made headway on these barriers for affordable housing - we can make progress for child care. House Bill 2727 will:

- Establish a representative workgroup of relevant stakeholders to identify strategies to support the expansion of early learning and care facilities across Oregon.
- Conduct a study of the impact of zoning, building codes and permitting practices on the expansion of early learning and care facilities, including potential disparate impacts.
- Submit a report by December 31, 2024 with recommendations for cities, counties, and the state for how to reduce barriers and disparities and support expansion of early learning and care facilities.

For more information, contact:

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