

During committee on Wednesday, Rep. Andersen posed a question and we wanted to provide the answer if there are any other concerns.

Andersen's Question: Why are we capping the prioritization for child care centers to receive funds at 75 child care slots, if we hope to support small child care centers? 75 children seems like a big number.

Answer: The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) does not currently have a definition for "small" child care centers. In having conversations with Multnomah County Preschool for All – their definition for small child care centers are those licensed to serve 100 children or fewer. Because this is the standard for the most populous county in the state, we felt it would be best to decrease this number to better represent child care centers across the state.

Even a center with up to 75 children may have very little administrative infrastructure to manage lottery bonding dollars – and furthermore – even if a child care center is licensed for 75 children, they might not actually utilize all 75 slots and/or have 75 children enrolled in care.

These general fund dollars will go to the same fund as the lottery bonding dollars – Business Oregon will then determine based on the applicant's needs what funds should be utilized to meet those needs. This will create a more seamless process for child care providers across the state of Oregon.