



## Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: Joint Ways and Means Committee on Transportation Reinvestment  
From: Family Forward Oregon  
Date: 6/11/2025  
RE: ARCC Program Allocation through HB 2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee

Family Forward Oregon urges the committee to include at least \$1 Million in funding allocations to the Apprenticeship Related Child Care Program (or ARCC) to HB 2025. This program will assure that families currently working or want to work in trades will have access to apprenticeship related day care especially as our state plans to invest in transportation workforce to complete all projects included in this bill

High costs in childcare continue to be a barrier for Oregon parents wanting to enter or re-enter the workforce, which is especially relevant in the trades industry, where over a third of women cited high costs in child care as a barrier for them to stay in the trades industry<sup>1</sup>. In Oregon, labor force participation of mothers with children age 14 and younger was 73.0% in February 2020, declining to 70.9% in June 2023. Mothers with children age 5 and under was 70.8% in February 2020, declining to 65.3% in June 2023<sup>2</sup>.

This Transportation package aims to produce more workers to assist with the numerous construction projects mentioned; however, we cannot expect those workers to be ready if they don't receive the care they need. Legislative packages that aim to produce more workers must also take into account the needs of parent workers.

The ARCC program offers affordable child care for parents participating in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs in specific trades. This program has been running since 2011 and is funded by state highway funds, administered by ODOT, and overseen by BOLI. This would provide parents in apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs in particular trades up to \$2,500 per child per month, with some families not even having to pay a copay, depending on the size of their family and their income. Eligibility for the program includes 1)

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1

[https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/A-Future-Worth-Building\\_What-Tradeswomen-Say\\_FINAL.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/A-Future-Worth-Building_What-Tradeswomen-Say_FINAL.pdf)

2

[https://education.ced.org/documents/childcarestateeconomies/state-sheets/Child%20Care%20in%20States%20Fact%20Sheet\\_Part%201\\_OR.pdf](https://education.ced.org/documents/childcarestateeconomies/state-sheets/Child%20Care%20in%20States%20Fact%20Sheet_Part%201_OR.pdf)

Apprentices in trades relating to highway construction (carpentry, cement masonry, ironworking, etc.) and 2) Apprentices who are working or attending required training. Allocating additional funds to this program in the amount of \$1 million at minimum would not only support the program but also expand it to journeymen up to five years post-apprenticeship.

Family Forward urges the committee to include additional funding allocations to the ARCC program from HB 2025. This will show that Oregon cares for the workers that they are bringing, especially parent workers. Relieving them of the burdens of child care costs will eliminate concern for parents who are worried about having to pick between being able to provide for their families and take care of their young children.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Selina Biniam*

Advocacy Manager  
Family Forward Oregon

