

# THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

*Welcome to the BFD report! As a supporter you can expect this monthly newsletter highlighting the important work you helped make happen.*

[View past BFD Reports here.](#)

[FIRST NAME OR FRIEND],

Spring is a time for planning ahead and digging in. We can take in a collective breath of fresh air and find a renewed sense of optimism for the months ahead. At Family Forward, we are feeling the spring vibes big time!

Can you believe we are already halfway through the 2023 legislative session? We are in the midst of the most consequential year for child care ever, and we are making progress every day. We are happy to report that ALL of our priority policies have survived the initial hurdles to remain moving through the legislative process! This is huge. Our team of dedicated and relentless advocates could not make this happen without supporters like you.

The top priorities of our [2023 Care Agenda](#) all center on fixing our child care crisis and building toward our vision for a universal care system for all families in need. Because of your support, we will spend the second half of session fighting for:

1. Child Care Affordability & Access - Our state-funded child care program (ERDC) currently only serves about 12% of eligible low-income families. This is a shamefully low investment, especially as the child care crisis has reached epic proportions. Our proposal increases public funding to cover many more low-income families and improve access to child care for *all* families.
2. Child Care Workforce Development & Supports - Unfortunately, in Oregon, we see an annual turnover in the child care workforce of between 25-30%. The policies we've proposed will address low compensation in the sector, increase availability of early learning education programs, and transition to a subsidy reflecting the true cost of providing care in order to allow for higher wages.
3. Child Care Infrastructure Investments - Even if tomorrow we somehow had a

sufficient child care workforce, Oregon still would not have the physical space necessary to provide care for all children who need it. We are calling for much more investment in child care infrastructure to match the growing demand for suitable space for safe, affordable, and accessible child care.

## YOUR WINS

- EVERY one of our child care priority bills made it past the work session deadline this month, moving us one step closer to passing critical pieces of our [Child Care Agenda](#) 🙌
- Over 850 child care providers replied to Phase 1 of [The Child Care Capacity Grant Fund!](#) 🧑
- Our Political Team tracked 20+ policy work sessions this month, submitted reems of testimony, and made sure our voices were heard throughout the capitol. 🗣️
- The Joint Ways & Means Committee made their budget [roadshow schedule official](#), and we are hitting the road to advocate for child care funding at every stop along the way! [Join us!](#) 🗺️ 🚗
- We continue to lead the advocacy work to implement and roll out our Paid Family and Medical Leave law from 2019, which is set to start distributing benefits this September, through supporting the [Paid Leave Oregon program](#).
- We are defending our past [Pay Equity](#) policy win from rollbacks, which we passed in 2015, and is under attack from certain employers. 🙏

## YOUR IMPACT

One of our biggest accomplishments this month is the successful launch of the [Child Care Capacity Building grants program](#). In 2022 we passed this policy which created a \$22 million fund by the Oregon State Legislature to provide critical financial support to child care providers and community-based organizations working to expand child care in Oregon. Every county in Oregon is still a child care desert and these grants will help expand access for more children and families, building the infrastructure we need in every corner of the state.

Because of all the work we do in community with child care providers, we already knew that the need was *far greater* than the current fund capacity - but even we were blown away with the extent of the need. When Phase 1 of the grant closed earlier this month, the fund already had over *850 interest forms* totalling more than *\$170 million* in requests. That's 772% more than the current pool of funds can meet and clearly demonstrates how urgent it is that we fully fund child care in Oregon. The demographic data of applicants also shows incredible diversity across race, ethnicity, language, and geography;

- 174 interest forms were in Spanish and over half of the facilities that applied speak Spanish in the care facility.
- Nearly 50% of child care providers are outside of the Portland Metro, demonstrating an impact across the state.
- Most providers sought funds for renovations that would expand their care facility.

We at Family Forward are heartened that so many providers are ready and willing to expand child care facilities in Oregon and are eager to meet the needs of all of our families. Child care providers have always been on the front lines fighting for our kids and we are more motivated than ever to roll up our sleeves and fight together for the child care system Oregon really needs. With all your support, we can't lose.

That's a BFD.

Amy Hojnowski  
Development Director  
Family Forward Action

P.S. Make your voice heard at the Ways and Means Budget Roadshow. Legislators need to hear from our community of parents and caregivers about why investing in child care is good for families, providers, and the economy. [Learn more here!](#)

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