

HB 4098: Winning CHIPS Funds by Strengthening Child Care

Adjusting existing programs is the key to unlocking federal funds

Co-Chief Sponsors: Representatives Jules Walters & Janelle Bynum

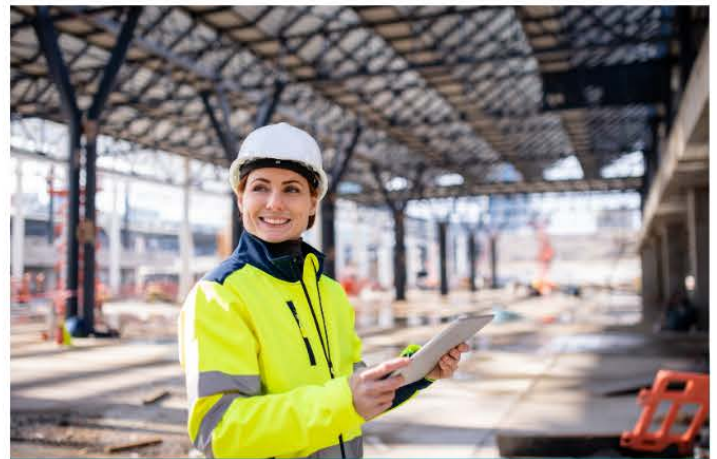
Oregon has an incredible opportunity to win hundreds of millions in federal investment, grow our economy in an equitable way, and make progress toward the child care system we need for Oregon workers and families. With legislative action to strengthen our child care infrastructure in 2024, we can make sure Oregon has the best case in the country to win federal investment.

The CHIPS Act requires robust child care supports

The federal CHIPS Act of 2022 and subsequent federal guidance is clear: business grant applicants will be judged, in part, on their plan to address child care supply and affordability for their facility workers and construction workers.

The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#) estimates that it can take one and a half years to launch a new on-site program, and studies have shown it is challenging for individual businesses to stand up child care assistance programs or centers. Without legislative action, it is very likely that Oregon applicants for federal CHIPS Act funding would be unable to meet this key criteria.

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Research shows that access to reliable child care allows parents—**notably mothers**—to develop necessary skills and training, and increases the pool from which the industry can recruit.

Sources

- US Department of Commerce [guidance](#) for the CHIPS Act
- Child Care Supports for the Construction Trades: Building and Sustaining Diversity in Oregon [Institute for Women's Policy Research report](#)
- [How Child Care in Oregon is Saving the Construction Trade](#): Early Learning Nation, January 30, 2023

SUPPORTERS



Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children





HB 4098: A solution is in reach

We can build off current programs to implement a nationally competitive CHIPS child care program. HB 4098 strengthens our existing child care infrastructure and will better position Oregon applicants to secure significant federal funds.

✓ CHIPS child care requirement: expand child care access for workers

Successful applicants must address workers' needs with child care access opportunities that are affordable, accessible, reliable, high-quality, and responsive. Oregon has an existing program that, if expanded, would meet all of these requirements. The Apprenticeship Related Child Care program, housed at BOLI and currently run with Federal Highway Transportation funds, the program could be expanded with CHIPS funds to target construction trades apprentices and workers with the skills to build CHIPS facilities and provide them with affordable access to child care that works for their families. This program already screens for quality, pays providers directly through Oregon's Employment Related Day Care program, and meets responsiveness objectives without placing a burden on employers to create and manage their own program.

✓ CHIPS child care requirement: grow child care capacity

The CHIPS Act guidance also pushes applicants to address both supply and demand constraints in their communities by investing in child care capacity development strategies. Oregon is in a unique position to meet this requirement by further utilizing existing supports and programs for growing child care supply in the geographic areas and types of care most needed for our construction workforce, to meet the considerations put forth in the CHIPS Act.

INITIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- General Fund
- Any remaining dollars from Oregon CHIPS Fund

FUTURE FUNDING SOURCES

- Federal CHIPS funding
- CHIPS Grantees

STATE TREASURY

CHIPS CHILD CARE FUND

BUSINESS OREGON

- Child Care Facilities and Supply Building activities
- Child Care subsidy for apprentices and post apprenticeship (contract with BOLI)