

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAPITOL DAY

As lawmakers work through the 2025-26 budget process, it is critical we remind them to prioritize young children and their families. Governor Whitmer's recommendations offer several opportunities for you to elevate this need and explain where further improvements can be made.

Early Care and Education: Increase Child Development and Care (CDC) Scholarship reimbursement rates for early childhood providers. This looks like:

- Increasing provider reimbursement rates to more closely align with the true cost of care, ensuring parity for infant and toddler care with recent investments for PreK.
- Developing a comprehensive funding plan that fully supports early childhood professionals, families, and increased, equitable and fair compensation for the workforce in the future.

Early Care and Education: Support the Governor's investments in infant and toddler care. This looks like:

- Meet Governor Whitmer's recommendation to invest \$50 million for MiLEAP to implement prospective payments and other mechanisms for improving the availability of infant and toddler care for families.
- Ensuring prioritization is given to community-based providers (CBOs) in Michigan's expansion of 3-year-old care through Strong Beginnings.
- Increase funding to *Early On*® Michigan by \$24 million, which includes \$300,000 for a task force to examine the state's *Early On*® system.

Maternal and Infant Health: Maintain investments in maternal and infant health. This looks like:

- Supporting Governor Whitmer's recommendation to study continuous Medicaid enrollment for children from birth to age six.
- Maintaining funding for home visiting services and providing a \$2.25 million increase for rural home visiting; better reflecting the true cost of care.
- Sustain the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies investments including doulas, CenteringPregnancy, and RX Kids.
- Passing the Momnibus legislative bill package currently in the Michigan Senate Housing and Human Services Committee.

