



# ECIC Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Priorities

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation advances statewide collaboration and investment to ensure that Michigan's youngest children and their families can thrive. ECIC's FY2027 budget priorities reflect a focused set of public investments that strengthen Michigan's early childhood system, stabilize the child care market, and protect core family supports essential to child well-being and economic participation. Informed by research, evidence-based best practices, and partnerships with communities, these priorities outline how Michigan can build a more coordinated and sustainable early childhood system that supports children prenatally through age five and strengthens communities across the state.

## Early Childhood Funding and Coordination

- **Establish a dedicated early childhood fund** within the state budget to support targeted investments in high impact early childhood programs and services, with a specific focus on the earliest years prenatally to age three. This includes expanding access to infant and toddler child care, strengthening compensation for the early care and education workforce, and investing in major renovations and construction for community based early care and education facilities.
- **Invest state general funds to rebuild and sustain a regional, collaborative early childhood system infrastructure** aligned with other state early childhood system building strategies, with family leadership and voice embedded as a core component. A new investment should rebuild and strengthen local coordination capacity that supports family navigation, cross-sector collaboration, and community informed planning.

## Child Care Access, Affordability, and Workforce Stability

- **Increase Child Development and Care scholarship reimbursement rates** to levels that more accurately reflect the true cost of providing high quality care with an adequately compensated workforce, and implement an annual cost of living adjustment to ensure rates keep pace with inflation and operating costs.
- **Provide funding to implement infant and toddler contracts** or similar mechanisms that expand supply, stabilize providers serving the youngest children, and strengthen the birth through five continuum of early care and education, particularly in high need and underserved communities.
- **Expand access to fair and competitive wages** for the child care workforce by providing dedicated funding to scale the supplemental wage pilot statewide so that all child care businesses in Michigan are able to support recruitment, retention, and long-term workforce stability.

## Family and Child Supports

- **Protect and expand funding for essential family and child supports** that are vulnerable to federal policy and budget changes, including Medicaid, food assistance, and child care supports, recognizing these programs as foundational to child development, family economic stability, and workforce participation.

For more information, please contact **Kelly Walden, Manager, Policy & Outreach**, at [kwalden@ecic4kids.org](mailto:kwalden@ecic4kids.org).