

## OVERVIEW OF THE CHILD CARE CRISIS IN IDAHO

Child care providers across Idaho are dedicated to the families they serve. They lift up their communities by helping parents and caregivers go to work while caring for and nurturing their young children. However, the child care industry has been in crisis with businesses on the verge of closure for the last couple of years. The coronavirus pandemic and workforce shortages have only exacerbated the issue. To address the crisis, Idaho implemented a child care stabilization grant program, called the Idaho Child Care Grant Program, using federal pandemic relief funds passed by Congress. Idaho's use of the stabilization grants has been critical to keeping child care doors open across the state – as 85% of providers in Idaho have depended on these relief funds to stay open.

**85%**

of child care providers utilized the Idaho Child Care Grant Program.



**9 out of 10**

Idaho providers are experiencing workforce shortages.

Idaho's stressed and overburdened child care industry still needs relief. A recent study by Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children found 91 percent of child care providers are experiencing a workforce shortage in Idaho. Providers report:

- They are unable to pay their teachers a competitive wage.
- They need more funds to sustain their business.
- Fear they may lose existing paying customers if they raise their rates.
- Experienced teachers are leaving the industry to earn more in retail settings.

## OUR GOAL FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

1. Urge lawmakers to make quality, affordable child care a top priority.
2. Express public support for the FY2023 Child Care Budget, which will provide over \$100 million in relief grant for child care providers in Idaho.

Visit [idahovoices.org/take-action/](https://idahovoices.org/take-action/) for opportunities to voice your support for child care legislation.

3. Provide input on the Governor's proposed plan to develop more child care options for working families.

## TAKE ACTION!

LIKE, SHARE, and INVITE your networks to [Child Care Provider Appreciation Day](#) on Facebook!

Check out our [Social Media Toolkit](#) to find resources and tools to post on your social platforms on Monday, March 7th!

## CHILD CARE TALKING POINTS

- Currently, Idaho's supply of child care cannot keep up with the demand. We need to take action now to expand child care for working families.
- Our leaders need to prioritize keeping child care providers – hundreds of small businesses – open so that parents can go to work with peace of mind that their children are receiving quality care.
- Parents need access to quality, affordable child care for their kids so they can go to work.
- We need to support child care providers' ability to hire teachers at a competitive wage without passing the buck on to families who are already struggling to make ends meet.
- Child care providers are small business owners who provide a service to their communities. We must invest in them so they can continue to provide desperately needed care despite unexpected economic conditions.