



17

child care providers
received grants in
your district.

AT A GLANCE: CHILD CARE IN DISTRICT 1

Data provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare shows 17 providers were supported through the Idaho Child Care Grant Program in your legislative district since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic relief began in spring 2020. Further, according to IDHW, there are 24 licensed child care providers in all of Bonner County and 67% of those providers participated in the Idaho Child Care Grant Program. These dollars allow providers to provide competitive wages to maintain experienced staff, offset health and safety costs, and other fixed business expenses like their rent or mortgage.

Many providers report they would not have been able to remain open during the pandemic and its associated economic disruptions without these dollars. Continued support remains critical to the success of their business through FY2023. By approving the Department of Health and Welfare's budget request for the Division of Welfare, you will maintain vital funding for child care providers in order to keep their doors open so parents can go to work knowing their child is receiving quality, affordable child care.



Our directors have attended several emergencies child care meetings with businesses in our community. These businesses are in a crisis situation with employees who cannot find quality care.



- Jenna & Carol | Sandpoint Children's Learning Center (Sandpoint)

Child Care is Still in Crisis in Idaho

Idaho's stressed and overburdened child care industry still needs relief. First Steps Alliance believes parents in every corner of the state should have the opportunity to send their children to high quality, affordable child care. While the Idaho Child Care Grant has reached all of Idaho throughout the pandemic, providers report more help is still needed:

- To support competitive wages for teachers.
- To sustain their business and continue providing service to their communities.
- To maintain current rates for Idaho families and continue serving at maximum capacities.
- To decrease teachers leaving the industry for higher paying jobs in retail.

