

Coloring Outside the Lines

A Creative Guide for Business Participation in the Childcare Solution



The Childcare Crisis

- Parents pay an average of \$14,000 annually for one child in Washington
- 61% of Washington children live in homes where all adults work
- 74% of employees in Washington say childcare problems impact work
- 47% of unemployed parents found childcare issues a barrier to seeking employment
- Family childcare providers in WA have decreased about 17% over the last five years and 38% over the last ten years

How to Advocate for Children and Working Parents

Support Parents

- Work to preserve funding for early childhood education
- Support the expansion of best-practice programs for children in rural areas
- Support increased funding for businesses that support working parents
- Work to increase financial support for programs that fund basic needs for families

Support Childcare & Early Education

- Advocate for the expansion of block grant funding for Childcare Resource & Referral Services at all levels of government
- Remove barriers to accessing quality childcare by providing financial resources for low income families, increasing subsidies, and improving the subsidy management system
- Support the creation of systems which will help informal providers improve their quality of care
- Promote the expansion of Universal Pre-K

Support Early Intervention Objectives

- Advocate for the expansion of funding for Early Intervention
- Support proposals to reorganize Early Intervention program delivery, including payment of education specialists and therapists

How Businesses Can Support Employees

- Childcare Subsidies
- Flexible Childcare Spending Accounts
- Back-Up Childcare Assistance
- On-Site Childcare
- Flexible Employee Schedules
- Predictable Employee Schedules

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thurstonchamber.com/childcare-toolkit