

LET'S WORK TOGETHER



How community and civic organizations can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

THE SITUATION

Walla Walla and Columbia counties are **child care deserts**, meaning there are not enough slots to meet basic demand.

The 2021 Walla Walla Valley Child Care Feasibility Study* found

18%  of Walla Walla County families and

96%  of Columbia County families

do not have the child care they need.

In addition, **82%** of 359 Walla Walla Valley families surveyed said child care challenges limited their job performance or career goals.

Local employers are having difficulty attracting and retaining employees, increased employee absenteeism, and decreased productivity due to the need for child care.



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Supporting the local child care system strengthens our community now, helps it thrive in the future, and enables a strong local economy.

Children who receive high-quality early education:



Perform better in school



Are less likely to commit a crime



Are more likely to go to college

For every \$1 invested in child care, communities see up to a \$7 return.



WE CAN ENSURE WALLA WALLA VALLEY FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO THE CHILD CARE THEY NEED BY:

- Increasing the number of licensed child care and early learning slots, especially for infants and toddlers.
- Offering child care and early education at convenient times and locations.
- Improving affordability by helping families and providers access the supports they are eligible for.
- Increasing qualified staff.
- All sectors playing a unique role to address this crisis.

HOW CAN COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS HELP?



Offer discounted services or supplies to child care providers and preschools.



Do service projects for child care providers who operate as small businesses or nonprofits.



Offer to support child care providers with necessary services, such as bookkeeping and marketing.



Advocate for investment in child care and early learning infrastructure at the city, county, and legislative district levels.



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Give information to your employees about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.



Provide space for private child care or preschool programs to operate for a free or reduced price.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space or business.

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How employers can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN BUSINESSES AND OTHER EMPLOYERS HELP?



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Offer to support child care providers with necessary services, such as bookkeeping and marketing.



Consider doing service projects for child care providers who operate as small businesses or nonprofits.



Provide space for private child care or preschool programs to operate for a free or reduced price.



Partner with a child care provider by reserving and expanding slots for your employees.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space or business.



Give information to your employees about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.



Provide employees economic supports like child care tuition assistance, dependent care flexible spending accounts, and information about child care-related tax credits and deductions they may qualify for.



Advocate for public investment in child care and early learning infrastructure at the city, county, and legislative district levels.



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How faith-based organizations can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PLACES OF WORSHIP HELP?



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Offer leasing, co-location, or land for child care providers and preschools.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space.



Provide information about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.

Local examples of this include:

Mustard Seed at First Assembly of God

TKPS at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Ark Day School at Blue Mountain Community Church

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LET'S WORK TOGETHER



How you and your organization can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR SECTOR HELP?



Do service projects for child care providers who operate as small businesses or nonprofits.



Help increase understanding of how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space or business.



Provide space for private child care or preschool programs to operate for a free or reduced price.



Advocate for investment in child care and early learning infrastructure at the city, county, and legislative district levels.



Give information to your employees about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.



Partner with a child care provider by reserving and expanding slots for your employees.



Offer discounted services or supplies to child care providers and preschools.



Promote the child care and early education field as a career and workforce training option.

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How local government can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN CITY, COUNTY, PORTS, HEALTH DISTRICTS, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS HELP?



Prioritize child care and early learning facilities in city and county development through tax credits, special zoning, and streamlined pathways and processes.



Include space for child care centers in new or renovated housing. Offer reduced rent and/or provide improvements to meet licensing requirements.



Promote the child care and early education field as a career and workforce training option.



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community and how the problem can be solved.



Use or designate COVID-19 relief funding for the child care and early education sector.



Give information to your employees about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.



Showcase local child care businesses and/or nonprofits in newsletters, blog posts, webinars and conferences.



Offer land, leasing, or co-location for child care providers and preschools.



Designate specific municipal funding to invest in the child care and early education sector.



Provide space for private child care or preschool programs to operate for a free or reduced price.

Partner with a child care provider by reserving and expanding slots for your employees.

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How philanthropic and economic development organizations can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN PHILANTHROPIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS HELP?



Learn about the operational and financial structure of child care organizations and how that can impact the ability to qualify for loans and build capital. Evaluate if your programs are accessible for child care providers.



Prioritize funding and technical assistance for current or aspiring child care providers operating as small businesses or nonprofits.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space or business.



Offer to support child care providers with necessary services, such as bookkeeping and marketing.



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Showcase local child care businesses and/or nonprofits in newsletters, blog posts, webinars, and conferences.



Advocate for investment in child care and early learning infrastructure at the city, county, and legislative district levels.



Consider doing service projects for child care providers who operate as small businesses or nonprofits.



Offer discounted services or supplies to child care providers and preschools.

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How real estate developers can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS HELP?



Include space for child care centers in new or renovated housing. Offer reduced rent and/or provide improvements to meet licensing requirements.



Provide assistance to child care providers for securing facilities.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space or business.



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Prioritize child care providers as tenants or owners.



Consider doing service projects for child care providers who operate as small businesses or nonprofits.



Offer land, leasing or co-location for child care providers and preschools.

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LET'S WORK TOGETHER



How K-12 schools and institutions of higher education can help increase access to child care for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

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HOW CAN K-12 SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATION HELP?



Work with your employees and community to understand how the lack of child care options negatively impacts families, workers, employers, and our community as a whole as well as how the problem can be solved.



Partner with a child care provider by reserving and expanding slots for your employees.



Promote the child care and early education field as a career and workforce training option.



Offer leasing, co-location, or land for child care providers and preschools.



Allow child care providers to advertise in your community space.



Provide information about local child care providers, after and before-school programs, summer child care options, recreational opportunities, and supports available in times of need.

Local examples of this include:

- The Kids Place at Whitman College
- Bright Beginnings at Walla Walla Community College
- Discovery Preschool at Walla Walla University
- Camp Fire and Tot Spot at Walla Walla Center for Children and Families

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