

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

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of Walla Walla County families and

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:







better in school

Are less likely to commit

likely to go

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



*For the full feasibility study report, including recommendations and the employer guide, please visit https://www.earlylearningwallawalla.org/research/reports.



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

- Increasing the number
 Offering child care of licensed child care and early learning slots, especially for infants and toddlers.
- Improving affordability by helping families and providers access the supports they are eligible for.
- and early education at convenient times and locations.
- 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.



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.



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



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



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.



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

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



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.



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.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

LET'S WORK TOGETHER



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.



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.



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

Local examples of this include:



Mustard Seed at First Assembly of God



at St. Paul's **Episcopal Church**



The Ark Day School at Blue Mountain Community Church

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.



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



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



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.



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.



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



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.



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

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

LET'S WORK **TOGETHER**



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.



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



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



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



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.



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



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.



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.



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



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

PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS

LET'S WORK TOGETHER



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

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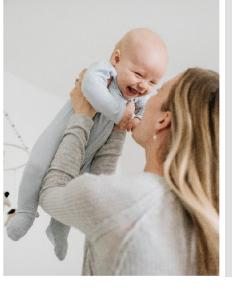
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HOW CAN PHILANTHROPIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **ORGANIZATIONS HELP?**



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.



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.



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



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



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



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.



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



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.



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



Prioritize child care providers as tenants or owners.



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



Provide assistance to child care providers for securing facilities.



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.



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



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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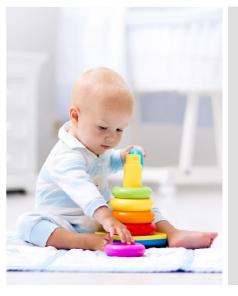
Are less likely to commit a crime

Are more likely to go to college

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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.



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



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.



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



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

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