



IS CHILD CARE PART OF YOUR WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?

Why should Child Care be a part of your economic development plan?

For communities striving to build a strong workforce and attract new businesses, child care needs be part of the conversation. Accessible, affordable, and high-quality child care is essential to workforce participation, productivity, and long-term economic growth.

Here's why:

1. Child Care Strengthens Workforce Participation

Many working parents are impacted by a lack of reliable child care. When child care is inaccessible or unaffordable, businesses suffer from absenteeism, turnover, and reduced employee engagement. Workers cannot work if their children aren't cared for.

2. Talent Attraction & Retention

Communities with strong child care systems are more attractive to both employers and employees. Investing in child care infrastructure can:

- Increase labor force participation
- Reduce turnover rates
- Improve job satisfaction and retention

3. Business & Economic Growth Rely on Family Stability

Thriving families create thriving workforces. A lack of child care leads to lost productivity, decreased earnings, and long-term economic strain..

4. Early Care = Long-Term Workforce Development

High-quality birth - five (5) childhood education is the foundation of a skilled future workforce. Children who have access to strong early care programs are:

- More likely to be K-12 ready
- Better prepared for future job training
- More successful as adults in the workforce

What you can do:

Economic and workforce development leaders are uniquely positioned to drive change.

Here's how:

Include child care in economic development planning

Support local efforts to expand and improve child care access

Engage employers to offer child care solutions, subsidies, and tax credit programs

Advocate for policies that invest in early childhood systems in your community

Investing in child care is investing in your workforce—and your economic growth.

Make it part of your strategy today.

For resources, data, or to learn how to include child care in economic development efforts, contact the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood Care and Development.



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