

# THE WISCONSIN INFANT TODDLER POLICY PROJECT (WITPP)

Advancing a robust policy and legislative action plan to expand high quality, affordable child care and promote optimal child development and wellbeing of Wisconsin's infants and toddlers.



## A CHANGING CHILD CARE LANDSCAPE: EARLY CHILDHOOD IN WISCONSIN

- Pre-COVID-19, 54% of our state's population lived in a child care desert and in the last decade, 9% of group child care and 70% of family child care programs closed.
- Working families with infants and toddlers struggle with child care costs, availability, geographic disparities and waiting lists. Businesses have a hard time filling vacant positions due to potential employee's inability to find child care, while child care programs continue to shut their doors due to low wages for early child educators.
- Today, 25%-30% of our pre-COVID-19 child care slots are now in temporarily or permanently closed programs, which translates to a loss of approx. 50,000 regulated child care slots.
- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recently released a [survey](#) showing that without a major federal relief package, up to 80% of child care programs will be closed by or before Summer of 2021.



## WISCONSIN INFANT TODDLER POLICY PROJECT BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Create an infant toddler stabilization fund that is targeted at programs operating below full capacity: Cost-\$30 million annually.
- Expand the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy for low income parents:
  - Increase program eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit to help working parents stay in the workforce: Cost-\$6.4 million annually
  - Increase subsidy reimbursement rate to 75% of market rate for infant and toddler care, which is the most expensive age group in care: Cost-\$13.7 million annually.
- Create a pilot program in high need areas of the state where slots for 50 infant and toddler classrooms would be reimbursed at the actual cost of care: Cost-\$9.9 million annually.



For more information on the WITPP visit: [wisconsinearlychildhood.org/WITPP](https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/WITPP)

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