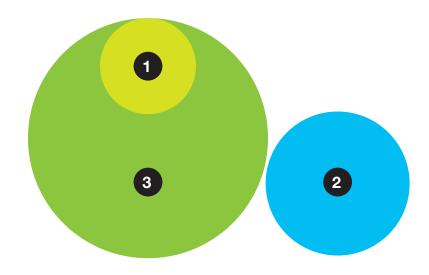
Yes, Delaware is Still in a Child Care Crisis. Here's Why.



Delaware has a child care crisis on its hands—causing families to scramble for care, find themselves on long waitlists, or refuse job opportunities because they don't have reliable child care.

Federal resources will help inject short-term lifelines to the child care industry—but without a long-term state-level plan for supporting child care, Delaware will remain behind.



1

Delaware's Low Investment in Child Care

Delaware provides a subsidy called Purchase of Care to help cover child care tuition for families in need. But this funding level doesn't come close to covering the true cost of care.

Low state subsidy rate leads to:

> Lack of supply providers report turning away dozens of families each week

Low wages

Low
quality care—
workforce is not
certified and many
have minimal
training

2

Federal Funds Solve Only New Problems

Providers were already in a crisis before the pandemic.

Costs
are up 40%
... along with
staffing shortages,
low enrollment, and
increased personal
protective equipment
(PPE) costs.

Federal relief funding will cover personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance, COVID-related supplies, items needed to provide care, mental health supports, and other costs associated with the pandemic.

3

The Need: What it Costs to Provide High-Quality Child Care

Here's what it would take to invest in a more realistic market rate:

\$40 million

to increase
Purchase of Care
and cover new
minimum wage
requirements

\$40 million

is a step toward the long-term goal of quality early learning opportunities for all Delaware children.