



2022 Candidate Child Care Brief

Let's Grow Kids, together with 35,000 supporters of Vermont's Child Care Campaign, including community organizations, business leaders, parents, and early childhood educators, are on a mission to transform Vermont's child care system. Vermonters agree that children and families should have equitable access to high-quality, affordable child care they need for a strong start in life, and that early childhood educators should be well compensated and supported to do their essential work. In 2023, we are ready to make this vision a reality, through policy change and sustained, dedicated investment to support Vermont's children, families, early childhood educators, businesses, and communities.

As you campaign in your community, here's what you need to know:

Vermont's child care crisis affects everyone.

- [3 out of 5 of Vermont's youngest children](#) do not have access to the child care they need.
- When families do find care, many are spending more than 30% of their household income on child care, even with financial assistance. (More expensive than college tuition!)
- [676 new child care businesses and 2,500 additional early childhood educators are needed to meet the child care needs of Vermonters.](#)
- Early childhood educators are underpaid and undervalued. [According to a recent statewide survey](#), 86% of center-based child care programs are experiencing staffing shortages, and compensation for early childhood educators ranks in the bottom 2% of all occupations nationwide.
- Without equitable access to a high-quality and affordable child care system, Vermont cannot fully recover from the pandemic.
- We need high quality, affordable child care to grow our workforce, support young families, and set our youngest residents up for future success in school, work, and life.

There is a solution.

When we transform child care in Vermont, everyone will benefit:

- Nearly 9,000 additional children will have equitable access to the care they need to prepare for a strong start in life.
- Child care will be truly affordable, and no family will spend more than 10 percent of their income on care.
- Vermont's early childhood education workforce will be skilled and stable, because educators are well compensated and supported.
- 5,000 additional parents (especially mothers) will be able to participate in the workforce.
- Vermont's economy will see immediate and sustained benefits from child care investment. New estimates predict that the economic impact of a publicly funded, comprehensive child care system in Vermont could exceed \$755 million per year, saving Vermont households \$99 million annually.

We've made progress, but there's further to go.

- Legislation passed (H.171/Act 45) and investments made during the 2021-2022 legislative biennium have laid the foundation for our future work to realize our vision for a transformed child care system. Experts are currently analyzing costs and potential funding and governance mechanisms for the system of the future through two studies, and will deliver results to the General Assembly in 2023.
- In 2023, through policy change and sustained, dedicated investment, we can achieve equitable, high-quality, affordable child care for all children from birth to five. That means children will be able to access care where and when they need it, families will spend no more than 10% of their household income on child care, and early childhood educators will be well compensated and supported for their essential work.

This is where you come in.

In the 2023-2024 biennium, we need all elected officials to make child care their number one priority. This means they must support and pass legislation that includes a sustained, dedicated investment to make this vision for Vermont's child care system a reality. When this is successful, child care will be a sustainable industry that supports the healthy development of Vermont's youngest children and contributes to the economy as the workforce behind the workforce. We hope that you will join us in ensuring a brighter future for all Vermonters.

For more information, please contact: info@lgkan.org



LET'S GROW KIDS
Action Network

CHILD CARE IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.