



2024 Candidate Child Care Brief

Let's Grow Kids, together with 40,000+ supporters of the Child Care Campaign, are on a mission to transform Vermont's child care system. Vermonters agree that children and families should have equitable access to the 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.

This past legislative biennium, we passed Act 76: a first-of-its-kind child care law that includes long-term public investment to stabilize our child care sector; provides access to affordable, quality child care for thousands of Vermonters who need it; and makes Vermont a more affordable place for families. But we haven't fully solved the child care crisis, yet.

Here's how you can TALK about child care when campaigning in your community:

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 up to 30% of their household income on child care.
- Over 2300 additional early childhood educators are needed to meet the child care needs of Vermonters.
- We need 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.

When we fully solve the child care crisis, then:

- Vermont's economy will see a 3:1 return on every dollar invested in quality child care.
- No family will spend more than 10 percent of their household income on child care.
- Vermont's early childhood education workforce will be professionally compensated and well-resourced, which will result in more child care capacity growth overall.
- Thousands of additional parents (especially mothers) will be able to participate in the workforce.



We've made historic progress.

In 2023, Vermont passed historic legislation — Act 76 — and proved that solving the child care crisis with sustainable public investment is within reach.

Act 76 is already making a difference. Public investment in child care over the last year has led to the creation of 1000+ new child care spaces statewide and early childhood educators are beginning to see increased compensation and benefits.

In April, Act 76 expanded income eligibility for child care tuition assistance, which has started making child care more affordable for families. Now, a family of four earning \$124,800 per year with two young children may qualify for tuition assistance, saving them as much as \$260 per week! In October, a second, even bigger expansion may qualify 7,000+ additional Vermont children and their families for child care tuition assistance.

But there's more work to fully solve our child care crisis.

This is where you come in.

On the campaign trail this election cycle, we need all candidates to help us continue to elevate child care as a top issue for Vermonters. This election is critical to building on our collective progress as a state and showing that Vermonters are serious about fully solving our child care crisis.

In the 2025-2026 biennium, we need all elected officials to maintain the momentum on solving Vermont's child care crisis. This means policymakers must continue to make progress towards this vision for Vermont's child care system.

When we fully solve this crisis, child care will be a sustainable industry that supports Vermont's youngest children and their families and boosts our economy and workforce. We hope that you will join us in ensuring a brighter future for all Vermonters.



CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL. LEARN MORE AT [LGKAN.ORG](https://lgkan.org)

LET'S GROW KIDS
Action Network