

Child-Friendly Communities

HB 24-1237: Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities

Representatives Bradfield and Lukens; Senators Marchman and Rich

A “child-friendly community” is one in which the needs of children and families can be met close to home or work. The availability of child care is critical to a thriving community and economy. This legislation seeks to create a **more favorable environment for the development, creative reuse, and community integration of facilities for child care** in Colorado.

Why? The processes to open a family child care home or commercial child care center are often lengthy, confusing, and costly. Colorado is missing out on many opportunities to expand access to child care because **potential partners get stuck** in navigating these challenges. We have an opportunity to **expand access to child care** by reducing operating costs, freeing up capital for other costs such as staffing, and paving the way for a more sustainable child care business model.

This legislation helps to reduce costs and burden for child care by providing the technical planning, building, construction, and development supports needed to increase child care capacity in communities. This legislation creates **incentives** and **support** for local governments, private partners, developers, and child care providers to:

- Formally recognize the critical value of child care in community planning and development
- Create regulatory alignment and simplification
- Navigate the process of creating or developing a child care facility
- Access capital to help with development or renovation for new child care spaces

LEGISLATION COMPONENTS

Program	Description
Child Care Development Technical Assistance	Create a support mechanism including training, web resources, and technical assistance to support local governments, private developers, and child care providers with the development of new family and commercial child care facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Navigate the technical requirements for creating child care facilities● Build capital stacks and identify appropriate locations that will support the development of new child care facilities● Understand local planning and regulatory best practices to address child care needs, supply constraints, and affordability● Expert consultants and technical experts to advise and support the implementation of recommended solutions
Child-Friendly Communities Planning Grant	Create a grant program to help local government accelerate the development of new family and commercial child care facilities by taking actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hiring assistance to evaluate and adopt local policies to support child care development● Conducting a local land and facility inventory● Developing and/or implementing aligned regulatory requirements and streamlined review and approval processes/timelines
Child Care Development Capital Fund	Funding to directly support the development of family and commercial child care facilities that meet a demonstrable need in a community. Local governments may apply independently or in partnership with a non-profit or private partner.

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