



# CHILD CARE: ND LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

During the 2023 ND Legislative Session, lawmakers passed historic legislation to address availability, affordability, and quality in child care. The resulting initiatives made important strides, especially in supporting low-income families and increasing infrastructure needs. However, further adjustments are required to effectively address affordability for middle-income families, expand access to quality care, and engage more providers in quality improvement programs.

Significant opportunities exist to refine child care strategies by focusing resources on proven initiatives and leveraging insights gained to date. The following solutions are recommended based on comprehensive analysis of 2023-2025 Biennium child care related appropriations and multiple surveys issued to child care providers, education leaders, families, and business and economic development stakeholders to gauge where challenges still exist within the child care ecosystem.

Access full report: [www.ndafterschoolnetwork.com/afterschool-policy/](http://www.ndafterschoolnetwork.com/afterschool-policy/)

## Workforce Solutions

- Program Stabilization Funding to increase capacity and stabilize costs allowing programs to recruit and retain a quality workforce.
- Expand Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) support to middle-income families.
- Boost Business Engagement with clear communication to increase awareness of programs like the Working Parents Child Care Relief Program (WPCCR).
- Tax Incentives for Business Community Involvement in Child Care

## Stability & Infrastructure Solutions

- Provide Additional Infrastructure Funding to increase quality child care slots 0 - 12 years old across the state.
- Criminal History Background Checks: Continue to monitor progress, streamline, and reduce approval wait time.
- Invest in Out-of-School Time Programs and expand quality support beyond ages 0 - 5.
- Expand the ND Shared Services Alliance to save providers time, improve cash flow and revenue, support and manage staff, and improve communication.



### North Dakota Afterschool Network

Kristin Knorr  
701-997-2614  
[kristin.knorr@k12.nd.us](mailto:kristin.knorr@k12.nd.us)  
[www.ndafterschoolnetwork.com](http://www.ndafterschoolnetwork.com)



### Child Care Aware of North Dakota

Keely Ihry  
701-997-2472  
[keely.ihry@k12.nd.us](mailto:keely.ihry@k12.nd.us)  
[www.ndchildcare.org](http://www.ndchildcare.org)