



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investing in Arizona's Workforce **Child Care Provider Appreciation Day**

PHOENIX - (May 6, 2022) In honor of [Governor Doug Ducey's proclamation](#) of Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today new financial support for the Arizona child care network, which prioritizes the recruitment and retention needs of those who care for and educate Arizona's young children. DES estimates an additional \$13 million each month from July through the end of June 2023 will be awarded to child care providers for the child care workforce.

These additional [Child Care Stabilization Grant](#) funds will provide further support and recognition of these professionals as the foundation of Arizona's workforce infrastructure, allowing parents to continue to return to the workforce confidently, knowing that their children are being cared for in safe and nurturing environments. Child care providers who have already received Child Care Stabilization Grant funding are also able to apply for additional funds for child care professionals' wages, benefits, and recruitment and retention incentives. Additional financial support will also be provided to Arizona's family home child care providers, an essential component for a strong early care and education system.

"The importance of child care professionals cannot be understated," said DES Director Michael Wisheart. "Their contributions to our communities have been recognized and valued by Arizona's children, families, and employers. We continue to pursue every opportunity to prioritize our child care partners so they can further support Arizona's economic growth."

Since March 2020, DES and its state, local and community partners have invested over \$100 million in federal Child Care and Development relief funds, with focused attention on stabilizing and strengthening the capacity of child care providers to serve children and families, ensuring care for essential workers, increasing access to quality child care, and expanding key supports for children experiencing maltreatment.

"The child care workforce is critical for both supporting children's development and for working parents who must rely on access to care," said Barbie Prinster, Executive Director for the Arizona Early Childhood Education Association. "In order to keep child care open, we must recognize and compensate the workforce of early childhood educators and child care professionals, and this Stabilization grant and other funding has been a lifeline for child care providers, and for Arizona's families."

The Child Care Stabilization Grant Workforce funding announcement coincides with a statewide campaign called, "[Little Moments. Big Impact](#)," which focuses on the critical need to provide access to quality child care for Arizona's children and families. By becoming a DES Certified Family Child Care Provider, or a member of the child care profession, Arizonans can make a big impact for children, communities, and the economy.

For additional information on Arizona's Child Care Recovery Plan and the DES Division of Child Care, please visit: des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care.

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