#### HB 1540 Implementation Update

December 18, 2023

Interim Human Services Committee | Representative Matt Ruby, Chairman Presented by: Jessica Thomasson, Executive Director, Human Services, NDHHS



#### House Bill 1540 ND Child Care Initiative

A strategy of both comprehensive and targeted investment



#### Target investments to ages 0-3

- ✓ Age of highest developmental return for children
- ✓ Period of greatest economic pressure for most young families
- ✓ Critical decision point for individuallevel decisions about how/if to rejoin the labor force
- ✓ Focus on working families employed in occupations where compensation doesn't offset the cost of child care needed to enable work



### Embrace an all-of-the-above approach to child care

- ✓ Quality early experiences can happen anywhere.
- ✓ Working families should have meaningful choices about child care.
- ✓ Principles of quality are knowable and transferrable to any setting.
- ✓ Sustainable child care businesses will support more sustainability within the workforce.

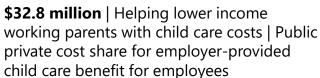


# Help working parents provide for their families by supporting employment, training and education goals

- ✓ Benefits are scaled to family need.
- ✓ Employers have meaningful vehicles to remediate child care as a barrier to work.
- ✓ There are opportunities for children who are least likely to have access to quality early childhood experiences.

## Child care is a workforce solution that can make a difference for ND employers







**\$24.8 million** | Payments for Infant and Toddler care | Supporting more sustainable operations for child care entrepreneurs | Care during non-traditional hours | Child care worker career pathways | Criminal background checks



**\$8 million** | Scholarships and Incentives for child care worker professional development | Connecting child care payments to quality

## **Supporting Working Families | Strengthening our Workforce**ND Child Care Initiative

House Bill 1540, 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

- ✓ 1. Conduct annual child care rate study including both market and cost base (Sec 1)
  - 2. Reduce max household income for CCAP from 85% to 75% SMI (Sec 3; impl July 1 2025)
- ✓ 3. Invest in the Child Care Assistance Program (\$22M) (Sec 5.1)
- ✓ 4. Increase provider payments for infant and toddler care (\$15M) (Sec 5.2)
- 5. Establish quality-based tiers in the CCAP payment schedule (\$3M) (Sec 5.3)
- € 6. Eliminate CCAP family co-pay when income <30% SMI (\$2.3M) (Sec 2 and Sec 5.4)
- ✓ 7. CCAP application assistance and outreach (\$500k) (Sec 5.5)
- ✓ 8. Extend ND's employer-led child care cost sharing program (\$5M) (Sec 5.6)
- 9. Support child care providers with grants and shared services (\$7M) (Sec 5.7)
  - 10. Partnerships for care provided during non-traditional hours (\$1.8M) (Sec 5.8)
- ✓ 12. Quality infrastructure to support excellence in service delivery (\$3M) (Sec 5.10)
- ✓ 13. Streamline and automate background check process (\$1M) (Sec 5.11)
- ✓ 14. State of ND participation in matching employee child care benefit (\$3M) (Sec 6)





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- √ Child Care Assistance (CCAP) operating
- ✓ CCAP Infant/Toddler Payment Boost – **Aug 2023**
- ✓ CCAP 0% co-pay for households <30% SMI Jul 2023
- ✓ CCAP Quality Tiers in CCAP Dec 2023
- ✓ Working Parent Child Care Relief employer-led cost share program (WPCCR) – operating
- ✓ WPCCR opt-in for State of ND as employer Aug 2023
- Affordability



- ✓ Grants for Health/Safety and Inclusion Oct 2023
- ✓ Start-up / Expansion Grants Oct 2023
- ✓ Shared Service Alliance Oct 2023
- ✓ Demonstration projects for care during non-traditional hours Q2 24 (est)

**Availability** 



- ✓ CC worker training stipends operating
- ✓ Annual quality grant awards for all QRIS-rated programs – Sept 2023
- ✓ Best in Class and Waterford Upstart – Aug 2023 start for 23-24 year awards / enrollment

- ✓ Background check automation — in progress; anticipate roll out **Q4 2024** (est)
- √ Fingerprint stations –fully implemented Jan 2024 (est)
- ✓ Increased capacity for QRIS cohorts Aug 2023
- ✓ Improvements to parent CCAP experience **Q1 2024** (est)
- ✓ Coaching capacity for licensed programs Aug 2023

Quality



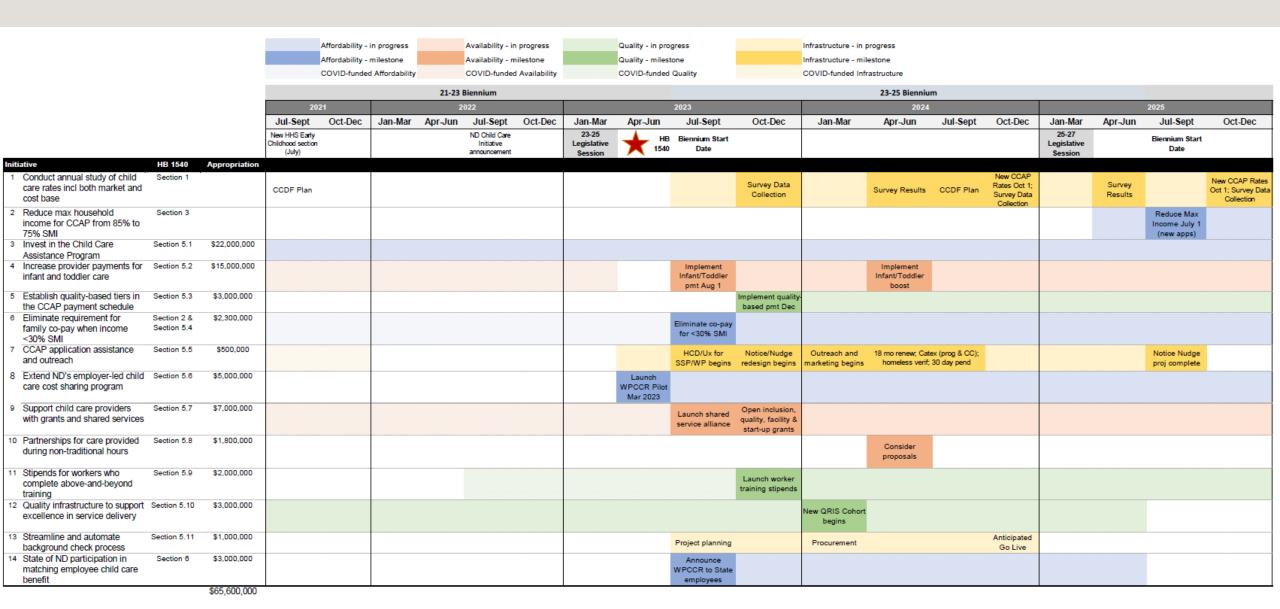
Infrastructure





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#### For more information

https://www.hhs.nd.gov/childcare

https://www.hhs.nd.gov/applyforhelp/ccap

https://www.hhs.nd.gov/wpccr

https://ndchildcare.org

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