



Let's Raise Child Care Subsidy Rates!

Call Script and Email Template

Call Script:

Call your state Senator, state Representative, and Governor Whitmer and use this script to urge them to increase investment in the child care subsidy:

Hello, my name is [first and last name] and I am [your lawmaker's title and name]'s constituent. I am a [child care business owner, early childhood educator, parent, etc]. I was very disappointed that the legislature allowed child care subsidy rates to drop 26% when federal funds ran out, instead of investing state dollars. Prior to the cut, increased rates were keeping child care provider's doors open, improving the quality of their care, and enabling them to increase their teacher's wages.

The 26% rate cut is forcing providers to make the impossible decision between raising tuition for private-pay families, investing less in their program, or cutting wages.

Over 1,200 Michigan providers are projected to close as a result of the rate cut, leaving over 56,000 young children without child care.

Considering the urgency of this matter, please invest \$160 million to increase child care subsidy rates to a more realistic level for providers. Thank you!

(Also share how this change will personally impact you as a child care business owner, early childhood teacher, parent, employer in another industry, etc. Remind them that the stability of Michigan's child care subsidy has reverberating impacts across our economy and education system.)

Contact info: [state Senator search](#), [state Representative search](#), [contact Governor Whitmer](#)

Email Template:

Email your state Senator, state Representative, and Governor Whitmer and use this template to urge them to increase investment in the child care subsidy:

Hello [your lawmaker's title and name],

My name is [first and last name] and I am a [child care business owner, early childhood educator, parent, etc] and a constituent of [your lawmaker's title and name]. I live in [your town/city/zip code so they know you are a constituent]. I was very disappointed that the legislature allowed child care subsidy rates to drop 26% when federal funds ran out, instead of investing state dollars.

The federal government boosted child care subsidy rates throughout the pandemic which brought subsidy payments closer to the true cost that child businesses actually incur providing high quality early education, but this federal funding has reached an end, and Michigan's FY2024 budget did not invest sufficient state funding to maintain these subsidy rates.

Prior to the cut, increased rates have kept child care provider's doors open, improved the quality of their care, and allowed them to increase their teacher's wages and job retention. Low subsidy rates have prevented many providers from accepting families using a subsidy, so until recently, increased rates made it more financially feasible for providers to join the subsidy program. This is no longer the case.

The 26% rate cut is forcing child care providers across the state to make the impossible decision between raising tuition for private-pay families, investing less in the quality of their program, or cutting wages and losing teachers. It will shutter child care businesses across the state, dramatically impacting the availability of child care for working families in every community. The Century Foundation projects that this rate reduction will cause [1,261 child care businesses to fold, leaving over 56,000 of Michigan's youngest without high quality early care and education.](#)

Considering the urgency of this matter, please invest \$160 million to increase child care subsidy rates to a more realistic level for providers.

Thank you for your consideration, and please reach out if you have questions!

[Your name]

(Also share how this change will personally impact you as a child care business owner, early childhood teacher, parent, employer in another industry, etc. Remind them that the stability of Michigan's child care subsidy has reverberating impacts across our economy and education system.)

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