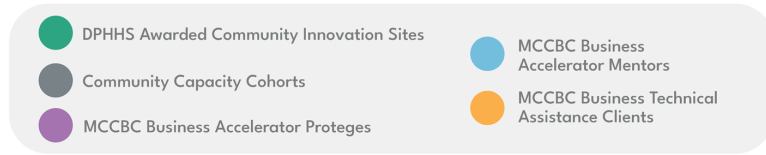
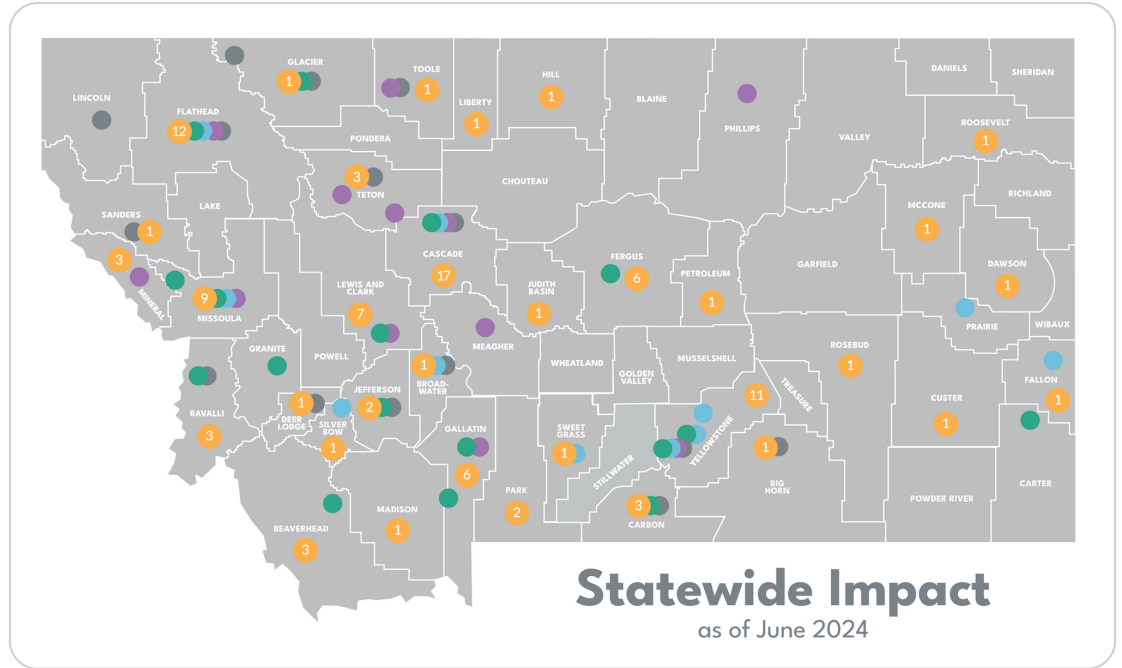


Montana Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC) two year implementation* highlights:

MCCBC has assisted new entrepreneurs to start 20 ECE businesses across the state.

MCCBC has supported the creation of 484 new licensed care spots

\$6.7M of non-grant equity and debt invested in these companies, creating 132 new jobs.



**this data is calculated from our Technical Assistance program and from self-reported data by clients.*

Through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Supplemental Grant awarded by Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services, Zero to Five Montana launched the Montana Child Care Business Connect program in June 2022.

This new program, designed to address Montana’s shortage of high quality affordable child care, is a statewide initiative providing training, consultation, and individualized technical assistance to child care businesses, employers, community leaders, and entrepreneurs.

MCCBC has launched an online resource hub, is developing a business cost modeling tool, has convened ARPA grantees for a community child care summit in November 2022, and held two, 2-day summits in September 2023 & August 2024 offering professional development, best practices discussions and information from national experts.

FAMILY FORWARD MONTANA

A program designed to enhance families' health and wellness, while simultaneously maintaining Montana's competitive business edge. Led by employers, this initiative aims to broaden access to research-based, family-friendly practices that can improve workplace productivity, recruitment, and retention. By doing so, we can build a robust economy and support parents and families in the workplace.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Supported 14 communities through focused cohorts and 33 through direct TA, in developing child care infrastructure strategies for employers and families in communities across Montana to expand local child care access. Also supported the 30 child care community innovation grantee sites through a community of practice ending in May 2024.

BUSINESS ACCELERATOR MENTORSHIP

Successfully paired 10 experienced small business leaders with 14 new or expanding child care businesses for a guided process to a successful business launch. The mentorship functions as a hybrid business incubator and professional development program.

Since the program launched in May 2023, 9 protegés have started new child care businesses and 2 businesses are expected to open before the end of the year.

THEORY OF CHANGE



Interactive Workshops **Individual Consultation** **Community Capacity Building** **Peer Business Mentoring** **Web-based Resource Center**

ENGAGEMENT

- 57 workshops
- 939 participants earning ECP credits
- 91% of participants felt more knowledgeable about the topic after the training

MCCBC interactive workshops provide value, avoid duplication, and balance local and national content.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION

Individual consultation responded to 233 inquiries and 122 clients from across the state and provided 1162 hours of consultation. 47% of participants engaged in more than 4 hours of consultation. Most frequent topics include general start up assistance, budgeting, accounting, and financial projections, and community partnerships.

TESTIMONIALS

“The current child care shortages are not unique to just one region but affect the entire state. It is not only impacting child care businesses but also affects Montana's workforce. As an economic developer, I am witnessing MCCBC's success firsthand and understand that successful child care businesses are essential for the well-being of our communities.”

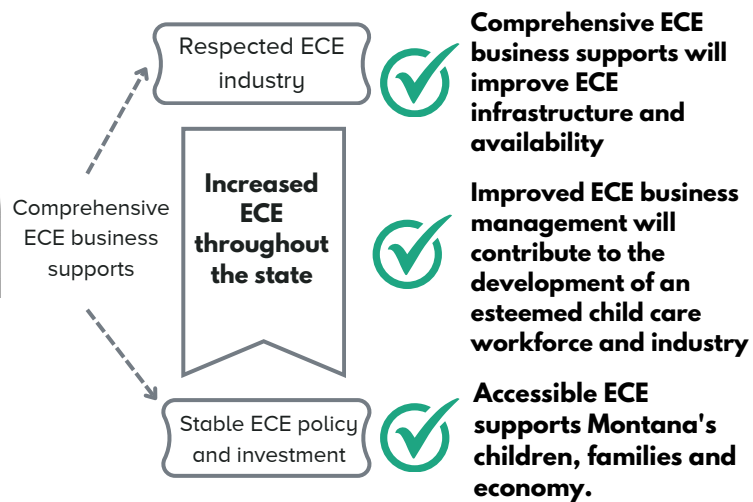
-Lizzy Robertson

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, Terry, MT

Our participation in this program has enabled us to collaborate with local and state offices, as well as other providers, and gain crucial information for high-quality child care. We've been able to voice concerns, propose solutions, and implement innovative policies and programs. These advancements have aided in staff recruitment and retention, and have opened new opportunities for local families.

-Kaycee Hodges

Kid Kountry Child Development Center, Billings, MT



Comprehensive ECE business supports will improve ECE infrastructure and availability

Improved ECE business management will contribute to the development of an esteemed child care workforce and industry

Accessible ECE supports Montana's children, families and economy.

OUR PARTNERS

Local community, tribal, state and national partners are critical to our collective work to increase child care capacity across MT. Here are just a few of the partners of MCCBC:

- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
- Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
- Montana Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Center
- Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC)
- First Children's Finance
- Ready Nation
- Minneapolis Federal Reserve
- Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies
- RAISE MT
- Child Care Referral & Resource agencies
- State and local chambers of commerce
- Local and statewide economic development agencies
- Local Early Childhood Coalitions
- And more!