

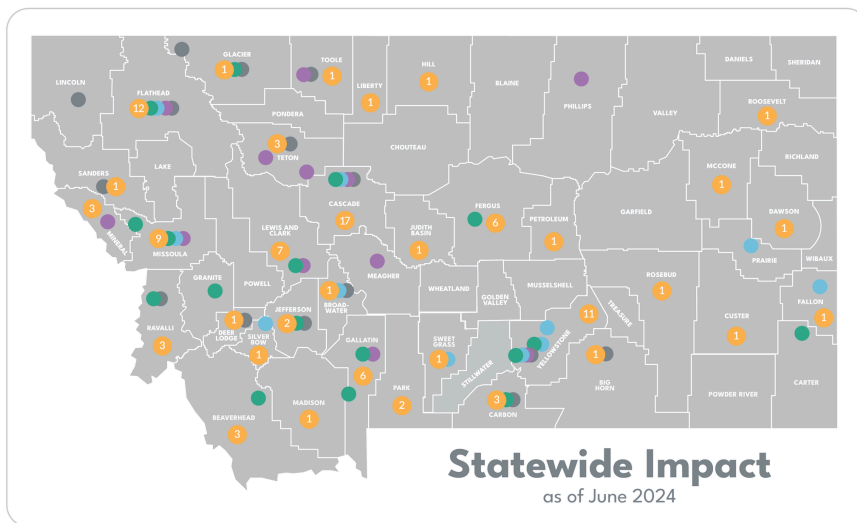
Montana Child Care Business Connect

IMPACT SUMMARY: OCTOBER 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Supplemental Grant awarded by Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services in 2022, Zero to Five Montana launched Montana Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC) – a statewide initiative designed to address the state’s shortage of high quality, affordable child care; and provide training, consultation and technical assistance to child care businesses, employers, community leaders and entrepreneurs.

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

Montana Child Care Business Connect implementation* highlights:



- DPHHS Awarded Community Innovation Sites
- Community Capacity Cohorts
- MCCBC Business Accelerator Mentors
- MCCBC Business Technical Assistance Clients
- MCCBC Business Accelerator Proteges

- MCCBC has assisted new entrepreneurs to start **24 ECE businesses** across the state.
- MCCBC has supported the creation of **656 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.*

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 2024 – in total, 11 child care businesses have been established due to the business accelerator mentorship program.

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. Funding aided in building case studies and resources, further supporting employers as they work to engage in child care initiatives.



CHILD CARE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

- 60 workshops
- 939 participants earning Early Childhood Project 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 135 clients from across the state and provided 1,292 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.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Local community, tribal, state and national partners are critical to our collective work to increase child care capacity across Montana. Here are just a few of the partners that have worked together to support impact:

- 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!

zerotofive.org

Resource hub - childcarebusinessconnect.com

These programs are funded in part or full under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.