As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 41

Representatives White, A., Roemer

Cosponsors: Representatives Troy, Deeter, Williams, Odioso, Robb Blasdel, Young, Plummer, Johnson, Ray

A BILL

То	establish certain child care grant programs,	1
	including those related to child care capacity	2
	and learning labs, and to make an appropriation.	3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. All items in thi	s act are hereby	appropriated		4
as designated out of any moneys	in the state treas	ury to the		5
credit of the designated fund. For	or all operating a	ppropriations		6
made in this act, those in the fi	irst column are fo	r fiscal year		7
2026 and those in the second colu	umn are for fiscal	year 2027.		8
The operating appropriations made	e in this act are	in addition to		9
any other operating appropriation	ns made for these	fiscal years.		10
Section 2.				11
				12
1 2 3		4	5	

KID DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

B General Revenue Fund

Α

C GRI	830412	Child Care Grants	\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000	
D TO	AL GRF Genera	al Revenue Fund	\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000	
E TO	AL ALL BUDGE	FUND GROUPS	\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000	
C	IILD CARE GRA	NTS		13	
(2) Of the for	egoing appropriation	n item 830412, Chil	d Care 14	
Grants,	\$10,000,000	in each fiscal year	shall be used by t	the 15	
Departm	ent of Childr	en and Youth to adm.	inister, in consult	cation 16	
with th	e Department	of Development and	JobsOhio, a grant p	orogram 17	
to assi	st employers	in retrofitting or	equipping their ons	site or 18	
near-si	ce child care	facilities, in buil	lding new child car	re 19	
facilit	les, or in pa	rtnering with child	care providers,	20	
governm	ent entities,	nonprofit organiza	tions, or others or	n 21	
initiat	ves to creat	e child care capaci	ty within their	22	
communi	ies to suppo	rt the workforce. The	ne program's aim sh	nall be 23	
to incr	ase the avai	lability of child ca	are in communities	across 24	
Ohio an	l to aid in b	usiness growth and	recruitment in this	25	
state.				26	
U	der the prog	ram, any entity may	apply for a grant,	but, 27	
in awar	ling grants,	the Department of Cl	nildren and Youth s	shall 28	
give pr	ority to the	following applican	t types: employers	29	
seeking	child care f	or their employees'	children; governme	ent 30	
entitie	s, nonprofit	organizations, and	other community	31	
partner	ships seeking	to expand child car	re capacity for the	32	
workfor	ce in the com	munities they serve	; or any combination	on of 33	
these a	plicant type	s. To be eligible fo	or an award, an app	olicant 34	
must de	nonstrate tha	t the applicant's fa	acility or applicar	nt's 35	
partner	provides, or	intends to provide	, publicly funded o	child 36	
care an	d participate	s, or intends to par	rticipate, in the s	state's 37	

tiered quality rating and improvement system. An applicant also	38
shall submit a plan for ongoing sustainability to support its	39
capacity expanding initiative and shall identify the needs and	40
gaps its initiative would address.	41

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Not more than \$750,000 shall be awarded to each grant 42 recipient, and the recipient shall use the award only for the 43 purposes described in this division. 44

45 In addition, as part of the program and in an effort to aid business growth and recruitment in this state, the 46 Department of Development, in coordination with JobsOhio and the 47 Department of Children and Youth, shall create additional 48 incentives for new or existing businesses to expand child care 49 capacity or child care support for the state's workforce. 50

- (B) (1) Of the foregoing appropriation item 830412, Child Care Grants, \$250,000 in each fiscal year shall be used by the Department of Children and Youth to contract with an entity to establish a cohort comprised of recipients of child care-related grants awarded by the Department, create an Employer-Based Child Care Co-Design Learning Lab, and develop tools and resources in order to train and support future child care grant applicants and other employers, government entities, or nonprofit organizations interested in expanding child care capacity.
- (2) The entity selected shall coordinate education and knowledge-sharing among the grant recipients and cohorts, as well as provide technical assistance to these entities. The entity shall collaborate with grant recipients to collect and measure data, outcomes, and best practices, all as prescribed by the Department of Children and Youth. The entity shall prepare a report compiling the foregoing data, outcomes, and best practices and submit copies of it to the Department, Governor,

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and members of the General Assembly. The Department shall assist

the entity in making the report available on the web site

maintained by the Department.

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- (3) The entity selected also shall establish an employer-71 based child care co-design learning lab program. The program's 72 aim shall be twofold: to assist employers, including businesses, 73 government entities, and nonprofit organizations, in learning 74 how to form partnerships and best fund, including by utilizing 75 tax credits, grants such as those available under this section, 76 77 and employer contributions and other opportunities as necessary 78 to create onsite or near-site child care spots or facilities and to identify other innovative strategies to expand child care 79 capacity in their communities. The program shall prioritize 80 rural and underserved areas of this state. Each design lab may 81 be regionally based and provide four to six months of intensive 82 learning to employer participants. Participants shall learn 8.3 processes and develop knowledge and competencies to plan, 84 organize, and find operations partners, to create long-term 8.5 financial modeling and business plans, to partner with community 86 stakeholders and organizations, and to apply for grants, 87 including those awarded by the Department. The program shall 88 emphasize the importance of operations partners, shall provide 89 participants with sample requests for proposals, and shall 90 encourage engagement with community and regional workforce 91 leadership. 92
- (4) Additionally, the entity selected shall design an

 employer tool kit and other resources as determined by the

 Department of Children and Youth, in consultation with JobsOhio

 and the Department of Development, that may be used to educate

 employers on issues impacting, and solutions improving, employee

 access to child care. The tool kit shall include, but not be

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limited to, all of the following topics:	99
(a) Strategies to expand child care capacity;	100
(b) Any information, competencies, best practices, and	101
other resources identified in the co-design lab program	102
described in this division;	103
(c) Procedures for applying for available child care-	104
related federal, state, and local tax credits and creating child	105
care-related flexible spending accounts or other employee	106
benefit supports;	107
(d) Any other resources identified by the Department of	108
Children and Youth, in consultation with JobsOhio and the	109
Department of Development.	110
The Department of Children and Youth shall make the tool	111
kit available on the web site it maintains and shall otherwise	112
distribute copies of the tool kit to businesses, government	113
entities, nonprofit organizations, and other entities as	114
determined by the Department.	115
Section 3. Within the limits set forth in this act, the	116
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts	117
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation	118
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which	119
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from	120
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be	121
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all	122
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act	123
of the 136th General Assembly.	124