

**As Reported by the House Children and Human Services Committee**

**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, Salvo, Lett, Miller, M.**

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**A BILL**

To 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 this act are hereby appropriated 4  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 5  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 6  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 7  
2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 8  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 9  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 10

**Section 2.** 11  
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A KID DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

B General Revenue Fund

C	GRF	830412	Child Care Grants	\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$10,250,000	\$10,250,000

CHILD CARE GRANTS 13

(A) Of the foregoing appropriation item 830412, Child Care 14  
Grants, \$10,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be used by the 15  
Department of Children and Youth to administer, in consultation 16  
with the Department of Development and JobsOhio, a grant program 17  
to assist employers in retrofitting or equipping their onsite or 18  
near-site child care facilities, in building new child care 19  
facilities, or in partnering with child care providers, 20  
government entities, nonprofit organizations, or others on 21  
initiatives to create child care capacity within their 22  
communities to support the workforce. The program's aim shall be 23  
to increase the availability of child care in communities across 24  
Ohio and to aid in business growth and recruitment in this 25  
state. 26

Under the program, any entity may apply for a grant, but, 27  
in awarding grants, the Department of Children and Youth shall 28  
give priority to the following applicant types: employers 29  
seeking child care for their employees' children; government 30  
entities, nonprofit organizations, and other community 31  
partnerships seeking to expand child care capacity for the 32  
workforce in the communities they serve; or any combination of 33  
these applicant types. To be eligible for an award, an applicant 34  
must demonstrate that the applicant's facility or applicant's 35  
partner provides, or intends to provide, publicly funded child 36  
care and participates, or intends to participate, in the 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

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

In addition, as part of the program and in an effort to 45  
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 51  
Care Grants, \$250,000 in each fiscal year shall be used by the 52  
Department of Children and Youth to contract with an entity to 53  
establish a cohort comprised of recipients of child care-related 54  
grants awarded by the Department, create an Employer-Based Child 55  
Care Co-Design Learning Lab, and develop tools and resources in 56  
order to train and support future child care grant applicants 57  
and other employers, government entities, or nonprofit 58  
organizations interested in expanding child care capacity. 59

(2) The entity selected shall coordinate education and 60  
knowledge-sharing among the grant recipients and cohorts, as 61  
well as provide technical assistance to these entities. The 62  
entity shall collaborate with grant recipients to collect and 63  
measure data, outcomes, and best practices, all as prescribed by 64  
the Department of Children and Youth. The entity shall prepare a 65  
report compiling the foregoing data, outcomes, and best 66  
practices and submit copies of it to the Department, Governor, 67

and members of the General Assembly. The Department shall assist 68  
the entity in making the report available on the web site 69  
maintained by the Department. 70

(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  
and employer contributions and other opportunities as necessary 77  
to create onsite or near-site child care spots or facilities and 78  
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 83  
processes and develop knowledge and competencies to plan, 84  
organize, and find operations partners, to create long-term 85  
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 93  
employer tool kit and other resources as determined by the 94  
Department of Children and Youth, in consultation with JobsOhio 95  
and the Department of Development, that may be used to educate 96  
employers on issues impacting, and solutions improving, employee 97  
access to child care. The tool kit shall include, but not be 98

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
<b>Section 3.</b> 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