



March 10, 2025

Childcare: Economic Development Issue in Iosco County

Develop Iosco urges you to support continued state investment in early childhood care and education that directly impacts your constituents in this region.

The recent sudden closure of a local childcare center in Iosco County highlights the fact that when families don't have reliable childcare, they are unable to work outside the home – which impacts local businesses' productivity, income for families, and a safe learning environment for children.

Through DI's Quad County Child Care Coalition (Iosco, Arenac, Alcona and Ogemaw Counties) previously funded through MI-LEAP's Early Childhood Investment Corporation, we learned that:

- Businesses are struggling to hire and retain employees to meet their business needs because of the lack of affordable, quality childcare
- Child care business owners need training and education on how to successfully run a sustainable business

Child Care Desert Ratios

Alcona 1:6
Ogemaw 1:7
Iosco 1:5
Arenac 1:6
Bay 1:4
Gladwin 1:4

Source:
MSU Childcare
Mapping Project
March 7, 2025

DI has joined with NEMCSA and NEMCOG to create the nonprofit Child Care Back Office (CCBO) that is part of a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to address childcare challenges for employers, business owners and communities in NE Michigan.

The CCBO is waiting to hear about new funding through ECIC, which is partnering with MEDC to fund 11 regional projects across the state.

NEMCOG and DI have applied for this new round of funding.

That funding would allow for the CCBO to start providing training and tools to childcare business owners to meet business needs for employers and employees.

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