

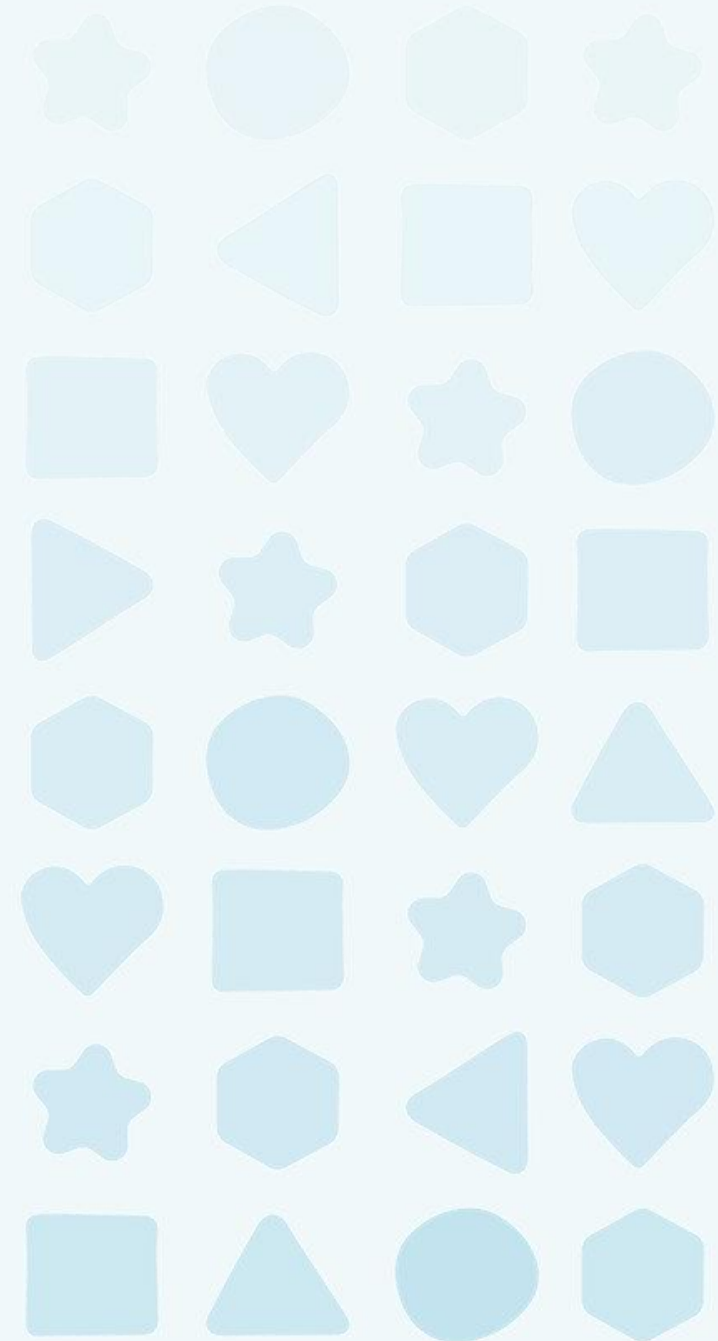


Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

Employment Related Day Care

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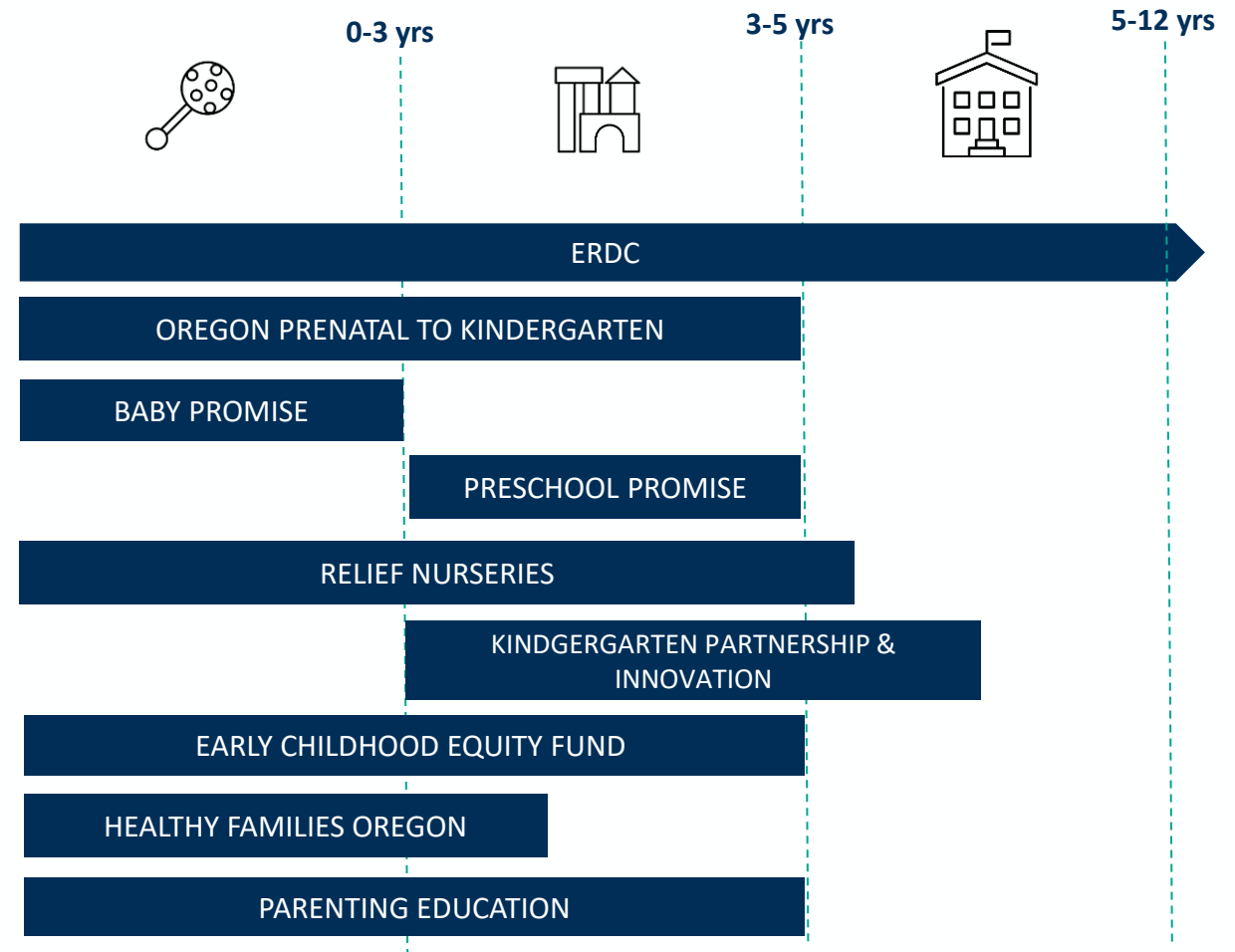


Early Learning and Child Care Programs



Our programs promote:

- Affordability
- Early Literacy
- Learning and Development
- Family Support



Early Learning and Care is delivered across a variety of settings.
This is why it is known as a "mixed-delivery" system.

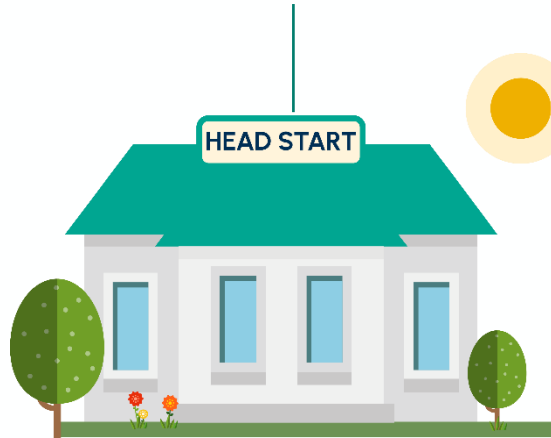


Small and Large
Family Child Care
Homes



*Family, Friend, and
Neighbor Care*

Head Start Centers

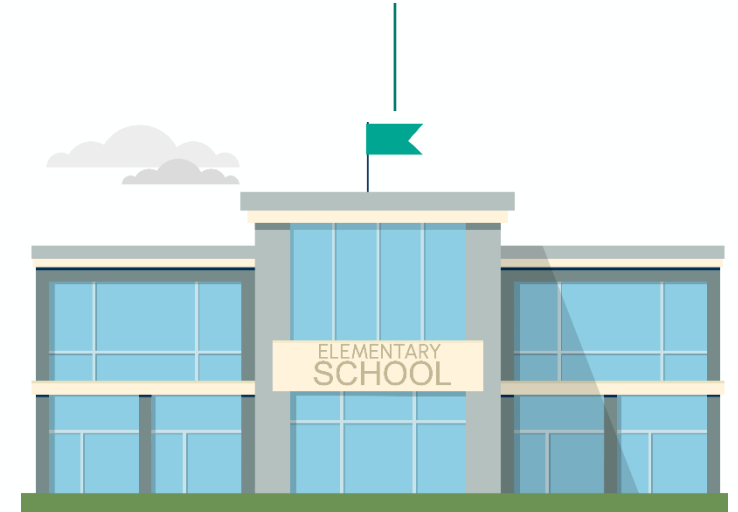


Child Care Centers



*Community Based Organizations
including Culturally Specific
Organizations*

Public Schools



Before / After
School Age Care

Legislative History



ERDC provides financial assistance to low-income families so children have access to stable child care and families can work or attend school.

- Oregon started child care subsidies in late 1980s as part of welfare transformation using welfare funding
- With the 1990 passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (a.k.a. CCDF), Oregon started receiving federal funds to support ERDC\
- ERDC was administered by ODHS until July 2023 when the program migrated to DELC

Federal CCDF Framework



- About 45% of ERDC funding is from the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- ERDC is required to follow CCDF policy framework:
 - Guidelines for rates, copays and income eligibility determination
 - Guidelines for providers
 - Guidelines for payment policies & eligibility determination
 - Guidelines for child care licensing, background checks and training

Employment Related Day Care



Program Overview	ERDC provides financial assistance with a voucher to low-income families so children have access to stable child care and families can work or attend school.
Who is eligible?	<p>Families with children under 13 (or under 18 with special circumstances) whose income is below 200% of FPL, and are working, in school, or receiving TANF.</p> <p>ERDC has a waitlist for most families applying to the program. Families with specific needs can skip the waitlist and there are resources available to support families while they wait.</p>
Service Model	ERDC makes payments directly to an approved family's chosen child care provider. Payments are made up to state maximum child care rates based on child age, family's eligible hours, a provider's billed hours, region of the state, and child care provider type. A family may also pay a portion of the child care cost (copay) to their provider. The family copay is based on the family's size and income.
Current Caseload	Over 16,000 families
Access	All 36 counties in Oregon
2023-25 Budget	GF \$223,311,298 – FF ARPA (one-time) \$120,825,496 – FF CCDF \$108,087,995
Funding Sources	Federal Funds (ARPA one-time & CCDF); General Funds

Families who are eligible for ERDC

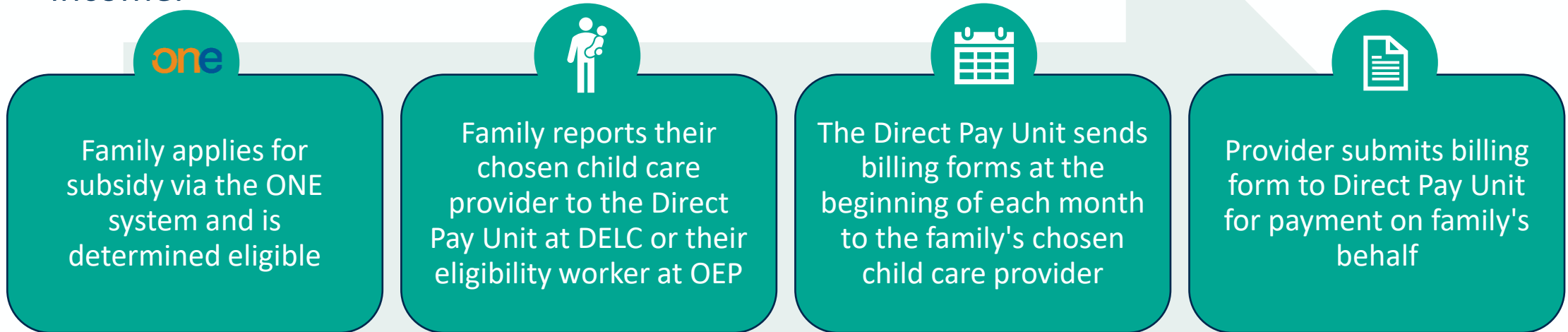


- Live in Oregon
- Are working, in school, or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - For two-parent households, in most cases both parents must be working or in school, and have overlapping hours.
- Need child care to keep working, attending school, or participating in family well-being activities.
- Have a child who is:
 - Under 13 years old and needs child care, or
 - 13 to 17 years old and needs care because of special circumstances
- Meet income limits
 - Entry limits set at 200% of FPL
 - Exit limits set at 85% of the State Median Income

How does ERDC work?



Families have the choice to use their voucher with any approved child care provider. ERDC makes payments directly to the provider. A family is sometimes asked to pay a small portion of the child care cost (copay) based on the family's size and income.



Provider payments are made up to state maximum child care rates based on child age, family's eligible hours, provider's billed hours, region of the state, and child care provider type. Rates are set through collective bargaining with child care unions.

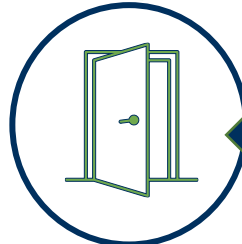
Applying for benefits

Oregon^{one}eligibility

The ONE system allows people to apply for medical, food, cash and child care benefits with one application online, by phone or in person at any Aging and People with Disabilities, Area Agency on Aging (Type B) or Self-Sufficiency Programs office.



People can create an account online to expedite future case updates



People can experience no wrong door and apply for multiple benefits with one worker at any office statewide



People can monitor communications from the Oregon Department of Human Services and track the status of their benefits online



Verifying information can now be done by uploading documents online instead of by mail or office drop box

ERDC Policy Changes



2021	January 2023	July 2023	January 2024	May 2024	July 2025	July 2026	July 2027
Co-pays reduced to <7% household income	Expanded student eligibility	Protected 12-month eligibility	Provider rate increases	Expanded to children regardless of immigration status	HB 2683 (2023) expansion to families using or at risk of using child welfare services	New CCDF rules implementation date	HB 2683 expansion to families using homelessness, teen parent, or domestic violence services
Provider payment based on enrollment (not attendance)	Part-time/full-time child care hour authorizations	Categorical eligibility for TANF families					
	Expanded medical leave						

ERDC Trends



Since DELC took over the program on July 1, 2023, ERDC is serving more families than ever, having nearly doubled the number of families served in the last two years.

- DELC and ERDC are 17 months in to serving TANF families, one of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, and have already increased access to child care by 425% for TANF families.
- ERDC has reduced the copay burden on families and now has one of the lowest copays in the country for families, with an average copay of \$9.35/month.
- Most students accessing ERDC are connected to a provider and using their benefit
- Overall, in the general ERDC approved population, 75% of approved families are using their benefit.

ERDC by the Numbers (*Dec 2022*)



Over **3,000**
providers

Over **9,000**
families



Over **17,000**
children



Avg. cost per
case:
\$1,538



Avg. copay
per family:
\$14.51/month

December 2022 Case Data – Deloitte ERDC Master Report
December 2022 Provider and Payment Data – Active Providers
Monthly Report, November Budget Actuals

ERDC by the Numbers (*Dec 2024*)



Over **4,600**
providers

Over **16,000**
families



Over **26,000**
children



Avg. cost per
case:
\$1,620

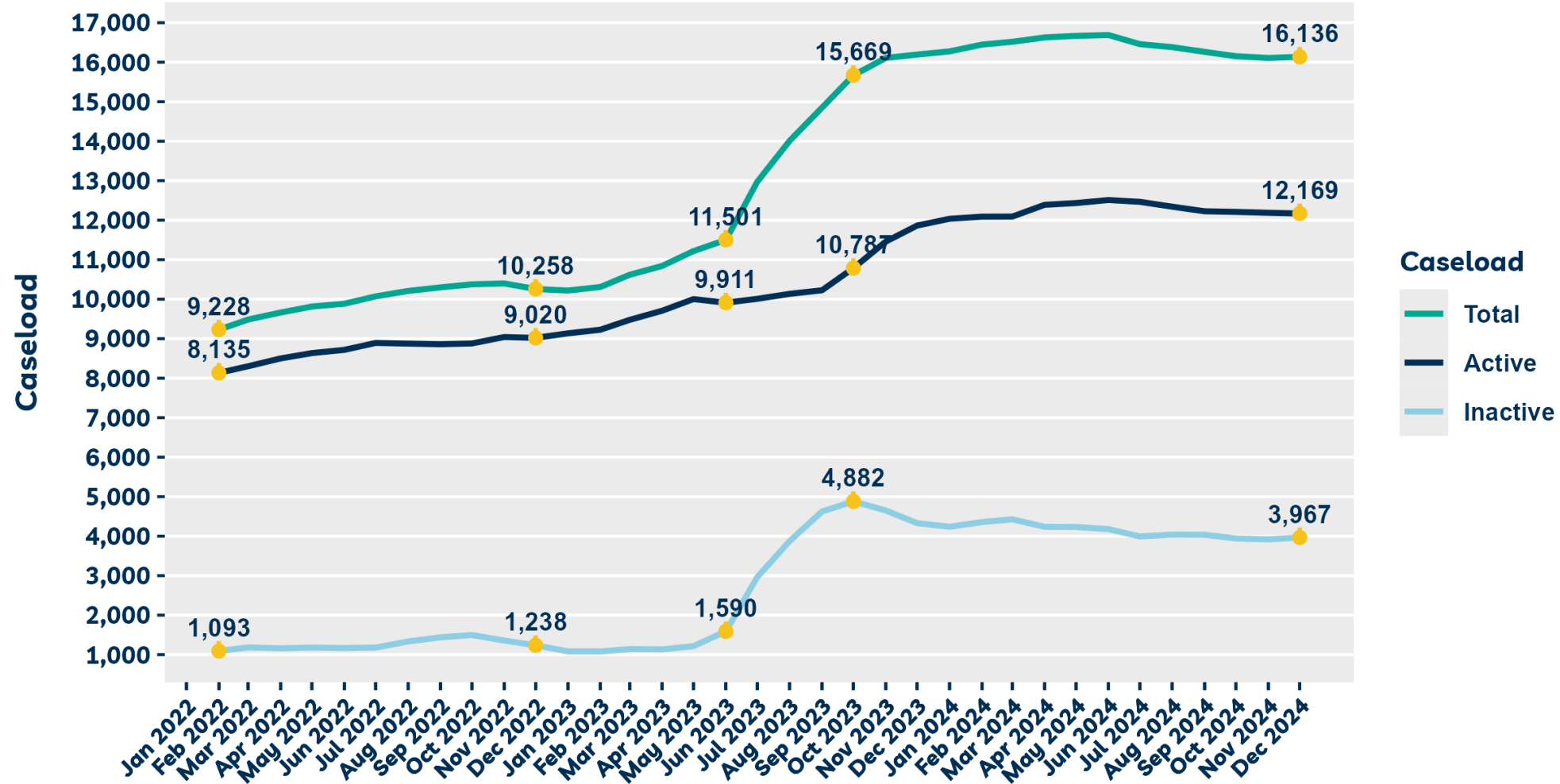


Avg. copay
per family:
\$9.55/month

December 2024 Case Data – Deloitte ERDC Master Report
December 2024 Provider and Payment Data – Active Providers
Monthly Report, December Budget Actuals

Total, Active, and Inactive Caseloads Over Time

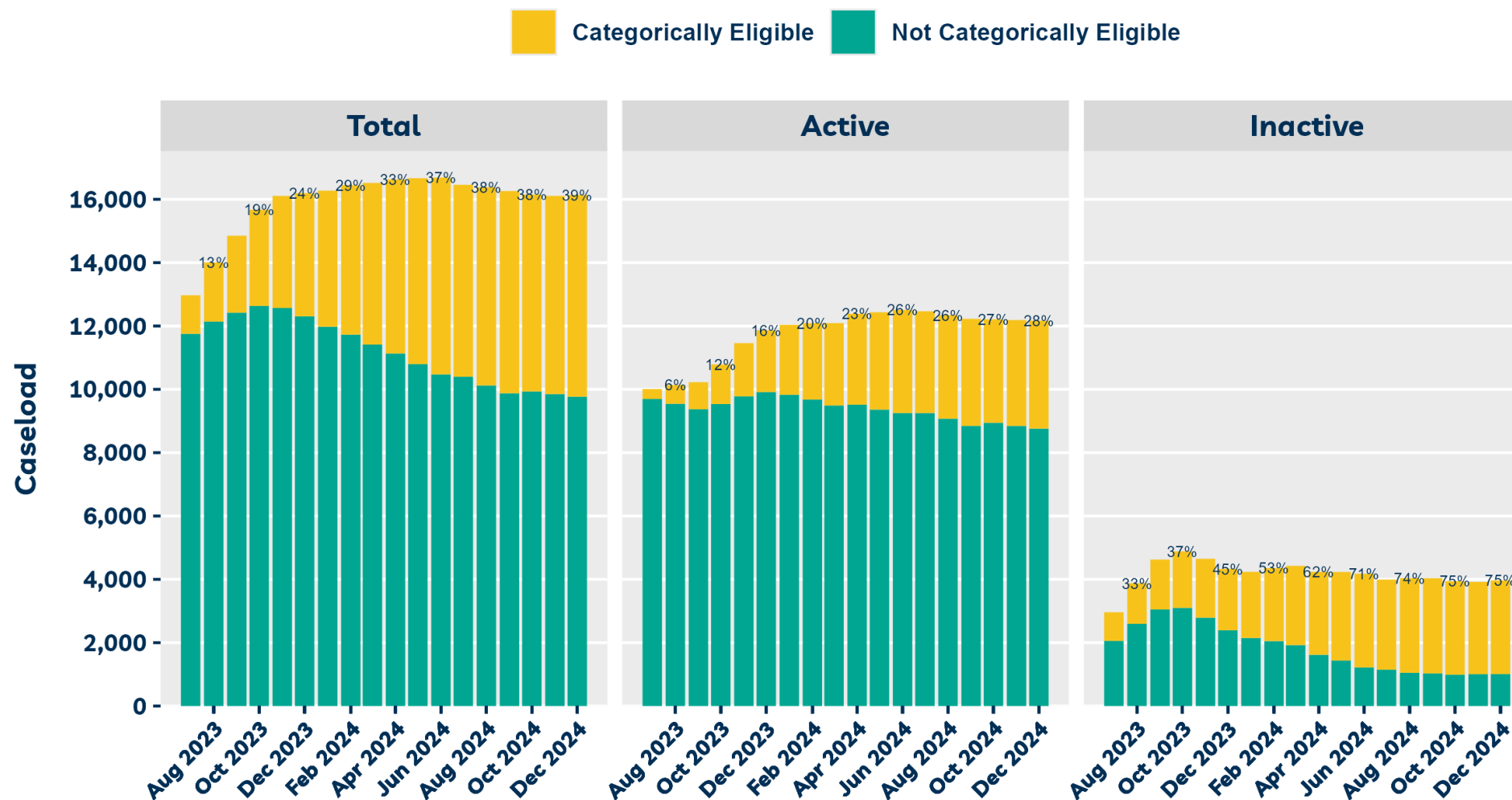
February 2022 to December 2024





Proportion Categorically Eligible

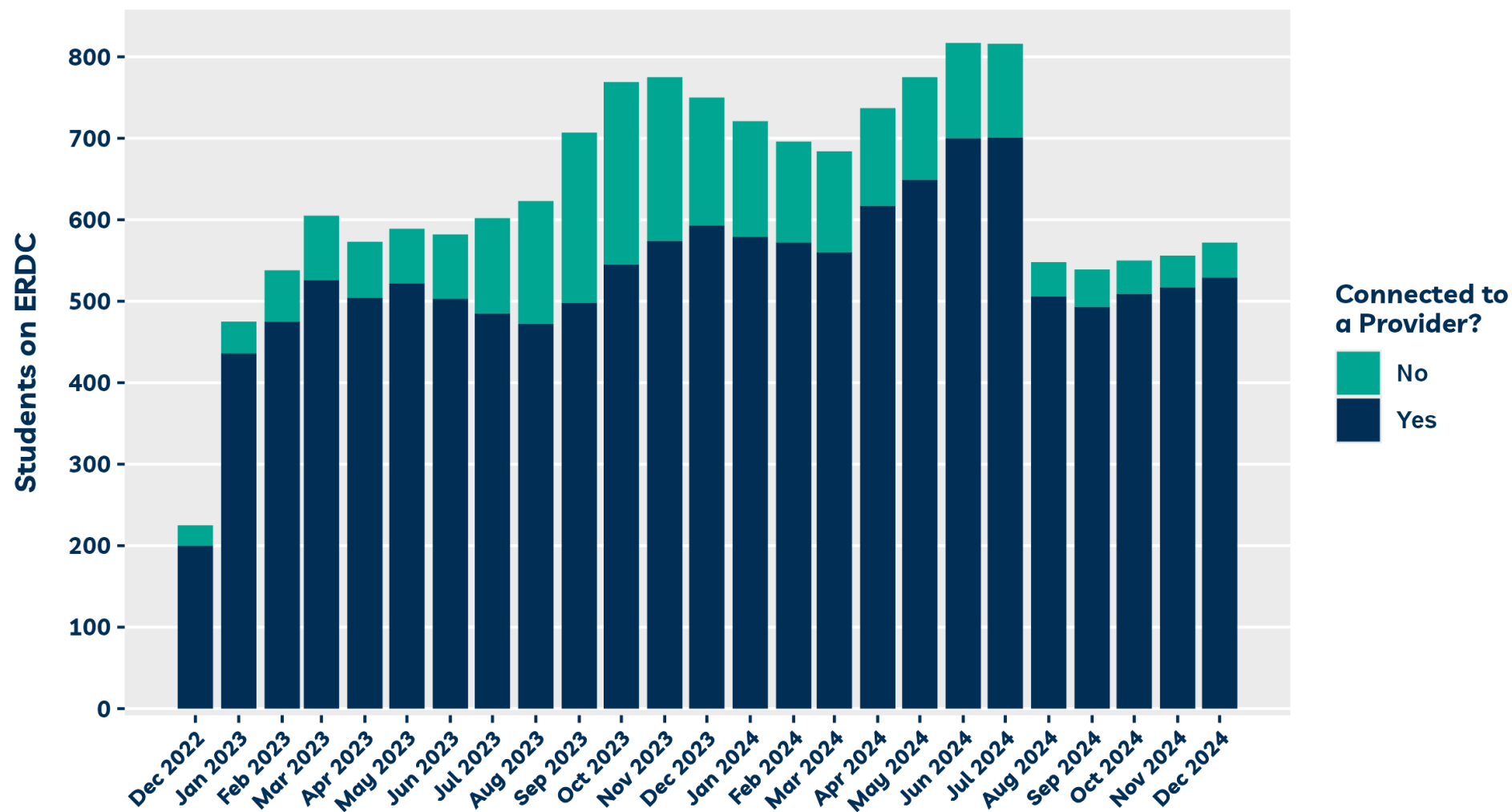
July 2023 to December 2024





Students Who Are and Are Not Connected to a Provider

December 2022 to December 2024



Supporting Unconnected Families



While we know families need support accessing child care, 25% of the families approved for ERDC are not yet connected to a provider to receive benefits.

- Pulse survey highlights many barriers for families (small sample size)
- Addressing gaps in services and providing enhanced supports
 - Additional 211 child care specialist support (starting January 2025)
 - Leveraging ODHS Family Coaches for outreach to TANF families (starting January 2025)
- Find Child Care Oregon Improvements
 - Improve search functionality & visibility for ERDC listed programs
 - Monthly reminders to providers to update vacancies, pricing, referral status, upload program photos and a message to families.

ERDC Waitlist



Due to the rapid growth and ongoing improvements of the program the ERDC program now operates a waitlist for most families applying to the program.

Families with specific needs can skip, or bypass, the waitlist.

- Families reapplying for ERDC
- Families receiving or recently receiving TANF (cash assistance)
- Families receiving or recently receiving TA-DVS (Domestic Violence grant)
- Children qualifying for a contracted slot
- Families who receive a referral from Child Welfare
 - Child care is needed to keep a child home, return a child home, or place a child with a known adult.

ERDC Waitlist – How it works



- Families apply for ERDC and are screened for bypass exemptions. If they do not meet a bypass, they are added to the waitlist and receive a notice they are on the waitlist.
- Families on the waitlist can reapply if their situation has changed and they now meet a bypass.
- If the caseload levels drop below what can be sustained with current funding, individuals will be invited off the waitlist. They are invited off on a first come first served basis and they will be given 45 days to submit a request for child care assistance.

ERDC Waitlist – What it tells us



The waitlist is an indicator of families who want subsidized child care, **not** a representation of eligible families for ERDC.

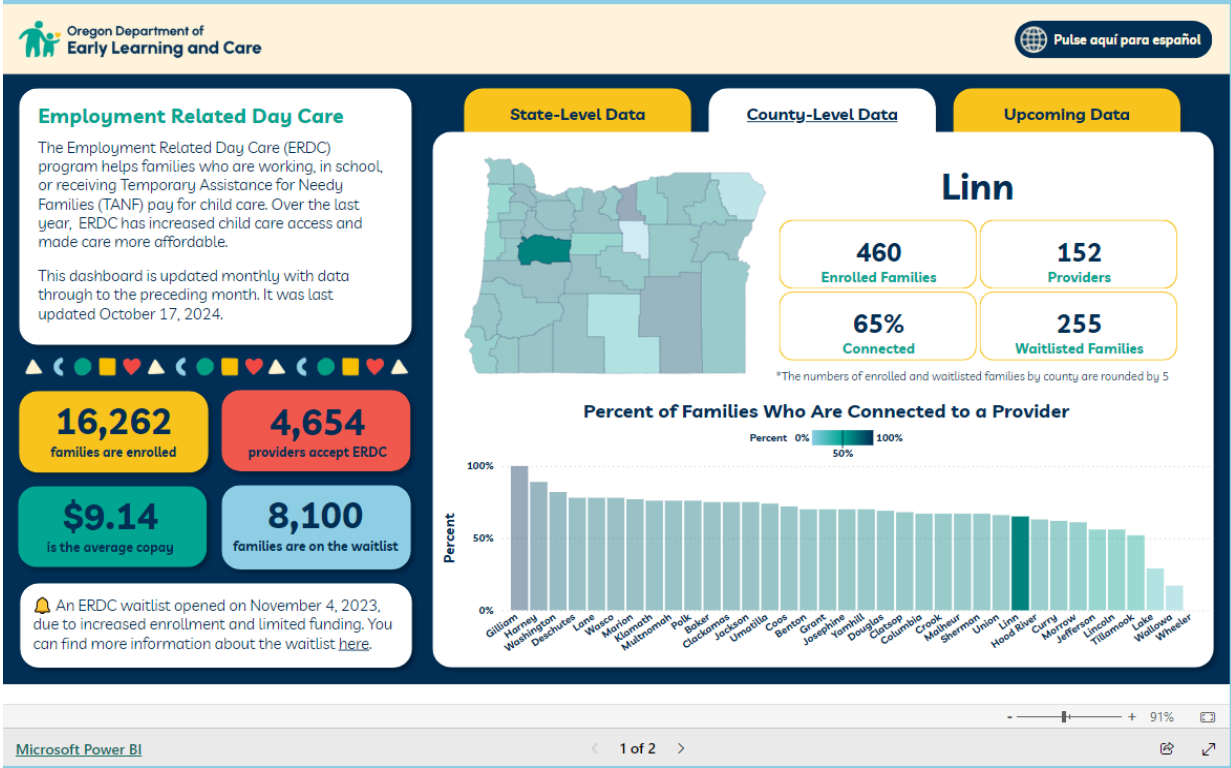
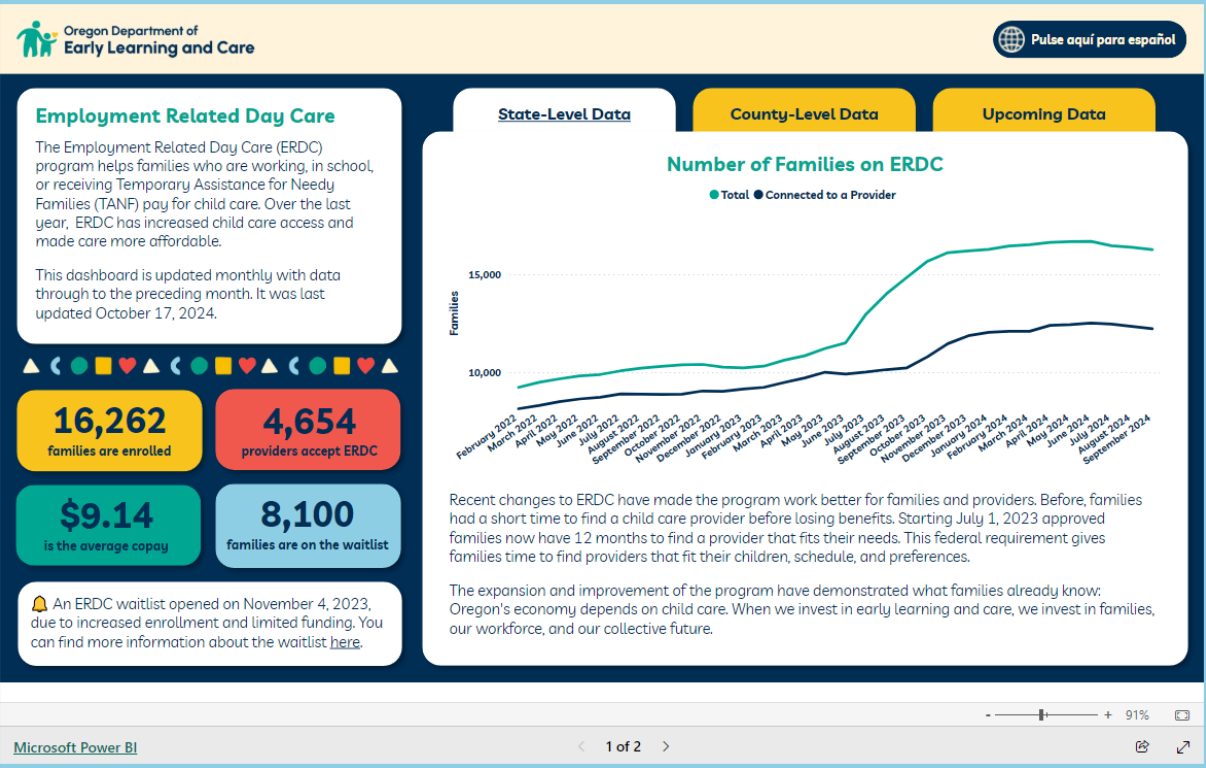
This is more accurately a reflection of the unaffordability of child care.

ERDC Data Dashboard



State-Level Data

County-Level Data



Looking Ahead



- **ERDC waitlist and caseload trends**
 - Expanded eligibility in 2025 and 2027 per HB 2683 (2023)
- **Provider Payments**
 - 2026 Rate increases based on 2024 Market Price Study and subject to bargaining with licensed family child care (AFSCME) and licensed-exempt family providers (SEIU).
 - Payment practices including prospective pay and enrollment based payment to meet new CCDF rule requirements by August 2026.
 - Requires launch of new Provider Management Platform at DELC.

Questions

DELC Contacts



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