

HB 2452 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to create a program that provides grants to child care resource and referral entities. The measure directs grant recipients to collect and report information about child care needs in their community, and appropriates unspecified General Fund moneys to DELIC to administer the grant program and award grants.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs DELIC to establish a program that awards grants to child care resource and referral entities (CCR&Rs) that assist parents in determining their child care needs, vet child care providers, and provide parents with a list of vetted providers that meet their specific child care needs, among other services.
- Directs DELIC to enter into grant agreements with recipients before issuing grants.
- Allows grant recipients to use grant funds to cover ordinary operating expenses.
- Requires DELIC to consider circumstances justifying additional financial support when determining the grant amount, including the geographic location of the CCR&R, the number of families needing support in that area, any difficulties or interpretations services that are required to serve the community in the CCR&R's region, and other unique needs.
- Directs grant recipients to collect information about child care needs of families in their community and to report that information to local organizations, policymakers, the Early Learning Council, and other interested community partners.
- Appropriates unspecified General Fund moneys to DELIC to administer the grant program and award grants.
- Sunsets on June 30, 2027.
- Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

REVENUE: *May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

FISCAL: *May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes to the process of child care referrals
- Existing CCR&Rs
- Funding for other child care referral programs
- Differences between services offered by CCR&Rs and Find Child Care Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment allows a recipient of a grant to enter into a contract with a third party to provide resources and referral services and permits the third party to use the grant funds to cover operating expenses.

REVENUE: *May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

FISCAL: *May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

BACKGROUND:

[Child Care Resource and Referral entities \(CCR&Rs\)](#) are regional organizations that recruit and support local early learning and care programs. CCR&Rs provide support to early care and education (ECE) professionals by helping ECE professionals navigate the early learning system and providing ECE professionals with resources and technical assistance. CCR&Rs are responsible for updating and verifying information about their regional learning programs on the online Find Child Care Oregon (FCCO) tool. Federal regulations permit states to use federal funds to establish or support CCR&Rs (45 CFR 98.42). The Department of Early Learning and [Care's Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\) Plan](#) discusses CCR&Rs currently providing services in Oregon.

Currently, families can receive assistance in finding child care through the [Find Child Care Oregon](#) website, an online database providing information on child care referrals, or through calling or texting the [211Info Child Care](#) phone number.

[According to the Department of Early Learning and Care](#), prior to 2016, CCR&Rs provided child care referrals to families in Oregon. At that time, the Early Learning Division (now DELC) created a workgroup to develop recommendations to address child care referrals. The recommendations of the workgroup led to an expansion of referral services hours and modalities, including texting, and centralization of child care referrals through [211info Child Care](#).