



Support for Families and Children in the State Budget
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 24th 2025

Co-Chairs Lieber & Sanchez and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arielle Hacker and I work at Prevent Child Abuse Oregon — a statewide nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through upstream, community-based, comprehensive prevention strategies. At PCA Oregon, we believe that we all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect, as well as ensuring Oregon’s young children and families have what they need to thrive.

Research shows investments in early childhood and comprehensive, preventative family support services reduce costly interventions in the future. Investments in programs like early childhood home visiting, affordable housing, quality and affordable child care, food access, and community-based services for families have been directly linked to:

- reductions in child welfare system involvement
- reductions in emergency room visits
- reductions in parental stress that lead to crises
- improvements in parental mental health, and
- improvements in school attendance and high school graduation rates

In other words, investing in Oregon’s children and their families leads to better outcomes in health, education, and relationships, and can have a ripple effect throughout communities.

Our children and families need to have access to the support and services in their own communities, without judgement, *before* they are in crisis. PCA Oregon staff partner with advocacy coalitions across the state that are working to improve the conditions where kids and families live, work, learn, and play. Our communities know public investment in early childhood has a profound impact. 76% of Oregonians believe in the power and importance of public investment in early childhood education and development programs (OVBC, 2024).

As a member of the Early Childhood Coalition , we urge you to prioritize the following package of investments in young children and families that are critical to stabilize and expand services now.

Program (bill #)	Agency Budget	Impact	Increased Investment	Total Funds Investment
Employment	DELC	Reach 5000 families	\$250 million	\$730 million

Related Day Care	SB 5514	with child care so they can work +		
Child Care Workforce (HB 3008)	DELC SB 5514	Fund apprenticeship programs & restore recognition fund	\$15 million	\$15 million
<i>Birth to Five Literacy</i>	<i>DELC SB 5514</i>	<i>Enact the Birth to Five Literacy Plan, including Reach Out and Read</i>	<i>\$25 million</i>	<i>\$35 million</i>
<i>Relief Nurseries</i>	<i>DELC SB 5514</i>	<i>Provide proven services to 300 additional families</i>	<i>\$4.9 million</i>	<i>\$33.7 million</i>
<i>Healthy Families Oregon (SB 420)</i>	<i>DELC SB 5514</i>	<i>Expand and sustain evidence-based services across sites in Oregon.</i>	<i>\$6 million</i>	<i>\$49.5 million</i>
<i>Child & Adult Care Food Program (HB 3201)</i>	<i>ODE SB 5515</i>	<i>Provide \$0.10 supplement per meal to feed children in care</i>	<i>\$4.5 million</i>	<i>\$4.5 million GF/LF + federal reimbursement</i>
Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)	ODE SB 5515	Fund Adequate Service Level recommendation	\$24 million	\$432 million
Early Educator Degree Programs (HB 3011)	HECC SB 5525	Invest in community college & university lab schools	\$5 million	\$5 million
<i>Doulas & Lactation Counselors (SB 692)</i>	<i>OHA HB 5025</i>	<i>Ensure adequate & effective perinatal coverage to improve birth outcomes</i>	<i>\$6 million</i>	<i>\$6 million + state match</i>
Nurse-Family Partnership (SB 1033)	OHA HB 5025	Make permanent 2024 state coverage of Medicaid match	\$1.2 million	\$1.2 million
Birth to Five Social Emotional Health Workforce Package	OHA HB 5025	Expand behavioral health capacity to serve young children, 0-5, and parents	\$5 million	\$5 million

Child Success Act: Upstream Pilots (SB 1167)	DELC SB 5514	Fund 7 local regions to support child success models as demonstration projects	\$12 million	\$12 million
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As a member of Our Children Oregon Children's Agenda, we urge you to prioritize the investments outlined in the 2025 Children's Agenda, which [can be found here](#).

PCA Oregon envisions a world where all kids and families are living happy and purposeful lives with hope for the future. Join us in making this vision a reality by prioritizing our youngest Oregonians, their families, and the providers who support them as you build the state budget. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Oregon's children and families.

Sincerely,

Arielle Hacker

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