

Investing in Child Care in Deschutes County, OR

American Rescue Plan Community Profile

May 2022 | Early Childhood

American Rescue Plan Funding

Total State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in Deschutes County: \$38.4 million

Amount of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Featured in This Profile: \$14.8 million

- \$3.12 million to train new workers to become child care professionals¹
- \$3.55 million to support more child care spots for local families in Deschutes²
- \$8.2 million to be shared among Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to improve and create new child care slots across the counties³

Project Summary

Deschutes County's Local Fiscal Recovery Fund investments will help create more than 500 new child care spots and train more than 275 new workers in the child care and early education fields. Funds will support collaborations with Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University Cascades to determine how to expand affordable child care over time.⁴ This is a multilevel program and system investment that addresses

1. the immediate need to build the supply of child care by retrofitting existing spaces to become new child care centers on college campuses and
2. the longer-term need to develop the early learning workforce through training and certification programs.

Deschutes Commissioner Patti Adair credits this strategic investment to advocacy efforts. The investment was made possible because of the collaboration of local child care, chamber, higher education, and early learning advocates, who together



form the Deschutes County Child Care Coalition. The coalition developed and proposed the regional package of American Rescue Plan investments to build a workforce pipeline, invest in facilities and program needs, and sustain child care as a viable business model.

A unique quality of this project is the partnerships between local government, child care agencies, businesses, and higher education. Together, these entities create a dual benefit of providing urgently needed child care slots while simultaneously increasing the workforce pipeline by training future early childhood professionals and utilizing the new program to place interns/students into child care settings.

Recently, the Oregon legislature allocated an additional \$8.2 million in State Fiscal Recovery Funds to be shared among Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties as well as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The localities will use the state recovery funds to improve and create 1,400–1,700 new child care slots across the counties.⁵

Age Group(s) Served

Children ages 0–5 years

Funding Stream Used

- Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Key Partners

- Bend Chamber of Commerce
- Boys & Girls Club of Bend
- Central Oregon Community College

- Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
- East Cascades Works
- High Desert Education Service District Early Learning Hub
- Mountain Star Relief Nursery
- NeighborImpact Child Care Resources
- Oregon State University Cascades
- ReVillage Community Co-op Child Care Center
- St. Charles Health System

Local Perspective

Unique Challenges

The eligible uses for American Rescue Plan funds focus on underserved communities and workforce development. The local fiscal recovery funds have provided more flexibility around construction needs, however, material costs have increased over 25% since Deschutes County was awarded the funds.⁶ The additional \$8.2 million in State Fiscal Recovery funds shared across counties will help alleviate capital costs to build the supply of child care facilities.

Ensuring Accountability

Deschutes County mandates progress reports and collects invoices from fund recipients to ensure accountability and transparency. Funds move through various entities, i.e. pass through funds, so the county uses progress reports to track how funds are allocated and spent.⁷

Lessons Learned

There is a need for future federal funds to include capital construction costs so that communities can build new child care facilities. By increasing the number of child care facilities, known as supply building, this will provide more access for children and families.⁸

Geographic Region

Northwest United States

Community Size

Total population (2021): 204,801⁹

Racial Demographics¹⁰

- White 94.1%
- Black or African American 0.6%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 1.1%
- Asian 1.3%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.2%
- Two or More Races 2.8%
- Hispanic or Latino 8.3%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino 86.8%

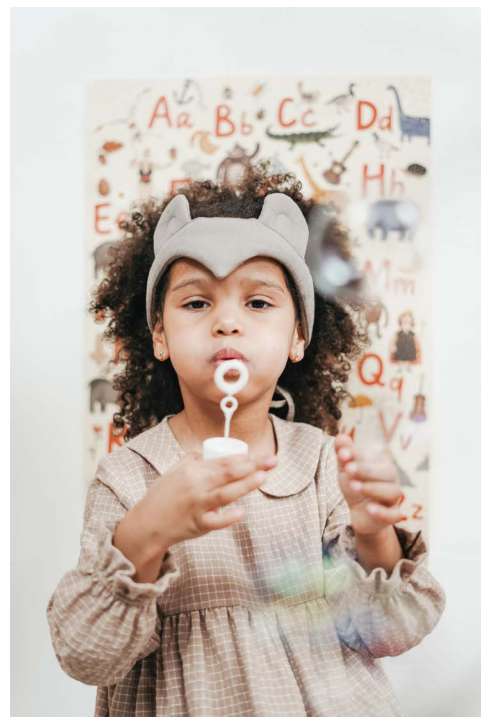
Socioeconomic Status

- Median annual household income (2016–2020): \$68,937¹¹
- Children living in poverty (2020): 8.7%¹²

Acknowledgment

Thank you to Katy Brooks, President and CEO, Bend Chamber of Commerce, for contributions to this community profile.

To view additional resources and find American Rescue Plan allocations for other communities, visit childrensfundingproject.org/american-rescue-plan.




Endnotes

- ¹ Bend Chamber of Commerce, “Bend Chamber Helps Secure \$6.6 Million for Child Care Investment,” news release, October 22, 2021, <https://bendchamber.org/uncategorized/bend-chamber-helps-secure-6-6-million-for-child-care-investment>.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ NeighborImpact, “Oregon Lawmakers Pass HB5202, Approve \$8.2 Million in Child Care Provider Support to NeighborImpact,” news release, March 7, 2022, <https://www.neighborimpact.org/oregon-lawmakers-pass-hb5202-approve-8-million-in-child-care-provider-support-to-neighborimpact>.
- ⁴ Bend Chamber of Commerce, “Bend Chamber Helps Secure \$6.6 Million.”
- ⁵ NeighborImpact, “Oregon Lawmakers Pass HB5202.”
- ⁶ Katy Brooks, President and CEO, Bend Chamber of Commerce, personal communication, March 3, 2022.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, “QuickFacts,” Deschutes County, Oregon, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/deschutescountyoregon/POP060210>.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, “Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates,” Deschutes County, Oregon, https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?-map_geoSelector=u18_c&s_measures=u18_snc&s_year=2020&s_state=41. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “Poverty status is defined by family; either everyone in the family is in poverty or no one in the family is in poverty. The characteristics of the family used to determine the poverty threshold are: number of people, number of related children under 18, and whether or not the primary householder is over age 65. Family income is then compared to the poverty threshold; if that family’s income is below that threshold, the family is in poverty.” For more information, see U.S. Census Bureau, “FAQs: What Is the Definition of Poverty?” https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/faq.html#par_textimage_7.

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