

Portage County FORWARD:

Early Learning & Care Coalition



GOVERNMENT
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Early childhood learning: a key to Portage County's economic growth

Your decisions shape our county's future. Supporting quality early childhood learning isn't just about helping families today—it's about building a skilled, adaptable workforce for tomorrow. Investing in early childhood learning stimulates job growth, increases workforce participation and boosts our local economy.

The economic cost of inaction

Child care shortages cost Portage County approximately \$13 million annually in lost productivity. Those who find child care still struggle: 19% of Portage County households have taken on debt to afford child care, while 45% have cut back on essential spending.

This financial pressure weighs on our families and our community.

A vision of a thriving, equitable Portage County

Picture a county where all children can access quality early childhood education, regardless of their family's income. Reduced financial stress leads to healthier families, stronger communities and better educational and health outcomes.

This allows more parents to enter the workforce, businesses expand due to a larger talent pool and increased consumer spending drives economic growth.

Your support of child care initiatives makes this vision a reality.

Actions to explore:

- Consider tax incentives for businesses providing child care benefits.
- Increase funding for child care including professional development, facility improvements, and provider sustainability.
- Consider expanding income-based child care subsidies.
- Collaborate with the Portage County FORWARD: Early Learning & Care Coalition.

Your leadership is needed

By supporting early childhood education, you are investing in the long-term economic competitiveness of our county.

Let's work together to create policies that support child care providers, working families, businesses and our community.

Get involved today!

Email: info@childcaring.org

Phone: **1-800-628-8534**