## Portage County FORWARD:

Early Learning & Care Coalition



# Improving child care infrastructure is a community issue needing collective action.

The Portage County FORWARD Coalition is a unique, collaborative effort among local leaders, businesses, educators, and families to address our specific needs.

By supporting this initiative, you're joining a grassroots movement to create sustainable, locally influenced child care solutions.

Together, we can secure a brighter, more equitable future for families and the local economy.

### *Transformative Change*

This Early Learning & Care Coalition tackles the critical need for affordable, high-quality child care essential for both families and the economy.

#### Supporting Workforce Participation

Affordable child care enables parents, especially women, to engage in the workforce, reducing absenteeism and boosting economic stability. Investing in child care strengthens local businesses and empowers a more productive community.

#### Nurturing Early Development

Quality child care enhances cognitive and social growth. Your contribution will help provide enriching environments for children in Portage County, building a foundation for future leaders.

#### Bridging the Gap

Portage County faces a shortage of licensed providers, especially in underserved areas. With your help, we can expand services and resources to address this "child care desert."

#### Economic Impact

Every dollar invested in child care boosts economic benefits through workforce participation and childhood development, which contribute to future earning potential.

#### Why Now?

The child care crisis has reached a tipping point. Your support can accelerate solutions, serving as a model for other communities. Private donors and foundations that support this initiative are contributing to the long-term economic health of Portage County by ensuring families have the support they need to thrive both professionally and personally.

#### Actions to explore:

- Consider childcare initiatives as you determine where and how your resources will make a difference in our community.
- Collaborate with like-minded individuals and organizations to drive maximum impact in distributing dollars.
- Become a member of Portage County FORWARD: Early Learning and Care Coalition.

#### Get involved today!

Email: info@childcaring.org

Phone: 1-800-628-8534