

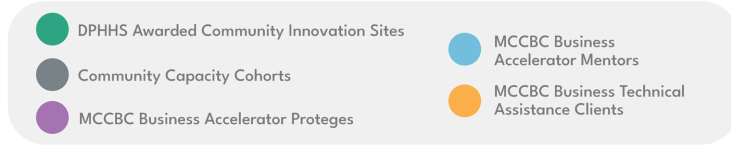
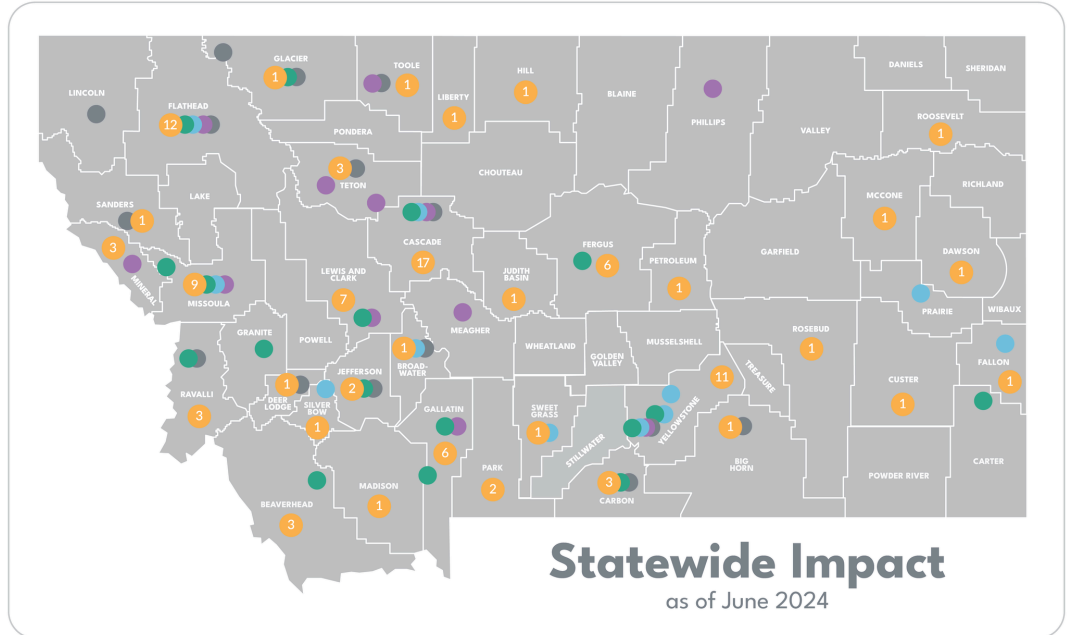
Montana Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC) two year implementation* highlights:

MCCBC has assisted new entrepreneurs to start **20 ECE businesses** across the state.

MCCBC has supported the creation of **484 new licensed care spots**

\$6.7M of non-grant equity and debt invested in these companies, creating **132 new jobs.**

**this data is calculated from our Technical Assistance program and from self-reported data by clients.*



Through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Supplemental Grant awarded by DPHHS, Zero to Five Montana launched the full-service Montana Child Care Business Connect program (MCCBC) in June 2022. This is a new program to address Montana's shortage of high quality affordable child care.

MCCBC is a statewide initiative providing training, consultation, and individualized technical assistance to child care businesses, employers, community leaders, and entrepreneurs to develop and implement innovative strategies to start and expand child care.

Additionally, MCCBC has launched an online resource hub, is developing a business cost modeling tool, has convened ARPA grantees for a community child care summit in November 2022, and held a two-day summit in September 2023 offering professional development as well as opportunities to discuss best practices and hear from national experts.

FAMILY FORWARD MT

MCCBC has launched "Family Forward Montana" – a program designed to enhance families' health and wellness, while simultaneously maintaining Montana's competitive business edge. Led by employers, this initiative aims to broaden access to research-based, family-friendly practices that can improve workplace productivity, recruitment, and retention. By doing so, we can build a robust economy and support parents and families in the workplace.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

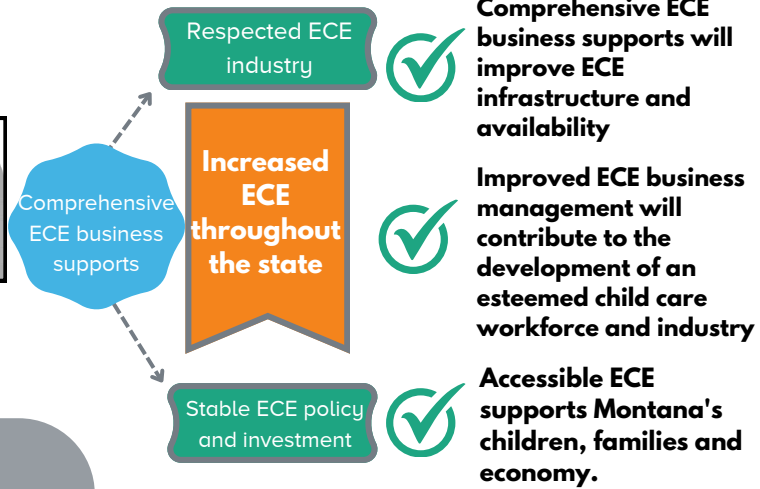
Supporting 14 communities through focused cohorts and 33 through direct TA, developing child care infrastructure strategies that meet the needs of employers and families in communities across Montana, with the intention of working towards expanding local child care access. MCCBC also supported the 30 child care community innovation grantee sites through a community of practice which ended May 2024.

BUSINESS ACCELERATOR MENTORSHIP

Successfully paired 10 experienced small business leaders with 14 new or expanding child care businesses for a guided process to a successful business launch. The mentorship functions as a hybrid business incubator and professional development program.

Since the program launched in May 2023, 9 protegés have started new child care businesses and 2 businesses are expected to open before the end of the year.

THEORY OF CHANGE



ENGAGEMENT

- 57 workshops
- 939 participants earning ECP credits
- 91% of participants felt more knowledgeable about the topic after the training

MCCBC interactive workshops provide value, avoid duplication, and balance local and national content.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION

Individual consultation responded to 233 inquiries and 122 clients from across the state and provided 1162 hours of consultation. 47% of participants engaged in more than 4 hours of consultation. Most frequent topics include general start up assistance, budgeting, accounting, and financial projections, and community partnerships.

TESTIMONIALS

“The current child care shortages are not unique to just one region but affect the entire state. It is not only impacting child care businesses but also affects Montana's workforce. As an economic developer, I am witnessing MCCBC's success firsthand and understand that successful child care businesses are essential for the well-being of our communities.”

-Lizzy Robertson

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, Terry, MT

“MCCBC is the missing link. For years, the child care community has sounded the alarm—child care providers need long-term stability strategies. And recently, communities, businesses, and employers have felt the impacts of child care shortages. Enter Montana Child Care Business Connect. MCCBC is uniquely positioned to provide statewide resources and assistance that helps businesses connect to child care solutions, and child care programs become stronger businesses.”

-Sally Henkel and Grace Decker

Missoula Child Care Advantage and Zero to Five Missoula

OUR PARTNERS

Local community, tribal, state and national partners are critical to our collective work to increase child care capacity across MT. Here are just a few of the partners of MCCBC:

- Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
- Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
- Montana Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Center
- Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC)
- First Children's Finance
- Ready Nation
- Minneapolis Federal Reserve
- Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies
- RAISE MT
- Child Care Referral & Resource agencies
- State and local chambers of commerce
- Local and statewide economic development agencies
- Local Early Childhood Coalitions
- And more!