

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

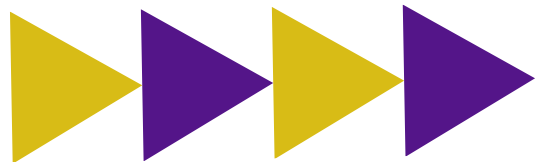
# CHILDCARE



## CHILDCARE

**Access to affordable childcare is a major issue for our region and the State of Missouri.**

**State licensure requirements for starting a childcare center are overwhelming, cumbersome and a barrier to business.**



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**CHILDCARE**



## WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

If parents do not have safe, reliable, affordable childcare, they are unable to work. Childcare is a fundamental Workforce and Economic Development issue.

## HOW TO HELP

- **Consider changes to requirements for Childcare Center Director and employee education requirements.**
  - To qualify for a Childcare Center Director, college credit courses with an emphasis on child-related courses is required. Part-time employees are required to complete monthly education. These requirements create challenges when hiring individuals at every level.
- **Simplify and streamline the application and licensing process for new childcare centers, the fingerprinting process, and the childcare enrollment forms.**
  - Each of these are cumbersome processes and require additional and sometimes duplicate efforts. Duplication adds extra cost to new operators, which can prevent them from opening a critically needed childcare center.
- **Clarify all requirements and make rules and requirements consistent across the board.**
  - Simplify the language in the rules. Remove the items that cannot be legally enforced. Publish only the rules that are actually evaluated.

