



MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNT BOARD QUALITY INCENTIVE: INFANT AND TODDLER CONCEPT

PURPOSE

The Quality Incentives Subcommittee is exploring strategies to strengthen Montana’s infant and toddler care capacity. The concept under exploration would support providers in meeting infant/toddler licensing standards while reducing barriers related to facility readiness, workforce preparation, and program stabilization.

The strategy would support:

- New infant/toddler programs
- Existing programs converting classrooms to infant/toddler care
- Existing programs expanding infant/toddler capacity

Key considerations under exploration include:

- Incentives would align with infant/toddler licensing standards.
- Support may address both environmental/facility needs and workforce development needs.
- Investments could focus on quality, sustainability and workforce stabilization during start-up and expansion periods.

AREAS OF EXPLORATION

ENVIRONMENT CONVERSION AND FACILITY READINESS

The subcommittee is exploring supports that would assist providers in creating safe, developmentally appropriate infant/toddler environments that meet licensing requirements.

Potential areas of support being explored may include:

- Technical assistance and project planning
- Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (cribs, changing tables, safety equipment, playground equipment, strollers/wagons)
- Technology purchases related to program operations
- Facility modifications and leasehold improvements (wash stations, safety upgrades, environmental modifications)

PREPARING AND STABILIZING THE WORKFORCE

The subcommittee is also exploring workforce-focused supports tied to implementation and ramp-up periods for infant/toddler programming.

Potential areas of support being explored may include:



- Temporary wage stipends tied to credentialing
- Workforce materials and classroom supplies
- Technology, software, assessment, and curriculum subscriptions
- Classroom materials and consumable supplies