

Increase Home-Based Child Care Slots Via Targeted Start-Up Grants

Senate Bill 214 Home-based Childcare Solutions
Sponsor: Senator Luz Escamilla & Representative Tiara Auxier



Policy Snapshot: Create up to 6,000 new home-based child care slots through targeted start-up grants — providing Utah families with affordable, flexible, & safe child care options.

The Problem

77%

of Utahns live in a **child care desert**, where there are not enough licensed child care options to meet the needs of working families.



This is especially true in rural counties — Daggett, Piute, Rich and Wayne have no licensed child care providers at all.

Home-based providers are an important source of affordable, flexible, and accessible care — especially critical in rural Utah and other child care deserts.

The Solution: Boost Supply of Quality Home-Based Child Care

1

Establish a \$2.3 million grant pool to support the launch of approximately 1,000 new home-based child care providers, with individual grants of up to \$5,000 each.

Note: Funding would support stay-at-home parents seeking a family-friendly income and incentivize slots in child care deserts, care during nights and weekends, & providers enrolled in the Quality Rating System.

2

Increase the maximum number of children for unlicensed home-based providers from 8 to 10.

3

Require registration for home-based providers caring for 4 to 10 children — ensuring background checks, CPR training, and mandated abuse reporting.

The Potential Impact

Hundreds of home-based providers supported

6,000 new child care slots created

\$

Funding: \$2.5 million one-time appropriation

Our Approach

The Policy Project is taking a holistic approach to family affordability, giving families the flexibility to choose what works best — whether they need two incomes, want a parent at home, or need a new mother to keep her income.

Boost Financial Flexibility for Parents

Increase Tax Credit Participation (RFA)
Expand Child Tax Credit Eligibility (HB290)

Increase Access to Child Care

Grants for Home-Based Providers (SB214)
Business Child Care Tax Credit (HB190)

Support New Mothers

Extend State Maternity Leave (HB329)
Protect Pumping Breast Milk (HB329)