



— PARK CITY —  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FOUNDATION**

Park City  
Cares About Kids  
Frequently Asked Questions

# Park City Cares About Kids FAQ

## The Challenge

**66%** of Park City parents of children  $\leq 5$  are paying more than 10% of their income on childcare.

**83%** of Park City parents with children  $\leq 5$  rely on some form of childcare.

**88%** of Park City survey respondents responded that it is **extremely or somewhat difficult** to find quality, affordable childcare in our community.

**94%** of Park City survey respondents think that the cost of childcare in our community is either **extremely or somewhat unaffordable**.

**\$1.16 million** in federal funds provided to Park City's childcare industry in 2022 are expiring in September 2023.

**90%** of likely eligible children  $<5$  in Summit County are not receiving the childcare subsidy from DWS.

**40%** of Summit County childcare providers responded that their program would be closed now without receipt of stabilization payments.

**72%** of Park City School District English-Language Learning Students are not proficient in literacy when they start kindergarten.

**\$1.36 billion** loss annually to Utah's economy due to childcare issues.

### 1. Why is the ECA seeking public funds for early care and education?

Children only get one chance at learning the fundamentals. Access to high quality early care and education helps children learn and grow by improving their physical, linguistic, and social-emotional development, culminating in school-preparedness and ultimately assisting them in fulfilling their potential. Every child deserves an equal opportunity to a quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed in education, society, and life.

### 2. Shouldn't early care and education be the responsibility of the parents?

Parents know what's best for their children. That means greater parental leadership in the development of early childhood programs and autonomy in the selection of early child care providers. This program will increase available and affordable options for those parents who want qualifying childcare. Parents get one chance to put their children on the path to success in education, society, and life. Under this proposal, parents are still expected to pay a portion of the costs associated with the care and education of their young children, but this program makes it affordable for families to access the high-quality care and education of their choosing.

### 3. Why is investing in early care and education the province of local government?

Simply stated, the federal and state governments are failing to do so, and our community bears the cost of this failure. Supporting the development of healthy, happy, and thriving children and youth means more than funding only K-12 education. Research continues to demonstrate that services for young children provide the biggest return on investment for public dollars. But these less expensive and preventive services often do not receive the resources they need, which leads to reactive interventions that cost taxpayers more in the long run.

Local funding can be tailored to respond to our community's specific needs and support critical services while also providing flexibility for innovation. Local programs are accountable to the people who live and work in our community.

Many other communities have chosen to make this investment ([Aspen](#) did it over 30 years ago), and no children's fund that has returned to the ballot for reauthorization has ever failed to achieve renewal. In fact, more than [80%](#) of voters nationwide believe that creating equitable opportunities for children to get a strong start in life should be one of the highest priorities for government, and they are willing to raise their own local taxes to make those opportunities possible.

**4. I don't have any children/my children are grown. Why should my tax dollars support other people's children?**

With options for affordable childcare, families have the freedom to stay in or return to the labor force or to seek the education they need to further their careers. This increases the economic and general well-being of families and can help them lift themselves out of poverty. By providing high-quality, affordable early care and education, our community creates higher-quality and more effective workers, making the community better prepared for a competitive economy. Early care and education is an entirely local business operation. Investing locally creates a stronger and more prosperous community. Higher education and wages allow for more spending and help drive local economic and job growth. Greater accessibility to high-quality early learning and childcare will benefit future generations by increasing regional economic growth, providing access to higher salary jobs, and reducing government welfare dependency.

**5. I don't think the government should come between parents and young children. How do we ensure that the government does not interfere with parental rights?**

Early childhood initiatives are a partnership with the family, rather than a substitute. Under this program, parents still determine which type of childcare, if any, best suits their families' needs. Access to high-quality early care and education options creates greater financial stability for families, meaning parents have more time to connect with their children, giving them a strong foundation to achieve their full potential.

**6. I'd like to support families with young children, but given current economic concerns, can our community afford to provide this type of assistance?**

We can't afford not to; lack of investment now will cost our community more later. Investments in child care and early learning is an investment in the future as well as supporting our current workforce. Just as positive experiences can lead to long lasting positive outcomes for young children, negative early childhood experiences can lead to deficits in capabilities, decreased productivity, and increased in social costs. Quality early childhood programs yield a 7% to 13% return on investment per year through better school and career outcomes and reduced spending on remedial education, health issues, and the criminal justice system. To maintain a competitive economy and reduce societal debts, our community must invest in the future, beginning with quality early child care and education.

**7. Why is it so important to uplift the early care and education workforce?**

The early care and education workforce plays a critical role in our community by supporting children's healthy development and working parents. Research shows that positive, consistent, responsive, and stable relationships between children and child care workers provides the basis for a positive, foundational education and skills development in children. Supporting investments in compensation, education and workforce development for early care and education workers, and elevating the diversity of this workforce as a strength, increases the supply of quality early education across our community.

**8. Why does the program incentivize the creation of home-based care?**

Family child care is a necessary component of a healthy early care and education market, yet is in decline throughout our community. In order to ensure children can participate in a program that best suits their development and to support parental choices, family child care must be included in policies and practices to strengthen all child care.

**9. Why such urgency now? What is the childcare fiscal cliff?**

As clearly outlined in Elliot Haspel’s [opinion piece](#) in the *Deseret News*, the fiscal cliff refers to the upcoming loss of over half of a billion dollars in COVID-relief funds invested in Utah’s early care and learning system these past several years. For context, in calendar year 2022 alone, Summit County childcare providers received [\\$2.8 million](#) in stabilization grants and workforce bonuses from COVID-relief funding sources. The stabilization grants will begin to taper in September, 2023 and are expected to end entirely by June, 2024. In a NAEYC [survey](#), 41.8% of Utah childcare providers responded that their program would have closed without the stabilization grants. When the stabilization grants end: 68.4% of Utah providers will have to raise tuition and 36.7% of Utah providers will have to cut wages or are unable to sustain wage/salary increases.

**10. Why does the program focus on increasing utilization of the federal subsidy available from the Utah Department of Workforce Services?**

The federal government provides funding to every state as part of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program to subsidize the costs of early care and education. The FY 2023 CCDBG appropriation included a 30% increase in funding and Utah is expected to receive \$97,547,168. These funds are administered by the Department of Workforce Services as a [childcare subsidy](#). The subsidy is available to parents/guardians of children under age 13 (up to 18 if the child has special needs) earning less than 85% of the state median income who are working or in training. The Summit County Childcare Needs Assessment estimates that 90% of likely eligible children under age 5 in Summit County are not receiving the childcare subsidy from DWS. In order to ensure families in our community get their fair share of these federal funds and reduce the amount of local funding required, the program incentivizes providers and families utilize these federal funds.

**11. Who is eligible to receive the resident stipend?**

Families with children under age five earning less than 140% of the Summit County Area Median Income and living within the municipal limits of Park City.

**12. How does the program support families that work in Park City, but do not live there?**

Families with at least one parent working within the city limits will benefit by having access to navigators complete the DWS childcare application process. In addition, the program incentivizes providers to serve these children through stabilization payments, DWS-incentives (if applicable), and increasing availability of care for children under age two.

**13. What does the Park City Cares About Kids program fund?**

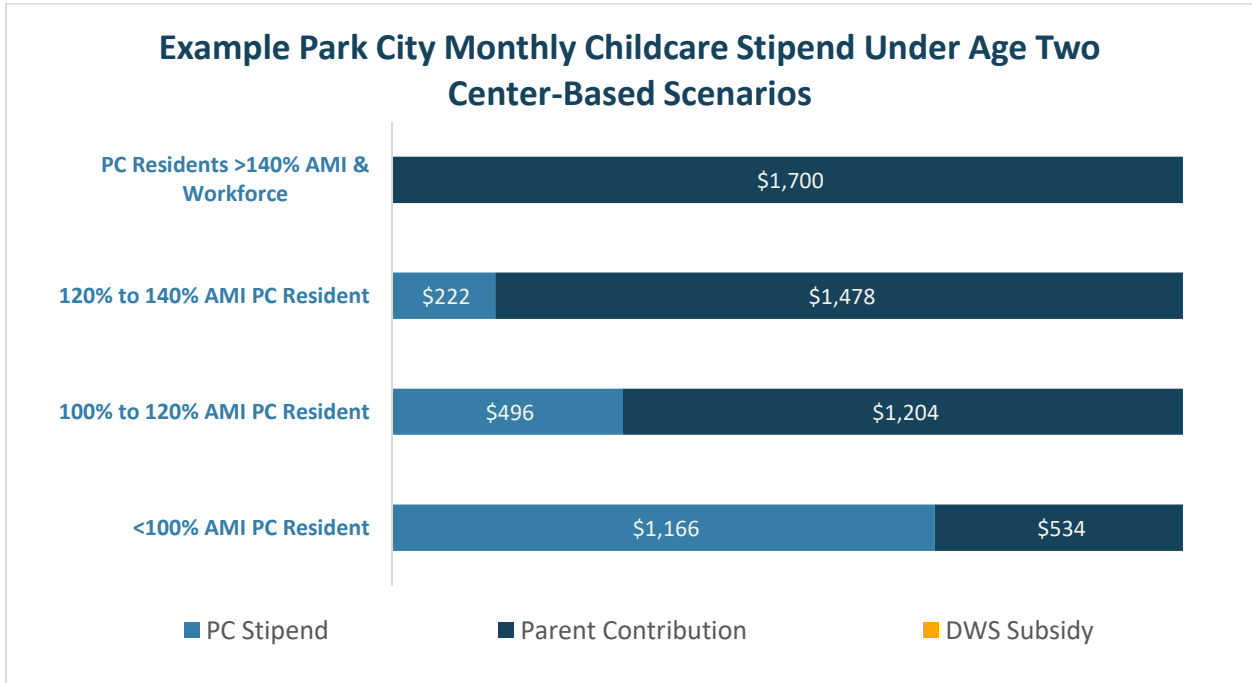
The program has four general approaches:

- a. Increasing affordability through tuition stipends for children under age 5 living in Park City resident families earning less than 140% Summit County AMI;

- b. Increasing utilization of the federally-funded DWS subsidies;
- c. Supporting early care and education providers serving Park City resident and workforce children under age 5 and increasing access to, and quality of, home-based childcare in Park City; and
- d. Increasing availability of care under age 2 for Park City resident and workforce families.

**14. How much is the resident stipend?**

The exact amount of the stipend varies depending upon the income level of the family and whether it is combined with the DWS childcare subsidy. Families earning less than the median income will pay 7% of their income per child, families earning more than 100% but less than 120% of area median income will pay 10% of their income per child, and families earning more than 120% but less than 140% of area median income will pay 12% of their income per child. The sum of parental contributions and tuition stipend is capped at \$1700 per month. If the actual cost of care is less than \$1700 per month, the stipend is reduced. If the actual cost of care is more than \$1700 per month, the parental contribution is increased.



**15. How much do parents pay?**

The exact amount of the parental contribution varies depending upon the income level of the family and whether it is combined with the DWS childcare subsidy. Families earning less than the median income will pay 7% of their income per child, families earning more than 100% but less than 120% of area median income will pay 10% of their income per child, and families earning more than 120% but less than 140% of area median income will pay 12% of their income per child. The sum of parental contributions and tuition stipend is capped at \$1700 per month. If the actual cost of care is more than \$1700 per month, the parental contribution is increased. Families who also receive the DWS childcare subsidy will reduce their parent contribution by \$200 per month.

**16. Why is there additional funding dedicated to care for children under age two?**

The greatest need in our community is for care for children under age two. This, however, is where the private market fails the most because younger children require more adult supervision; so their care is very labor intensive and therefore expensive to provide. These first few years are critical in terms of brain development and physical, linguistic, and social-emotional development and so the program incentivizes providers to expand access to this critical, but expensive, care.