



WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF CHILDCARE IN CA

Childcare is key to women's participation in the labor force and, therefore, key to a strong economy. California still lags behind the nation in replacing childcare programs lost during the pandemic. As a result, more families struggle to find affordable care, kids can't benefit from early childhood education, and fewer women are employed.

Childcare is a business. Women's Business Centers (WBCs) offer business assistance and capital to childcare providers, mostly women of color, who reside in low and moderate-income communities. During 2023, WBCs assisted 439 childcare businesses, creating 3427 childcare slots. Over one million dollars in small grants and loans were provided. Yet these advances are threatened by State budget deficits. More support is needed to create and sustain strong licensed childcare programs in our diverse communities, enabling more children, women, and families to thrive.

Claudia Alvarez, Family Day Care Provider, Salinas, CA

Claudia Alvarez attended El Pajaro Women's Business Center's program for childcare providers shortly after she opened her home-based center in Salinas. Through the program, she gained practical skills in meticulously recording her business expenditures. This ability ensured compliance with tax regulations and provided Claudia with a clear understanding of her financial health. As tax season approached, Claudia was well-prepared, thanks to the skills she acquired through the WBC. This program was funded through the State Labor Agency's SEED Program, which provided direct mini-grants to childcare providers for repairs and supplies.

"The WBC Program has been an absolute blessing for my business. From learning about taxes and accounting to monitoring my expenses more closely, every aspect of the program has been incredibly beneficial. Thanks to the support and guidance I received, I feel confident in my ability to manage my business. I wholeheartedly recommend the program to any childcare provider looking to take their business to the next level. It truly has been a valuable resource for me, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to participate." – Claudia Alvarez