

Mental health workers from Greater Nashua Mental Health collaborate with early childhood teachers and summer camp staff to share techniques for supporting young people.



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

Goal: Every child has access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early education and every family has the ability to provide and care for their children.

WHY IT MATTERS

Today's young children are the people who will sustain our communities tomorrow. It has been proven that high-quality childcare and early education, combined with support for families, can maximize children's brain development and potential, improve parent and child emotional health and well-being, strengthen confidence and resilience, boost educational outcomes and increase family economic mobility by helping parents be able to work.

But many young children and families do not have access to such care and support. Families with low incomes, those in rural and isolated areas, and many people of color have the least access to the kind of care and family support that will ensure children are able

to thrive in school and grow into adults who thrive in families, communities and careers.

Every dollar invested in our youngest children returns an estimated \$7-13 in increased lifetime earnings and decreased societal costs. But New Hampshire has not made sufficient investments. Very few families have access to high-quality childcare in their communities. Waitlists are long, costs are high, and trained early-childhood educators are in short supply. The state's family resource centers, which provide critical services to families, are in perennial need of reliable funding. And recent cuts at the federal level will have an outsized impact on the youngest now that will reverberate through our communities and economy in the future.

BY THE NUMBERS

7,000

Number of childcare slots needed in New Hampshire to meet current demand

\$29,763

The average annual price for both an infant and a four-year old in center-based care in New Hampshire in 2024.

\$16.62

The median hourly wage for a New Hampshire childcare worker in 2024. The median hourly wage for all New Hampshire workers is \$25.29.

\$425,186

Annual household income required for a Granite State family with two children to meet the U.S. Dept. of HHS definition of affordable childcare (7% of a household's income).

Source: New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute

WHAT WE'RE DOING

The Foundation is providing flexible operating support to nonprofits providing direct services; working to drive increased public investment and policy change to improve outcomes for young children and families; and supporting community leaders and families to design common-sense solutions. Here are a few examples of what we're doing:



Flexible funding to the state's network of family resource centers

Family resource centers provide a range of services from parenting classes to teen programs and connecting families to other community support. The Foundation is also working alongside family resource centers to raise funds to address emergency needs. At a time of increased uncertainty in federal funding, vulnerable families face increased costs and changes to critical safety-net programs.



Expanding investment in childcare

Through a partnership with fellow donors and local community partners, we are working to help childcare providers access federal grant dollars. A grant to the **Grafton Regional Development Corporation**, which has deep experience in engaging business and community, will help develop ways for businesses, municipalities and other partners to work together to support childcare.



Increasing childcare options for families

We are working with community groups and families to create common-sense solutions for high-quality childcare in their towns and neighborhoods, including family childcare. This can be as simple as funding for safety equipment or help navigating complex state licensing requirements. A grant to the **United Way of Greater Nashua** is helping increase family-based care in southern New Hampshire.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Given recent federal and state policy and budget actions, our focus for the next three to five years will be:

Maintain and expand availability of childcare slots

We will fund nonprofit early care and education providers; support efforts to increase early-childhood slots in center-based and home-based care as well as in school-based partnerships; work with a network of local and national funders to apply philanthropic dollars to secure increased public investment; fund efforts to expand New Hampshire families' access to state childcare scholarships; and support initiatives that help people to enter into, advance and make a thriving wage in the early-childhood workforce.

Increase public understanding of the flawed unsustainable model of funding childcare

We will fund research into the true cost of providing high-quality early childhood care and education coupled with investments in providers and parents to use their voice to inform data-driven solutions to the crisis in accessibility and affordability.

Help nonprofits adapt and thrive

We will support nonprofit childcare providers and family support organizations to survive these challenging times. This will include funding for programs; for documentation and information-sharing about the impact of budget cuts and safety-net program changes on vulnerable families; and for implementing strategies and innovations to help nonprofits meet their critical missions.



A New Hampshire where quality childcare is available

In an effort to bring the voices of the North Country to policy conversations about early childhood in Concord, the Foundation made a grant for advocacy coaching for early childhood professionals from the state's northern reaches. Pictured: Airole Warden, project manager for the Coös County Director Network of early childhood centers and a policy advocacy strategy manager of the Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families, testifies at a budget hearing at the State House.



LEARN MORE:

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit nhcf.org/earlychildhood

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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ABOUT US

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is dedicated to making New Hampshire a more just, sustainable and vibrant community where everyone can thrive. As New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, we are the place where generosity meets the dedication and ingenuity of nonprofits and the potential of New Hampshire students. Since 1962, thousands of people have entrusted their charitable resources to the Foundation, creating a perpetual source of philanthropic capital. That generosity makes it possible for the Foundation to award more than \$70 million in grants and scholarships every year and collaborate and lead on high-impact initiatives.