



# Employment Related Day Care for Children Regardless of Immigration Status

The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program helps families pay for child care. ERDC recently expanded to serve more families. All children living in Oregon from income-qualified families are now eligible for ERDC child care assistance regardless of their immigration status.

## What changed?

- Effective May 1, 2024, children will no longer be required to meet citizenship or immigration status requirements to qualify for child care through the ERDC program.

## What was the rule before May 1?

- Prior to May 1, 2024, children needing child care had to meet citizenship or immigration status requirements to qualify for child care through the ERDC program.
- Families had to provide documentation to prove the child(ren) met the immigration status requirements for ERDC.

## How does this change help families?

- This change will allow children throughout Oregon to have access to child care through the ERDC program regardless of their citizenship or immigration status.
- When children have access to high quality care and early education settings, they may have better outcomes related to kindergarten readiness, performance in school, high school and college graduation rates, employment rates, home ownership, mental health, and lifetime earnings.

## What can families expect?

- The questions on the application will stay the same.
- Staff will still accept citizen and immigration status documentation when it is provided by the family. This documentation will still be uploaded to the family's case file. However, this information will not be required.
- Families will not have to provide any immigration status information to determine eligibility .
- The system will no longer send requests for citizen and immigration status documentation.
- DELC will not share information with federal immigration authorities and will follow Oregon's sanctuary laws.



## The ERDC program has a waitlist. How does this change affect the ERDC waitlist?

- The ERDC program currently has a waitlist in place. There are some situations when a family could skip the waitlist. Those families must meet very specific eligibility criteria. This change is not an exemption to the ERDC waitlist. Although a child may be eligible to receive ERDC regardless of immigration status, the family must still meet an exemption to the ERDC waitlist.

## In Oregon, everyone can apply for ERDC services regardless of their immigration status.

This program is available to families that:

- Live in Oregon.
- Are working, are in school or receiving TANF.
- In a two-parent family, both parents must be working or in school. (This does not apply to parents receiving TANF)
- There are some exceptions for two parent households where one parent can't provide child care because of a medical or mental health condition, or if supervised contact is required by the State.
- Need child care to keep working, attend school, or participate in family well-being activities.
- Have a child who is:
  - » Under 13 years old and needs child care, or
  - » 13 to 17 years old and needs care because of special circumstances.
- Meet income limits.

## Language Assistance and application help.

- Free interpretation services are available.
- Federal and state laws protect your right to get services even if you do not speak English well.
- Free language services are available.
- Interpretation services are available over the phone with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) eligibility workers.
- 211 also provides additional information about child care resources with language interpretation in over 100 languages.

To learn more about the ERDC program visit: [Oregon.gov/delc/erdc](https://Oregon.gov/delc/erdc) or scan this QR code.

