

Early childhood education



GNBEDF
GREATER NEW BRAUNFELS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



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MCKENNA
FOUNDATION

Childcare is an
economic issue

Background

- **Community need:** Childcare vital but costly, limited, and understaffed
- **Catalyst:** GNBEDF launched initiative in Feb. 2024 with \$100K investment
- **Collaboration:** 12-month, cross-sector community effort
- **Path forward:** Final Report sets foundation for action
- **2025:** Building structure, partnership, and funding

Final report

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Early Care and
Education Final
Report



Key findings

- **Economic impact:** High childcare costs and limited availability affect families' ability to work, increasing employee turnover and reducing the local labor pool.
- **Provider challenges:** Staffing shortages, financial constraints, and quality improvement barriers limit providers' ability to meet demand and improve services.
- **Policy gaps:** Insufficient policy support and funding exacerbate challenges.

Key data results

- **Staffing Shortages:** 25% of centers reduced capacity due to difficulties hiring qualified staff.
- **Financial Pressures:** Rising operational costs (e.g., utilities, food, insurance) hinder wage increases. 87.5% rely on family payments, with limited supplemental funding
- **Quality Improvement Barriers:** Challenges include maintaining low teacher-to-child ratios and supporting staff development.
- **Enrollment and Competition:** Public Pre-K competition reduces enrollment in private centers, increasing the focus on costly infant/toddler care

Transformative initiatives

Final Report and execution plan lays foundation for actionable solutions.

- Build a **Shared Services Alliance** to reduce operational burdens
- Implementing a **Tri-Share Model** to share childcare costs
- **Teacher incentives:** provide professional development stipends tied to quality improvements

Early implementation

Following completion of final report, we got to work creating the structure that would support implementation of the plan.

- Formed **Steering Committee**
- Secured capacity building grant from Kronkosky Foundation
- Secured 3-year commitment from McKenna Foundation
- Developed 12-month budget, goals, and job description

The path forward

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12-month budget

12 Month Budget		
Revenue		
NB EDC	\$100,000	
McKenna Foundation	\$100,000	Confirmed
Kronkosky Foundation	\$25,000	Confirmed
Corporate Investors	\$25,000	
Total	\$250,000	
Expenses		
Director	\$100,000	Salary and Benefits
Early Matters SA Support	\$100,000	Start-Up Infrastructure
Working Funds	\$50,000	Contract TA, Supplies, Project Implementation
Total	\$250,000	

12-month goals

- Establish Early Matters New Braunfels as a recognized region of Early Matters Texas and partner of Early Matters San Antonio
- Support and resources for childcare providers
- Identify and implement technical assistance offerings for providers as the first steps of creating a Shared Services Alliance
- Resources for local ISDs to support pre-k programs
- Resources to local businesses and civic organizations
- Monitor local and state policy activity

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Questions?



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NEW BRAUNFELS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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