

Every child deserves an equal opportunity to a quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed.

2025 Year in Review

Communities thrive when their families and workforce thrive. That's why Park City Community Foundation's Early Childhood Alliance advocates for affordable, high-quality childcare and parent support, provides grants, educates and convenes stakeholders, and supports allied local government and business efforts.

In 2025, we're proud to see continual growth in both local childcare scholarship programs, granting record-level amounts, launching the Best Places for Working Parents in Utah, and continuously advocating at the local and state level for increased investment in early childhood. See below for more Early Childhood Alliance milestones during 2025.

2025 Grants

Since its inception in 2018, Early Childhood Alliance has distributed over \$1.7 million in grants. In 2025, a total of \$384,259.35 was distributed to the following organizations:

- \$100,000 Holy Cross Ministries for its "Parents as Teachers" program
- \$100,000 PC Tots
- \$25,000 Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- \$12,000 Utah Diaper Bank
- \$107,259.35 Summit County Childcare Scholarship Program (15% administration fee for initial 2025 budget, additional funding for November and December, and 2026 budget for scholarships)
- \$40,000 Park City Municipal Childcare Scholarship Program (15% administration fee for \$300,000 included in 25/26 budget)

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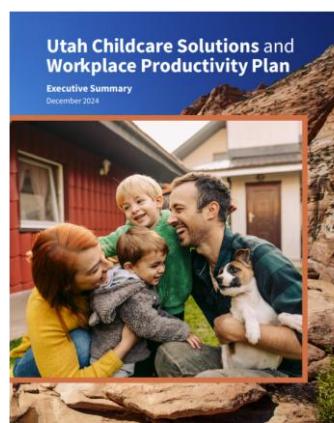
Local Childcare Scholarship Programs

Early Childhood Alliance helped lead the creation of a first-of-its-kind local childcare scholarship program with Park City Council and Summit County Council, which launched in January 2024. Along with advocating for the program, Early Childhood Alliance pays to administer the program to ensure all public money goes directly to local providers and families and actively works alongside city and county staff to support and continuously improve implementation.

As of September 2025, 194 kids have received either a Park City (146) or Summit County (48) childcare scholarship with approximately \$70,000 being distributed each month to 20 local childcare providers. Upwards published its [first impact report](#) early in 2025 and will be publishing an updated report in 2026.

Park City Municipal added an additional \$300,000 in its budget for childcare scholarships in 2025/2026, and Summit County is investing an additional \$343,350 in its 2026 budget.

Additionally, the program has received statewide and national recognition for its innovative approach, collaboration, and effectiveness. This includes:



- Recognition by the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#). Our program was featured on its [Employer Child Care Navigator](#) website, and Michelle Downard from Park City spoke at the National Childcare Innovation Summit in Washington, D.C.

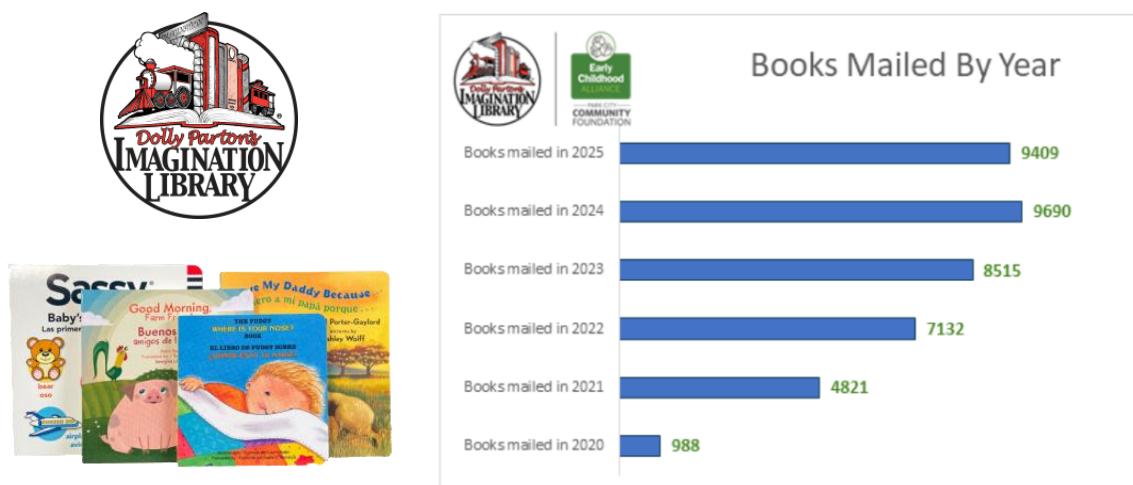
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- The Utah Legislature funded the [Child Care Solutions and Workplace Productivity Plan](#), which recognized the Park City Scholarship Program
- Mayor Worel was invited by [Moms First](#) to represent Park City at Child Care Hill Day in Washington, D.C., where she spoke alongside industry leaders on advancing childcare solutions
- PBS Utah Insight created a 10-minute segment called "[Solving Utah's Childcare Challenges](#)," which featured the scholarship program as one of two examples of solutions in the state that are working
- Scholarship program discussed in August 2025 round table hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides free, monthly books to children under five years old in Summit County. Early Childhood Alliance funds and administers the program throughout Summit County.

Over 9,400 books were mailed to local families in 2025, which means that more than 41,317 have been sent since the program was established in 2020. A total of 745 kids in Summit County have "graduated" from the program.





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Best Place for Working Parents

To better support and bolster our local business sector, Salt Lake Chamber, Park City Chamber, Heber Valley Chamber, and Park City Community Foundation partnered to bring the businesses of the Salt Lake, Summit, and Wasatch Counties innovative workplace solutions for working parents and families in their workforces.

The program offers a 3-minute online self-assessment that highlights the top 10 research-backed policies that benefit working parents and businesses' bottom line. The designation is based on family-friendly offerings, type of industry, and number of staff. If the company earns the designation, it can display the badge and receive marketing materials. If the company does not qualify, Best Place for Working Parents shares resources and suggestions to make the business more family friendly while keeping all results confidential.

So far, we've had nearly 50 businesses earn the Best Place for Working Parents designation. There will be a continued effort to recruit more businesses from all three counties involved through continuous outreach, storytelling, business features, and upcoming awards. To learn more and take the self-assessment, please visit:

bestplace4workingparents.com/salt-lake-summit-and-wasatch-counties/



THE BEST PLACE FOR
WORKING PARENTS®



The website features a blue header with the logo 'THE BEST PLACE FOR WORKING PARENTS'. Below it, a section titled 'Family Friendly Wins' includes the text 'Be recognized as a Best Place for Working Parents®' and 'Gain a competitive advantage with the new business designation through a 3-minute, online self-assessment!'. To the right, a photo of a smiling man in a green shirt is shown with a yellow ribbon badge. The main content area includes sections for 'About the self-assessment', '3 Minutes', 'Confidential', 'Instant Results', and 'Family-friendly is business friendly' with research statistics.



PARK CITY
COMMUNITY
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Park City Community Foundation
Early Childhood Alliance

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State Advocacy

- Early Childhood Alliance supported Park City and Summit County in their discussions with Representatives Jason Thompson and Tracy Miller to discuss state investments in early care and education.
- Successfully advocated for investment of TANF funds in childcare, potentially resulting in a \$15 million investment in unobligated, reserved TANF funds.
- Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance Director, is serving on The Policy Project's advisory council for family affordability.
- Continued advocating for the childcare industry as a member of the Office of Childcare Advisory Committee.



GUEST OPINION / OPINION

Opinion: Utah has millions of dollars available to support needy families, child care providers and our workforce. Let's invest all available TANF funds now

Utah has over \$16 million in unobligated TANF funding. It is intolerable to allow those funds to build up over the recommended reserve amount when needy families, struggling child care providers and employers alike need them now.



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Additional Support

- Addressing **Diaper Need**: In 2025, a total of 93,543 free diapers have been distributed in Summit County in collaboration with the Utah Diaper Bank and other local partners.
- **CPR Classes**: Offered pediatric CPR/First aid certification for free in Spanish and English to caregivers of young children in partnership with the Summit County Health Department, WIC, and Peace House.
- Collaboration Regarding Access to **Special Needs Services**: Convened local partners including Holy Cross Ministries, PC Tots, Summit County Early Intervention, Summit County Women, Infants and Children, Park City School District Preschool Program, and Wasatch Pediatrics to discuss increasing access to early screening and intervention services. As a result of this collaboration, Summit County Health Department submitted an application for \$200,000 for a 0-8 Care Coordinator (waiting to learn if awarded).
- Potential **Revolving Loan Fund**: Explored establishing a revolving and partially-forgivable loan fund to support employer-supported childcare and leverage federal and state tax credits.
- Nonprofit Support: Discussed possible use of a **mobile resource** platform that can better serve our community's most vulnerable families by bringing services to the families instead of asking families to come to receive services.