

## NORTHEAST INDIANA LEADERS PROPOSE ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING CHILDCARE

Fortitude Fund Thought Leaders are advancing practical ideas to improve childcare access, affordability, and provider sustainability across Indiana.

### THE CHALLENGE

- Families struggle to find and afford care.
- Providers operate on fragile margins.
- Employers lose workers when childcare breaks down.
- Public funding remains unstable.

### THE OPPORTUNITY

- Indiana has momentum to redesign the system.
- New models can make childcare more sustainable.
- Childcare can be treated as economic infrastructure.
- Short-term relief can become long-term reform.

### A WINDOW FOR ACTION

**\$200M** State of Indiana (CCDF Infusion)  
→ Restores voucher access for 14,000 off the waitlist

**\$2.5M** Allen County (Tri Share Grant)  
→ Reduce waiting list and make care more affordable

Indiana should treat childcare as the economic infrastructure it is.

### WHERE ACTION CAN START

POLICYMAKERS

EMPLOYERS

FUNDERS + PARTNERS

PROVIDERS

### FIVE IDEAS FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE

**01 TRANSFORM THE CHILDCARE BUSINESS MODEL**  
Reduce cost drivers and support co-ops, micro-centers, shared services, and fractional childcare models.

**02 USE DATA-SMART OVERSIGHT**  
AI and analytics to flag only high-risk providers for enforcement and create a real-time childcare openings database.

**03 BRING UNDERGROUND PROVIDERS INTO THE FORMAL SYSTEM**  
Incentives, staged licensing, grants, training, and marketing support to make formalization more attractive.

**04 ELEVATE THE CHILDCARE PROVIDER VOICE**  
Provider coalitions, advocacy training, and collaborative regulation to strengthen provider representation.

**05 INTEGRATE CHILDCARE INTO EDUCATION FINANCE**  
Establish a Scholarship Grant Organization (SGO) to access 50% State Tax Credits for early learning, resulting in a birth-through-grade-12 funding pipeline.



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