

What To Avoid

The semiconductor industry must focus on building up rather than depleting an already stressed system.

This opportunity can move the child care sector forward, but the Department of Commerce and CHIPS grant applicants must be intentional to avoid unintended consequences that could destabilize the community's existing child care system or otherwise undermine efforts to make care affordable, high-quality, accessible, and reliable.

Examples of what NOT to do include:

- Expanding demand for child care without correspondingly meeting the supply needs, thus raising prices and reducing availability for families in the community who are not included in the CHIPS child care plan.
- Continuing the practice of poverty-level wages and few to no benefits for early educators and child care staff despite their complex and valuable work.
- Crowding out the women and minority-owned child care businesses and nonprofit organizations, especially family child care providers, that currently provide the majority of child care today, with too few resources, but a strong dedication to the children and families they serve. This could be done by contracting exclusively with one (or a few) large center-based providers only, concentrating access and rate-setting with a very small number of providers.
- Inadequately resourcing the effort to provide child care, leading to an insufficient supply of care; unsafe or poor quality care that fails to meet children's developmental needs; or challenges to making child care affordable for families.