



Guiding Principles for Municipal Oversight of Child Care Facilities

The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC), representing Idaho's 197 incorporated municipalities, supports a clear and balanced regulatory framework for childcare facilities. One that protects the health and safety of Idaho's children while respecting the statutory authority and limited resources of Idaho's cities.

House Bill 243 (2025) established a statewide childcare licensing system administered by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). Although cities no longer issue stand-alone daycare licenses, childcare facilities remain subject to generally applicable municipal requirements, including land-use approvals, general business licensing, building code compliance, and fire-life-safety standards.

To promote consistency and cooperation, AIC urges state and municipal government to adhere to the following principles:

- Affirm municipal authority and responsibility to enforce general business licensing, zoning, building, and fire code requirements for all businesses operating within city limits, childcare facilities included.
- Support IDHW's statewide licensing program while ensuring that any requests for municipal support do not create new liabilities or unfunded mandates for cities.
- Urge IDHW to establish a clear, simple form to request verification of compliance with any local regulations that may exist and avoid any additional involvement or action by municipalities that may use city resources and revenue.
- Encourage continued dialogue among IDHW and municipal leaders to resolve compliance questions expeditiously and to improve the availability of safe, high-quality childcare options statewide.

AIC calls upon the IDHW, Idaho's municipal leaders, daycare owners and other stakeholders to embrace these principles and collaborate in a manner that protects children, supports working families, and respects local governance.

Idaho's cities stand ready as constructive partners in building a safe, affordable, and accessible childcare system for all Idahoans.