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Cape Cod Chamber Launches Early Education and Child Care Taskforce

The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has launched their Early Education and Child Care Taskforce to address the region's lack of affordable and available high-quality early education and care experiences for children.

Working in partnership with the Massachusetts Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education, Common Start Coalition, and Strategies for Children, the taskforce will provide feedback in shaping statewide early childhood education policy, with the goal of creating an integrated and accessible system of support for children, from prenatal through age 12, and their families.

By promoting existing solutions undertaken by local municipalities that support early childhood education, preschool, and aftercare, the taskforce will advocate for local investment by towns that have not already adopted fiscal mechanisms to provide resources to caregivers and schools.

The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has received an \$85,000 earmark in the economic development supplemental bill passed in November, "to leverage matching funds from businesses to offset childcare costs for employees or support on-site childcare services". Program details will be announced after the new year.

Mary Pat Mesmer, the past executive director of Cape Cod Child Development Inc., is chairing the taskforce, and Noelle Pina, the Chamber's Chief of Staff, is the staff liaison. Chamber members who are interested in joining the taskforce should email noelle@capecodchamber.org or call Noelle at (508) 362-3225.

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The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization whose mission is to strengthen and promote the regional economic vitality, cultural richness, environmental sensitivity, and social needs of Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce serves as the region's advocate for business at the local, state, and federal levels.