



Early Childhood Task Force – State of KY Child Care



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Kentucky Youth Advocates believes all children deserve to be safe, healthy, and secure. As THE independent voice for Kentucky's children, we work to ensure policymakers create investments and policies that are good for children.



Work with legislators, the Governor, and other elected officials to change and enact policies to benefit kids and families



Help families through our case advocacy program. We serve as their guide when they don't know where to turn



Conduct research and education that informs and recommends solutions to help kids succeed



Mobilize advocates to take action on behalf of kids and families through rallies, advocacy training, partnerships, and action alerts



Present the "state of kids" to communities to help people know how children are faring and how to address problems



Engage youth by training the next generation of leaders to advocate for themselves and their communities



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Early Childhood Systems in Kentucky

- HANDS
- First Steps
- Head Start
- Public School Pre-K
- Child Care



Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS)

- Home Visiting Program
- Prenatal Care through Two Years Old
- Families Enrolls Prior to Birth or Before Baby is 90 Days Old
- Parent Education



First Steps Early Intervention Program

- Early Intervention for Children Birth to Age Three
- State Funding with Private Health Care Providers
- Developmental Intervention, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy
- Therapy Offered in the Child's Natural Environment
- Families May Pay Co-Pay Depending on Income Level



Head Start & Early Head Start

- Federal Funding Distributed Directly to Local Grantees
- Families Qualify at 100% of Federal Poverty Level or Below
- Early Childhood Education Plus Wrap-Around Services Including Medical Care, Special Education Services, and Parent Supports
- Early Head Start Serves Children from Birth to Three Years.
- Head Start Serves Children from 3 Years of Age to Kindergarten.
- Classroom Services and Home Visiting Services Are Offered.



Public School Pre-Kindergarten

- Serves 3 and 4-year-olds with Disabilities
- Serves 4-year-olds when Family is at 160% of Federal Poverty Level
- Provides Licensed Preschool Teacher with Support from Special Educators
- Most Counties Offer Half-Day Services
- School System Must Serve Students Who Qualify for Services



Child Care Programs

- They are approximately 2,000 independent small businesses
- State regulations set the minimum standards for operation.
- Programs operate in the provider's home or in free-standing centers.
- Programs can be full-day or part-day for children from birth to age 13 years.
- Primarily funded by families, but approximately 13% to 15% of children attending child care receive assistance for tuition.



Kentucky Child Care Programs

- Enrollment and Capacity
- Types of Child Care Programs
- Kentucky All-STARS Program
- Child Care Provider Wages

Current Child Care Programs in Kentucky allow for 158,264 slots for children throughout the Commonwealth.

Remember, capacity does not equal availability.



Kentucky Child Care Programs

Located in:

- Homes of Child Care Providers
- Churches
- Community Centers
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Head Start & Early Head Start Partnerships
- For-Profit Businesses
- Licensed Public School Preschools



Kentucky Child Care Assistance Program

- The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to at-risk families when the adults are full-time students or work a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Currently families at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level can qualify for the Child Care Assistance Program. Prior to the pandemic, families qualified at 160% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Child care assistance in Kentucky is based on the market rate of child care in the county and age of the child. The CCAP program covers the cost of 80% of the child care programs in Kentucky. Prior to the pandemic, CCAP covered the full cost of 40% of the child care programs.



Kentucky Child Care Funding

- Kentucky is typically awarded approximately \$95 million per year from the Child Care and Development Block Grant, varies based on federal appropriations.
- Kentucky provides a \$20 million annual match – \$10 million from state general funds designated for CCAP and \$10 million from annual tobacco settlement funds designated for Kentucky All-STARs program and ECE scholarship funds.
- Kentucky also uses a small percentage of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds for child care assistance.



Child Care and Development Block Grant

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary source of United States federal funding for child care subsidies for low income working families and for states to improve child care quality. Each state's lead agency receives annual appropriations and must make a federal match to receive those appropriations.



Fragility of an Independent Child Care Program

Center Capacity

Infants – 16
Toddlers – 24
Two Year Olds – 40
3 Year Olds – 46
4 Year Olds – 50

Program Tuition

Infants – \$220/week
Toddlers – \$210/week
Two Year Olds – \$200/week
3 Year Olds – \$180/week
4 Year Olds – \$180/week



Fragility of an Independent Child Care Program

- Monthly Income - \$121,824
- Monthly Salaries - \$77,440
- Additional Monthly Expenses - \$43,330
- Remaining Income - \$1,054

This assumes that all families are paying their tuition on time and that CCAP families are paying their overages.

Employees are given paid time off, but they do not have health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, or life insurance.

This budget does not account for large scale maintenance like replacing an HVAC system or repairs to transportation.



Fragility of an Independent Child Care Program

- This example child care program is operating with the maximum amount of children in most classrooms. A high-quality child care program will not operate with the maximum amount of children with the minimum amount of staff. If adult-to-child ratios decrease, then income decreases also.
- This model of care would not support children with disabilities that needed any type of additional assistance in the classroom due to the higher adult-to-child ratios.
- Simple increases in food costs and gasoline can have a major impact on centers that hope to meet the budget requirements each month.
- This model assumes that all classrooms are open and fully staffed. If low staffing causes a classroom to close, it can have a huge impact on income, particularly in older classrooms.



Kentucky's Child Care Program Strengths

- Family Child Care Network for recruitment and technical assistance
- ECE-TRIS Professional Registry Database
- ARP Funds have increased access to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- Statewide training programs are focusing on working with children with special needs and program administration.
- Increased access to scholarships for child care providers working at least 20 per week in KY centers.



Kentucky's Greatest Child Care Challenges

- Child care wages can not compete with the hospitality and retail industries. There is a significant staffing crisis.
- Centers with closed classrooms are reducing statewide capacity.
- Significant number of child care deserts throughout the state.
- Children with disabilities lack access to quality child care.
Suspension and expulsion is higher for children with special needs.
- Children of color also lack access to high quality child care.
- Parents struggle to find the funds to cover the cost of full-time child care, so parents are leaving the workforce.

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors in a park-like setting. The woman on the left has curly brown hair and is wearing a light pink t-shirt. The woman on the right has straight brown hair and is wearing a grey t-shirt. They are both smiling and holding a large, pink and purple patterned hula hoop. In the background, there are green trees, a stone wall, and other people, including a woman carrying a baby in a carrier and another woman walking. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in large white text across the center of the image.

Questions?