

A FOUNDATION FOR ACTION

Shared Solutions to
Child Care Challenges in Kentucky

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

CONVERGENCE



Lift a Life
NOVAK / JAMES FOUNDATION



This new report includes 37 consensus-driven recommendations to help lay a foundation for expanding access to child care, supporting working Kentucky families, and fueling economic growth. They are the result of eight months of collaboration among stakeholders with diverse perspectives and expertise.

Top 8 Recommendations

- 1 Resources.** Provide the funding resources needed to implement all new recommendations and maintain key child care programs—including allowing free child care for child care workers, enhancements to the state's child care assistance program for low-income working families (CCAP), and the Early Childhood Development Scholarship.
- 2 Working Families.** Help middle-income working families afford child care by continuing to fund the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership, expanding eligibility to public employers, and directing CHFS to improve program administration and outreach through public-private partnerships.
- 3 Community Engagement.** Provide necessary funding to implement and strengthen the Certified Child Care Communities Program to promote local solutions to child care challenges and reduce barriers—modeled after the Recovery Ready Communities Program.
- 4 Employers.** Create a framework in state law for the state to offer financial incentives to employers seeking to increase child care supply and capacity in their areas to compliment new federal tax incentives in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and programming efforts underway in the nonprofit and private sectors.
- 5 Data.** Implement and continually update a child care supply-and-demand analysis—modeled on approaches used in Iowa and Nebraska—to identify high-need areas and better target limited resources. This will also involve changes to how the state tracks child care capacity and availability.
- 6 Regulations.** Implement a consensus-driven, safety-focused approach to streamlining child care licensure and regulatory enforcement—drawing on a successful model implemented in Montana. (This should not involve any changes to the state's current child-to-teacher ratios).
- 7 Innovation.** Establish a new form of child care licensure—modeled on Indiana's approach—to support innovative solutions and address unique challenges, such as care services for shift workers and student parents.
- 8 Quality.** Reform the Kentucky All STARS program with a focus on emphasizing outcomes, providing more support and incentives for child care providers, and streamlining compliance processes.

Read our full list of recommendations and find more information

SCAN ME

