



## Strengthen Child Care Supports for Working Parents

By Increasing CCAP Eligibility and Reimbursement Levels

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides a crucial support to working families who are struggling to make ends meet by offering access to safe, affordable, and reliable child care options while parents are working to provide for their families. Increasing income eligibility for child care assistance would allow more working parents who earn low wages to afford child care and keep their jobs, and increasing child care provider reimbursement would ensure that child care centers can cover the cost of quality care and remain open to serve families.

### **Parents contribute to a stronger Kentucky workforce when they go to work knowing they have safe, reliable, and affordable child care options:**

#### **Child care assistance offers safe care for children when parents are at work**

Due to the high cost of care, parents with low-wage jobs who do not qualify for CCAP often struggle to find affordable child care options that are safe and reliable for their children. The average fee for full-time child care ranges from approximately \$5,300 to \$6,100 annually in the Commonwealth. This represents one-fourth of the budget for a single parent of two young children earning twice the federal poverty level (200% FPL).

#### **Child care assistance is a critical component to grow Kentucky's workforce**

Unstable child care translates into direct costs for employers through employee absenteeism, tardiness, and reduced productivity. As our state promotes workforce development, child care assistance is vital to working parents' success.

#### **Adequate reimbursement allows providers to continue serving families**

Adequate CCAP reimbursement to child care providers ensures the availability of child care options in a community for all families, including those who pay full price. When child care providers receive reimbursements closer to the true cost of providing care, they can continue to serve low-income working families.

### **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:**

Strengthen child care support for working parents by increasing providers' reimbursement rates for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and allowing parents earning incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level to receive CCAP.



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