

Child Care Investment is Paying Off

Federal dollars are fueling local economies and offering opportunities



In 2018, Kentucky received \$42 million additional dollars through the **federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**. In March 2019, Kentucky Youth Advocates and partners surveyed child care providers who serve families in the **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** – the subsidy for low-income families – to find out how the recent funding and policy changes are affecting providers and families.

How is Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services using the additional funds?

- Raises child care provider reimbursement rates to the 40th percentile of market rates
- Eases how quickly families lose CCAP when parents get a raise, promotion, or higher paying job
- Counts enrollment in post-secondary education or training for the work requirement
- Helps cover the cost of background checks for providers
- Supports child care for children in foster care

Boosting Local Economies and Kentucky Kids

Child care providers from across Kentucky are using the increased CCAP reimbursement to invest in their workforce and in their businesses, which will improve the quality of care for young children:



Center has already implemented this change

Center hopes to implement this change

Child care providers across Kentucky see many positive changes that will result from the additional federal funding already coming into the commonwealth:

From advancing small businesses...

...to building a path off of public assistance for working parents.

Where we felt there was no hope and had been thinking about closing our doors, now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

– Harlan County

The main thing it has allowed me to do is **give staff raises** which has helped both in retaining staff and hiring on staff at the higher pay rate

– Jefferson County

Many of our parents...have to turn down job offers or promotions because they would lose their benefits.

This will be extremely helpful for them!

– Jefferson County

It will definitely help some families...We have seen some families **lose CCAP assistance because of an increase in income** but still not be able to pay for childcare out of pocket.

– Rowan County

Many of our **parents want to improve their lives** – home, job and health. They will be able to get their degrees now.

– Boone County

Helping these families get educations should **end the cycle of requiring assistance in the future.**

– Grant County

Only 11% of eligible Kentucky children and their families are being served by the Child Care Assistance Program.

Additional state and federal investments are needed to allow more Kentucky parents to work, kids to thrive, and local economies to grow.



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In March 2019, 127 child care providers from 43 counties responded to the survey. For 42 percent of respondents, at least half of the children they serve participate in CCAP. As the changes are still relatively new, another survey will be conducted in Fall 2019.

Kentucky Youth Advocates appreciates the many child care providers who completed the survey. We also thank the **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children** partners – **Child Care Advocates of Kentucky, Kentucky's Voice for Early Childhood, KIDS MATTER, and United Way** partners – for disseminating the survey to child care providers.