



Kentucky can...

Expand child care access to best serve kids, families, and local economies

Parents rely on safe, affordable child care to be able to work. Even before the pandemic, Kentucky parents lacked child care options, especially families of color and those in rural parts of the state. Now, with child care center closures, the fragile ecosystem of child care is under further threat.

Regulated home-based family child care options are a much-needed option for working parents and local economies.

In the last 10 years, Kentucky has experienced a dramatic decline in the number of family child care home providers. Planning and zoning requirements on in-home businesses have contributed to the decline. Recently, Kentucky has taken steps to encourage the growth of regulated family child care by offering start-up funds to providers.

This regulated child care option is offered in private homes to a small number of children and must meet state health and safety standards. **Regulated family child care complements the care offered by centers to fill gaps in access by:**

- Being located closer to families in their neighborhoods
- Serving parents with nontraditional work hours, such as healthcare workers and first responders
- Strengthening the local child care infrastructure
- Adding new providers in child care deserts

Kentucky Child Care Facts

HALF

of Kentucky communities are child care deserts, where families have limited or no access to child care

14%

of parents quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed their job due to problems with child care for children under 6

Child care expenses for an infant take up

36%

of a single parent's income

All data are prior to the pandemic.

Advancing Equity in the Commonwealth

Parents may favor family child care because they can choose providers who share their cultural background, speak the family's language, or have the ability to address the individualized needs of the children, particularly for children with special needs.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Amend local planning and zoning laws to allow regulated home-based family child care options to safely serve children in their neighborhoods.