



Kentucky can...

Boost Investment in Child Care for Children, Families, and Communities

Access to high-quality, reliable child care allows parents to get and keep a job, sets children up for success in school, and strengthens Kentucky's economy. Yet, many Kentucky families struggle to afford any kind of child care, much less safe, high-quality care. Unstable child care translates into direct costs for employers through employee absenteeism, tardiness, and reduced productivity.

As Kentucky recovers from the pandemic, access to child care is essential to help parents enter and stay in the workforce:

- ✓ Adequate child care provider payment rates and increased eligibility for low-income, working families
- ✓ Safe, reliable child care centers that can adequately compensate teachers
- ✓ Parents can go to work knowing their children are safe and learning
- ✓ Thriving families and local economies across the commonwealth

While recent federal relief measures have helped child care centers keep their doors open, continued state investment is needed to maintain and build the supply of child care, particularly for parents who struggle to afford it.

**Nearly 100,000
Kentucky women**
have left the workforce during the pandemic due to
child care issues and school closures.

40%
of working-age Kentuckians cited caregiving
responsibilities as reasons for not working this year.

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

The lack of available child care
in Kentucky accounts for

\$573 million

in lost earnings, business
productivity, and tax revenue.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Build an infrastructure for child care that improves access to affordable, high-quality care to allow parents to work, children to thrive, and local economies to grow.