

Early Care and Education

THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE WORKFORCE



Wisconsin's economy cannot succeed without child care. Our child care providers are in crisis.

ACCESS

Prior to COVID-19, approximately **half of Wisconsin's children**, and almost **80% children in rural areas**, lived in **child care deserts**. About **40 percent (1,791) of regulated child care providers temporarily closed** due to the pandemic. Without significant financial support, **many will likely close permanently**.

AFFORDABILITY

The average price of **infant care is \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month**, or approximately **half the annual income of a single parent**. Child care often costs more than college tuition and rent. Often, families who qualify for subsidy are unable to find or afford care.

QUALITY

Over 80 percent of child care providers participated in YoungStar in December 2019. Just over half of YoungStar-rated providers are considered high quality (rated 3-5 stars). **Participation in YoungStar and the percentage of providers receiving quality ratings has declined in recent years.**

WORKFORCE

Over half of all child care teachers have an Associate's or higher degree. Wages **average \$10 to \$13 an hour**, with few benefits. **The majority of child care teachers qualify for public assistance**, and there is a nearly 40 percent turnover rate. At least **12,000 child care professionals became unemployed due to COVID-19**.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Subsidize child care costs for your employees

Earn a reputation as an employer with amazing benefits and family-friendly policies; attract great talent.



Invest in child care programs close to you

Ensure local child care can remain open; increase productivity and reduce time off for your employees who are parents.



Support child care teachers

Sponsor teacher salary bonuses, pay off loans, or subsidize training. Give back to the community, create sustainable improvements and drive economic development.



Use your influence to advocate for child care

Create sustainable improvements through state and local policies that benefit Wisconsin children and families.



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families