

WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE SAFE & AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS BEFORE AGE FIVE



Kids who have access to early childhood education also increase educational attainment, earnings, and health over their lifespan while reducing the risk of neglect, disability, and incarceration.

High quality, affordable child care is critical to improving kindergarten readiness, increasing reading levels, and ensuring early developmental and behavioral interventions for children.

\$ CHILD CARE IS AN INVESTMENT WITH BIG RETURNS

For every \$1 spent, between \$4 and \$9 are returned to the economy.

Families with access to high quality, affordable child care are able to work and increase their earning potential.

CHILD CARE IS CRITICAL TO THE LABOR FORCE

Most working adults in Kentucky are parents and over a third of Kentucky parents have children under age 6. In 2021, 13% of Kentucky caregivers with young children were forced to leave or change jobs because of challenges with child care.

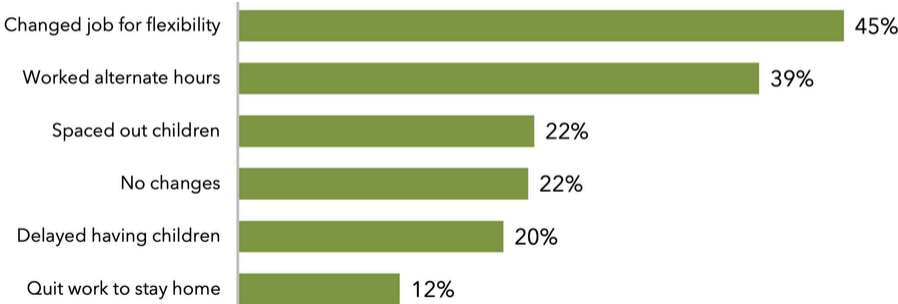
These workforce losses cost Kentucky an estimated \$1.2 billion in economic activity annually.

76,000 Kentuckians are not working due to caring for children at home. Lack of child care is the third most common reason for adults to not be in the workforce, behind retirement and illness/disability.

On average, parents miss 9 days of work annually due to child care-related issues.

Kentucky Parents Have Had to Make Significant Life Changes to Secure Child Care

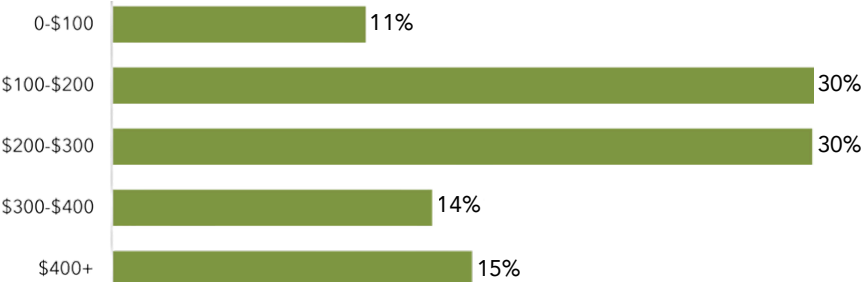
Percent of responses to the question: "Have you made any lifestyle changes in order to provide child care?" in January 2024.



CHILD CARE IS NOT AFFORDABLE

Kentucky Parents Spend Hundreds Each Week on Child Care

Responses to the question "What are you spending each week on child care?" Does not include respondents who participate in CCAP. in January 2024.



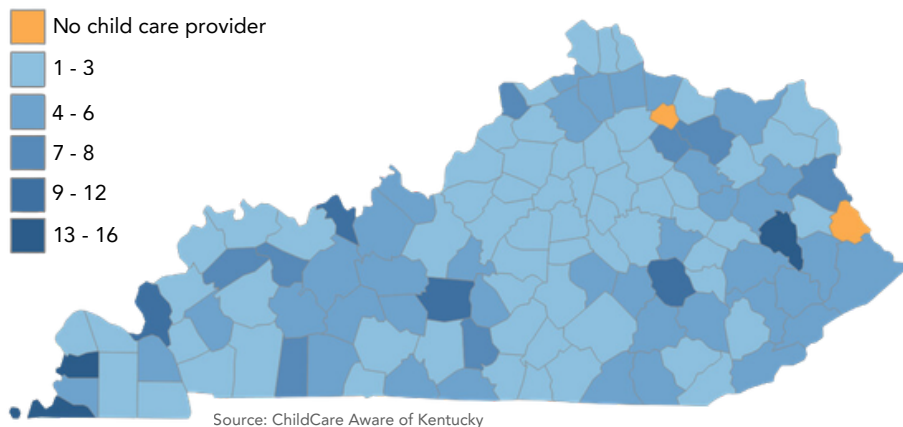
The average cost for full-time toddler care in Kentucky is \$8,890 -- **17% of the state median income**. Full-time tuition at Eastern Kentucky University is \$9,544 per year. Most parents facing child care costs are younger and have not yet reached their full earning potential.

The income level for a household to afford childcare in Kentucky is \$121,000. Currently, only 25% of households with children under 6 earn that much.

Single parents pay 36% of their income for center-based infant care in Kentucky.

CHILD CARE IS HARD TO FIND

Number of children per child care slot in county, 2024



49 counties in Kentucky have 3 or more children competing for every child care slot.

Ten counties in Kentucky have one or zero child care providers, and there are five counties with 10 or more children per available slot.

Even with the recent additional support, **Kentucky still lost 46% of its child care providers** in the course of the last decade.

LOW WAGES CONTRIBUTE TO STAFFING SHORTAGES

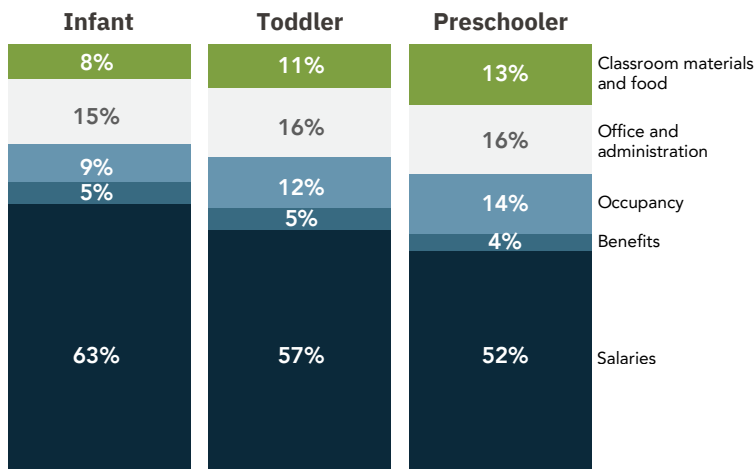
The average child care employee makes \$12 per hour, making it difficult for providers to compete with higher wage retail and fast food establishments.

Even with state and federal funding support to help child care providers raise wages, many continue to be understaffed. In a recent survey of 500 child care providers in 94 Kentucky counties, **68% would be able to increase capacity if they were fully staffed, 23% by as many as 50 children.**

In 2021, the turnover rate of **early childhood workers was 40%**, which increases the time and cost of recruiting, hiring, and training new staff.

Personnel costs are the largest expense for child care programs

Distribution of child care program expenses for an infant, toddler, and preschooler in a child care center meeting basic state licensing standards and paying current average wages, based on U.S. averages



Source: *Where Does Your Child Care Dollar go?* interactive

THE PREVIOUS BUDGET INCLUDED CLOSE TO \$70 MILLION PER YEAR



These funds supported:

- Reimbursements to child care programs at the 80th percentile of Market Rate Survey
- A CCAP Income Exclusion for Child Care Providers
- Covered background checks for child care workers
- Innovation grants for new delivery models
- A 6-month tie-off of CCAP after family incomes rise
- The ECCAP program

THESE INVESTMENTS WERE CRUCIAL OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND NOW MUST BE CONTINUED AND INCREASED FOR INFLATION IN THE 2026-2028 BUDGET TO SUPPORT KENTUCKY CHILD CARE AND THE FAMILIES THAT USE IT.