

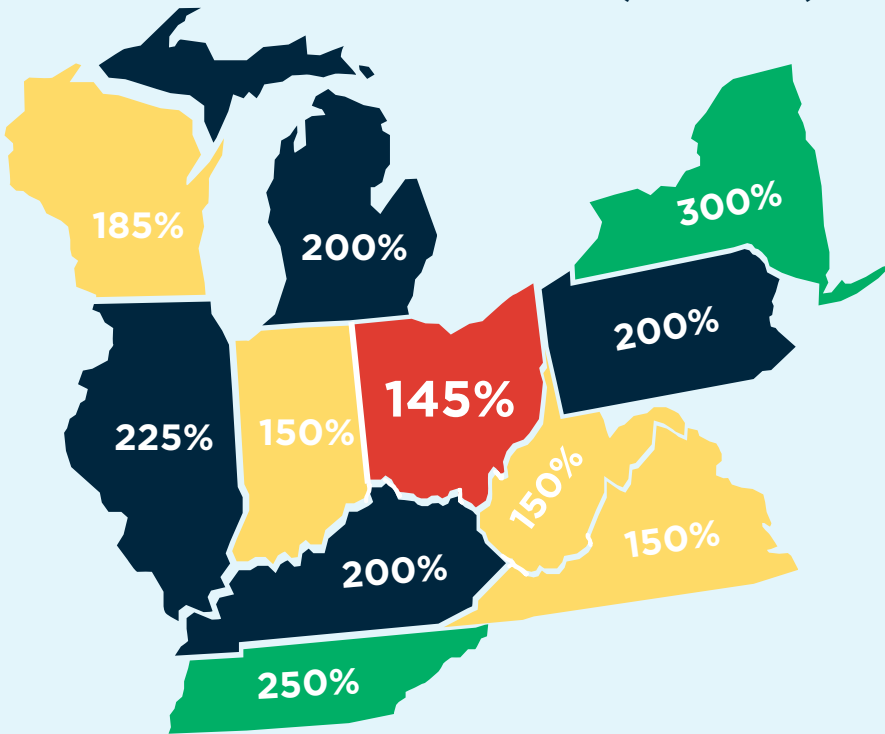


Ohio's Childcare Crisis

Parents and providers out of options

The average annual cost for one infant's childcare in Ohio is \$9,697, or over \$800 each month. Childcare is vital for Ohio families, but there are many barriers to access, the early childhood educators providing care are grossly underpaid, and childcare is simply unaffordable for most Ohioans.

Federal poverty line eligibility thresholds for child care assistance (kids 0-5)



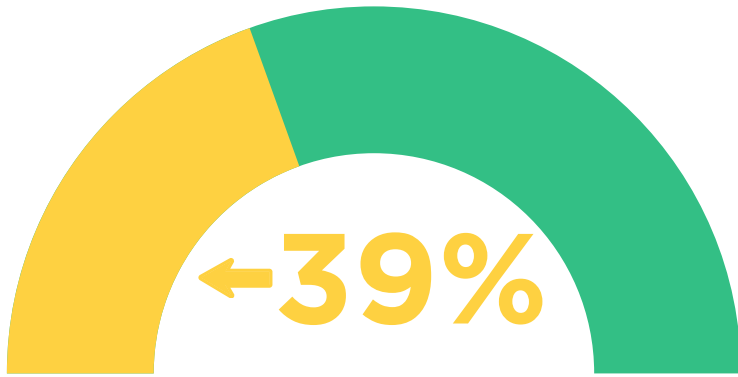
Between 2019 and 2021,

28,697

fewer children benefited from publicly funded child care in Ohio

Ohio has the lowest eligibility for Publicly Funded Childcare (kids 0-5) in the country

Rank	State(s)	FPL Eligibility %
42	Wyoming	175%
43	Arizona	165%
44	Iowa	160%
45	Idaho	158%
46	Florida, Missouri, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana	150%
51	Ohio	145%



of Ohioans live in a child care desert, which are most prevalent in rural areas

According to a 2023 poll,



of surveyed parents who are not working full time would do so if child care was more affordable

The median hourly wage for child care workers in Ohio is

\$13.15,

or an annual salary of just over

\$27K

From 2017 to 2022, the number of child care workers in Ohio dropped

36%



HOW DO WE FIX THIS?

- Provide adequate revenue for programs
- Raise the income threshold for Publicly Funded Child Care to make more families eligible
- Adopt online prescreening and eligibility tools
- Make child care free for child care workers to increase the early learning workforce
- Conduct a statewide cost-of-care analysis
- Provide livable wages for child care workers



Read the full report at policymattersohio.org/ChildCareCrisis
Questions? Contact Ali Smith at asmith@policymattersohio.org