



## Make or Break Moment: Child Care Providers Weigh In On Survival + Offer Bold Vision for Future

**It started with a stark statistic: without immediate action, 23% of providers anticipate closing within 3 months.**

Following a request from community leaders, Action for Children gathered and shared critical data and qualitative feedback on the state of Early Childhood Education in Central Ohio. In particular, there was an interest in knowing what the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis is having on the child care industry and what child care providers in our community believed would

help them remain open and financially viable for the foreseeable future.

Feedback was collected using two approaches: a survey to gather quantitative data and a series of focus groups to gather qualitative feedback. The results of both have been tabulated, summarized, and [presented here](#).

### Survey

The survey was distributed on September 30, 2020 to 1,143 Providers in SDA-9. Action for Children collected 274 responses (190 centers and 84 homes). The results are statistically significant with 95% confidence and a margin of error of 6%.

### Key Findings

Among a number of alarming statistics, the survey revealed the following:

- Without immediate action, **23% of providers anticipate closing within 3 months**—near the end of January 2021.



- For **two thirds** of providers, **monthly revenue does not cover expenses**.
- **42%** of providers are **paying more than \$1,000 monthly for additional costs**.
- **Enrollment is depressed at 54%** of total capacity.
- Nearly **one-third are experiencing staff shortages** with an estimated **725 staff openings** at present.

## Focus Groups + Recommendations

Child Care Center Staff and Family Child Care Providers were engaged in a series of Focus Groups designed to solicit ideas about what is needed now to ensure their long-term viability and specifically, what Public Officials can do to support them. There were 39 participants across eight sessions held between October 7 and October 19, 2020.

Combining the results of the survey with the feedback gleaned from the Focus Groups, Action for Children has compiled a list of recommendations to address the immediate crisis and to promote long-term sustainability for the child care industry. Detailed recommendations fell into three overarching categories: **Public Relations and Awareness** to promote appreciation and respect for ECEs; **Support for the Workforce** including increased wages and benefits as well as wrap around supports for staff; and **Resources and Infrastructure**, outlining needed systems change, the need for improved safety measures, as well as increased access to supplies and resources needed in light of COVID-19.



### For more information, please contact:

Eric Karolak

CEO, Action for Children

M: 240-678-8609

[ekarolak@actionforchildren.org](mailto:ekarolak@actionforchildren.org)