



Understanding The Tipping Point Webinar Q&A

Presented by at Action for Children

Q: What are families doing if they aren't enrolled in central Ohio child care programs?

A: Families who are not enrolled in these programs are either leaving the workforce or not going back to work. This, of course, negatively impacts the economic growth of the Central Ohio Region. If parents are going to work, and the children are not enrolled in these programs, they are relying their families -- on grandparents, sisters, cousins or neighbors to care for their children. In many situations, these individuals are not being paid for their time and care.

Q: With Intel expanding operations in central Ohio and needing a large number of workers, what should we be thinking about and doing?

A: Intel is on everyone's mind, but this question actually isn't really unique to Intel; Intel has no greater responsibility to solve child care than any other employer or organization in our community. However, it does have more resources thanks to the CHIPS Incentives that Congress passed and that includes a requirement that semiconductor manufacturers create child care plans to address the needs of their workforce and construction workforce in finding child care.

One of the resources available that Intel and other semiconductor manufacturers have is Action for Children's [CHIPS and Child Care in America's Silicon Heartland report](#), which describes some really smart solutions and things to think about as Intel or any business confronts this issue, such as:

- Leveraging existing child care infrastructure which includes child care centers and home-based family child care programs. In areas where child care is scarce, some of the solution has to be partnering with public-private ventures to expand the options that are available.
- Considering some core principles that we talk about in our [CHIPS and Child Care in America's Silicon Heartland report](#). Some of these come directly from the Department of Commerce guidance for CHIPS and Science Act, which we support, and others are recommended by Action for Children. Considering what the needs of workers and where child care is located is key.
- Adequately compensating child care providers while keeping the out-of-pocket child care expenses low for families. There are recommendations for this in our CHIPS and Child Care report as well.

Q: How can we be more involved as child care professionals to advocate for ourselves?

A: Be involved, whether that's with your local informal home-based council or organizations, national associations such as NAFCC and NAEYC, or state or regional early childhood advocacy organizations,

such as Groundwork Ohio or Ohio AEYC. United together, you represent a voice that assures the safe care and informed, development of the young child and thousands of working parents – and that’s extremely valuable to the community. Be responsive when people reach out, not only to surveys like Action for Children’s, but to national surveys as well. Being able to provide your input is extremely valuable. Being ready to pick up the phone, send an email, or even text local and state leaders when asked is also important. No one sends out an advocacy message lightly.

And for those of us who aren’t providers, we also have a responsibility to authentically welcome and encourage the involvement of early childhood educators across a variety of settings as advocates within our spheres of influence. It’s important to use that influence together!

Q: The findings in this report about lack of health insurance are concerning. What should we do about it?

A: Child care providers need to make wages in which they can afford health insurance.

We can create policies and systems in which child care providers can afford to either provide health insurance to their employees or obtain it for themselves. And that’s both about child care policy systems and about health care policy systems in this country.

Public/private partnerships could bridge us towards the long-term work for policy change. This is a role for everybody. Importantly, we need to understand what this workforce has, wants, and needs, and then address it together. There is more data needed here, and we’d love to connect about it!

[Read The Tipping Point Report](#) | [Contact Action for Children](#)