



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Christiana Sallard

Marketing & Communications Manager,

Action for Children

csallard@actionforchildren.org | 614-656-1887

NEW REPORT EXPOSES THE PRESSING STATE OF CHILD CARE IN CENTRAL OHIO

COLUMBUS, Ohio: Action for Children's [latest Central Ohio Child Care Provider Survey report](#) exposes the pressing state of child care in central Ohio. Initiated in 2020 to comprehend the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the child care sector, this survey report underscores the persistent issues surrounding child care, warranting immediate attention and policy change.

Findings from this year's report highlight the following issues:

- **Uncertainty in the Industry:** The survey reveals that 13% of central Ohio's child care providers are unsure if they will remain open in the next three months, a 2% increase since 2022. Specific counties, like Licking and Fairfield, show an increase of 5 percentage points.
- **Financial Strain:** Over half of the region's child care providers (52%) report monthly revenue not covering expenses, a 2-point increase since 2022.
- **Capacity Challenges:** Child care centers are operating at only 66% of their capacity, while family child care providers reach 87%. Despite an increase in enrollment since 2021, programs are far from full capacity. If programs were able to operate at their full licensed capacity, an additional 9,925 children could be enrolled.
- **Staffing Crisis:** 70% of central Ohio's child care centers have open positions or a desire to hire staff, highlighting an ongoing staffing crisis. An estimated 1,626 staff are needed to continue providing quality care to the children in central Ohio. Family child care providers also express a strong desire to hire additional staff.
- **Tuition Increases:** For the second consecutive year, 56% of providers have raised tuition fees, with 66% planning further increases in the next six months.

With the ending of pandemic-era ARPA funding, these findings emphasize the need for sustained, flexible investment in central Ohio's child care centers and Family Child Care programs. "Child care is a crisis for families, child care workforce, and economy," said Dr. Eric Karolak, CEO of Action for Children. "It's imperative to address affordability, capacity, and workforce stability, ensuring a secure and nurturing environment for our region's children."

Action for Children urges community leaders, policymakers, and the public to take notice of these pressing issues and support initiatives aimed at reforming and ensuring the sustainability of the child care sector in central Ohio.

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Action for Children is the local child care resource and referral agency for Central Ohio, and is committed to assuring quality early learning experiences for all children. Our services focus on transforming the lives of children by supporting the everyday heroes who most influence our children's early growth; care givers, educators, parents, and guardians. [LEARN MORE.](#)