

Your Workforce Needs Affordable, Quality Child Care.

Join Ohio Business Leaders Acting Now!

READY, SET
SOAR OHIO

Early Investments, A Lifetime of Success.

You are working harder than ever to keep your business running and to bring employees back to work safely. To return to and stay at work, your employees—especially those with young children under age 3—need access to affordable, high-quality child care options.

If parents don't have access to trusted, safe learning environments for their young children, they won't be able to return to the workforce now or in the future after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

The reality is that Ohio's child care system is in crisis. Centers are closed or operating with limited capacity—and all programs are struggling to survive.

Even before the pandemic began, businesses lost about \$1,150 per working parent each year from decreased productivity and extra hiring and training costs when families don't have access to child care. Without affordable quality child care, businesses see a decrease in:

Productivity
Revenue
Employee Moral
Quality
Tenure

Without immediate action from local, state and federal lawmakers, Ohio will lose a nearly half of child care programs and see serious economic losses for businesses and families.

If child care providers in Ohio don't receive adequate public support, Ohio could lose over 204,000 child care slots, which is 45% of Ohio's current child care supply.

 **When child care is inaccessible, businesses like yours see serious economic impacts.**

 **For every 4 Ohio children under the age of 3, there was only one licensed child care slot available before the pandemic.**

Act Now to Ensure Quality Child Care is Available to Your Workforce

Your employees need your partnership to support their families and a strong economic recovery. Economic losses turn into economic gains if quality child care is available now and after the pandemic. Join business leaders across Ohio in calling on...

- 1 Local policymakers to engage in advocacy** alongside business leaders in their community to influence state and federal policy and investments that increase access to quality child care for the local workforce.
- 2 State policymakers to preserve and protect all state investments** and leverage federal investments in Ohio's child care system to increase access to quality child care for working families.
- 3 Federal policymakers to support Ohio's economic recovery** by investing flexible emergency dollars that will stabilize Ohio's child care system and increase access to quality child care.

Businesses that support quality child care programs are strengthening their workforce today and the workforce of tomorrow.

To remain productive and engaged at work, parents, especially working mothers, need peace of mind knowing that their children are in a safe and stimulating environment.

Ensuring your employees have access to quality child care is a significant factor in the recruitment, retention, and productivity of your current workforce, and will play a key role in a businesses' ability to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, young children need responsive relationships and positive experiences to support their rapid brain development and build the foundation for success later in school and the workplace.

Working Mothers Need Support

In many cases, working moms are responsible for much of the caregiving in their homes. The decreasing supply of child care could impact women's ability to work, and their long-term employment opportunities.

Approx. 416,000 children in Ohio are under age 3.

2/3 of their mothers work outside the home.



Research shows that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education for disadvantaged children ages 0 to 5 delivers

13% ROI per year

through better education, health, social, and economic outcomes.

Connect with Groundwork Ohio & Ready, Set, Soar Ohio to learn more. Join Ohio business leaders in taking action!

**ReadySetSoarOH.org
@ReadySetSoarOH**