Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care is An Economic Issue
January 24, 2022
Welcome!

Opening comments from our caucus co-vice chair,
Senator Vernon Sykes
Lois Rosenberry,
CEO & President of Children’s Discovery Centers,
Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board Member
Chelsea Kiene,
Director of Communications & Stakeholder Engagement,
Groundwork Ohio
Quality Child Care: A Workforce and Economic Issue
Groundwork Ohio’s Mission

Groundwork Ohio is a committed, nonpartisan public-policy research and advocacy organization formed in 2004 that champions high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies, from the prenatal period to age 5, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families, and communities.
Groundwork Ohio commissioned Public Opinion Strategies to complete a statewide survey of 800 registered voters and an oversample of 400 parents with children under the age of 5 in Ohio.

The survey was conducted October 26-November 8, 2021 and has a margin of error of +3.46% for the registered voter sample and +4.9% for the parents' oversample.
# Demographic Profile of Parents with Children Under 5

*Mentions of parents throughout this slide deck refer to the above group (unless otherwise noted)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of Color</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A city</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A suburban area</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A small town/rural area</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>% of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Groundwork Ohio Statewide Poll: Key Findings
Ohioans Believe Getting COVID-19 Under Control and Getting Ohioans Back to Work are the Most Important Issues

- Getting the coronavirus pandemic under control: 56%
- Getting Ohioans back to work: 55%
- Controlling the cost of health care: 54%
- Improving the quality of public education: 48%
- Reducing the tax burden on families: 44%
- Making sure that children get a strong start in life through quality early childhood education programs: 43%
- Increasing funding for mental health issues: 34%
- Helping provide child care for working parents with young children: 33%

But Ohio Parents of Young Children are Focused on Issues of Quality Public Education and Early Childhood Education


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving the quality of public education</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making sure that children get a strong start in life through quality early childhood education programs</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Ohioans back to work</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing the tax burden on families</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting the coronavirus pandemic under control</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling the cost of health care</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping provide child care for working parents with young children</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing funding for mental health issues</td>
<td>44%</td>
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</table>
Child Care is an Economic Issue

47% of Ohio parents with children under 5 have had serious problems with child care, meeting work and family responsibilities, or affording child care in recent months, which has impacted their work.

60% of non-working or part-time working moms with children under 5 in Ohio would go back to work or work more hours if they had access to quality child care at a reasonable cost.

43% of working parents in Ohio have had to cut back on hours to care for their children in the last few months.

When asked what child care allows them or would allow them to do, both parents with and without child care most frequently answered: “WORK MORE”
Child Care is an Economic Issue

80% of Ohio voters say child care is expensive where they live.

The average annual cost of child care in Ohio:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-based</th>
<th>Home-based/Family Child Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$10,009</td>
<td>$7,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant and 4-year-old</td>
<td>$18,267</td>
<td>$14,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Child Care Aware of America

The Pandemic Has Been a Tipping Point for Families

86% of Ohio parents with children under 5 said they have undergone stress from the COVID-19 pandemic, including 36% who said it has caused “a lot” of stress.

87% of Ohio voters believe the pandemic has put a strain on kids’ mental health and the mental health of parents in the state.

69% of parents with children under the age of 5 said they are worried about the mental or emotional health of their child/children.

Ohioans Want More Investment in Early Childhood Education

74% of Ohio voters (including 80% of Ohio parents with children under the age of 5) agree early childhood learning is the most important education experience of a child’s life.

When asked about allocating education dollars:

- Ohio voters said 24.2% of the state’s education funding should be devoted to early childhood education (ages 0-5).

- Ohio parents with children under the age of 5 said 31.4% of the state’s education funding should be devoted to early childhood education (ages 0-5).

- “Strong” Republicans said 23.4% of the state’s education funding should be devoted to early childhood education (ages 0-5).

Early Childhood Education Activates Voters

79% of Ohio voters said early childhood education would be a top factor in their vote for elected officials, including 71% of Republicans, 73% of Independents, and 93% of Democrats.

89% of Ohio parents with children under the age of 5 said early childhood education would be a top factor in their vote for elected officials.

88% of Ohio parents with children under the age of 5 said they would be willing to write a letter or call their representative about this issue.

Child care has become an economic issue. Ohio parents are under incredible pressure, and it is causing challenges at home and at work.

Parents with young children, especially mothers, are telling us they need quality, affordable child care to return to work. To solve Ohio’s workforce crisis now and in the future, we must listen to the experts – parents.
Child Care and the American Rescue Plan Act

Through the Controlling Board and House Bill 169, the legislature appropriated more than $700 million non-discretionary dollars from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that Ohio received specifically for child care stabilization.

The grants are categorized in buckets for the following purposes:

- Operating/New Stabilization
- Workforce Recruitment
- Access Development
- Administrative Infrastructure Support
- Mental Health Workforce and Family Support
Thank You.

GroundworkOhio.org

@GroundworkOhio
Jennifer Palmer,
Early Childhood Senior Policy Specialist,
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
ARPA Spending on Child Care

Presentation to Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus

Jennifer Palmer, Early Childhood Senior Policy Specialist

January 25, 2022
How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures

Policy Research
NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis

Connections
NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts

Training
NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff

State Voice in D.C.
NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill

Meetings
NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions
Early Childhood Fellows

- Latest research
- Evidence-based solutions
- Policy examples and innovations
- New funding opportunities
- Bold ideas to rebuild
Early Childhood Fellows Alumni

270 Fellows
• 48 states
• Washington, DC
• Puerto Rico
# Early Childhood Fellows Program Process & Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Process</th>
<th>2022 Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 1 State leadership makes nominations</td>
<td>Feb-April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2 Nominees complete application</td>
<td>May 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3 NCSL staff reviews applications</td>
<td>May 16-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4 NCSL staff sends program invitations</td>
<td>May 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5 Fellows complete program</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 6 NCSL considers fellows alumni</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
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Child Care COVID-19 Relief Funding

**How long do states have to spend their child care relief funds?**

- **2020**: Receive:
  - CARES Act- $3.5B

- **2021**: Receive:
  - CRRSA Act- $10B
  - ARP CCDBG- $15B
  - ARP Stabilization- $24B

- **2022**: Obligate:
  - CARES
  - CRSSA
  - ARP Stabilization

- **2023**: Obligate:
  - ARP CCDBG
  - Liquidate:
    - CARES
    - CRSSA
    - ARP Stabilization

- **2024**: Liquidate:
  - ARP CCDBG

**Obligate**: State has entered into a legally-binding agreement to spend funds.
**Liquidate**: State has made payments.

*Source: The Center for Law and Social Policy*
ARPA funds for child care

- State Fiscal Recovery Funds: $195.3B
- Child Care Stabilization Grants: $24B
- CCDF Supplemental Discretionary Funds: $15B
Support for the early care and education workforce

- Grants and contracts
- Improving reimbursement policies
- Compensation
- Start up funding and recruitment
- Shared services and business supports
- Stabilization grant innovation
Assistance for families

- Expanding eligibility and eligibility period
- Raising income thresholds
- Reducing or eliminating copays
• Helping jobseekers find child care
• Connect child care business owners to services, supplies and other supports
• Integrating child care licensing and child care assistance platforms
• Improvement and expansion of facilities

Technology & facilities
Georgia

• Expanding eligibility from 50% SMI to 85%
• Increasing quality rated tiered bonuses to providers by 15% per start level
• Enrollment-based pay
• $1,000 bonuses to early care and education professionals x 2 this year

Source: GA DECAL CRSSA & ARPA Spending Plan
Kentucky

- Pilot for infant and toddler subsidized care
- Facility repair grants for existing child care programs
- Apprenticeship program
- Start-up grants for family child care homes and providers in “deserts”
- Business partnership start-up funds
- Technology upgrades to connect all child care data systems

Source: Gov. Beshear: Kentucky Child Care Providers Awarded $763 Million in Federal Funds
How can we help?

• **Resources**
  • ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Allocations, [Database](#)
  • NCSL Resources on the American Rescue Plan, [Webpage](#)
  • Wake-Up Call for Child Care as Pandemic Exposes Troubled System, [State Legislatures News Magazine](#)

• **Questions?**
  • Jennifer Palmer, Senior Policy Specialist
    • [jennifer.palmer@ncsl.org](mailto:jennifer.palmer@ncsl.org)
    • (720) 713-0333
Questions & Answers

Moderated by our caucus co-vice chair, Sen. Stephanie Kunze

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat feature.
Thank you for joining today’s webinar!

For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact Alison Paxson at apaxson@childrensdefense.org