



Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

*Learning, connecting, and problem-solving
together. Our children are counting on us.*

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

Welcome!

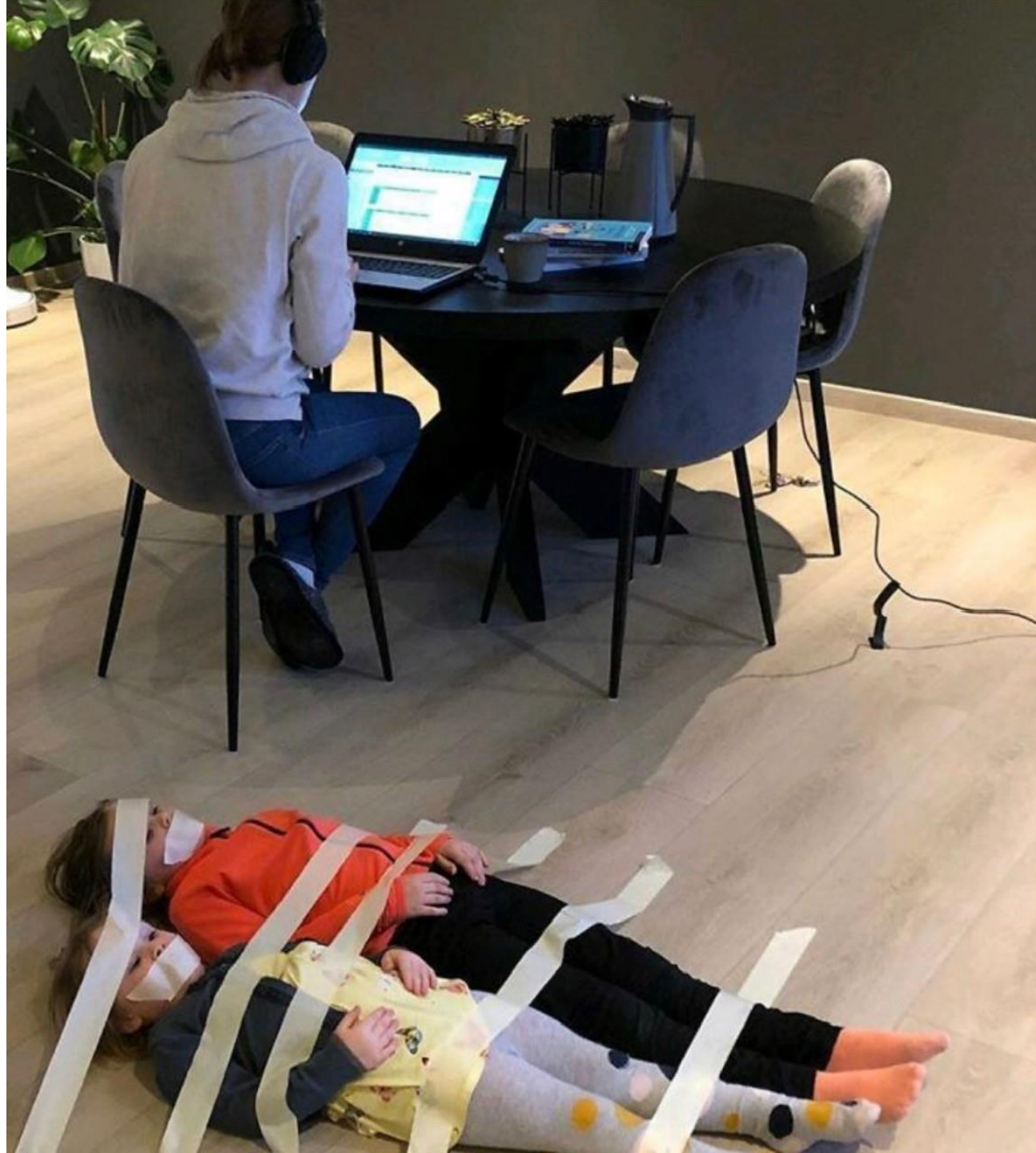
*Opening comments from our caucus co-vice chair,
Senator Vernon Sykes*



Lois Rosenberry,

CEO & President of Children's Discovery Centers,
Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board Member





Chelsea Kiene,

Director of Communications & Stakeholder Engagement,
Groundwork Ohio



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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 Statewide Survey

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



Ethnicity	% of Sample
<i>Whites</i>	84%
<i>People of Color</i>	15%
<i>African Americans</i>	10%
<i>Hispanics</i>	5%



Party	% of Sample
<i>Republican</i>	33%
<i>Independent</i>	31%
<i>Democrat</i>	36%



Geography	% of Sample
<i>A city</i>	29%
<i>A suburban area</i>	53%
<i>A small town/rural area</i>	18%



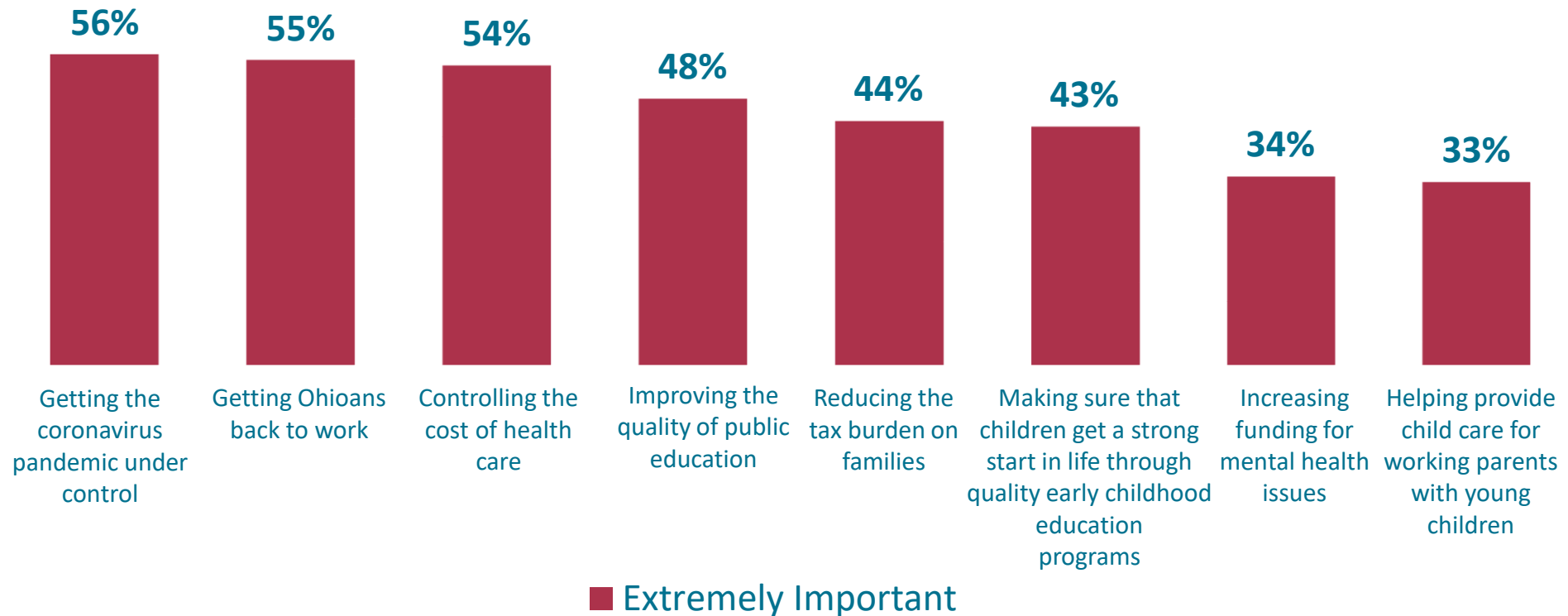
Gender	% of Sample
<i>Men</i>	45%
<i>Women</i>	55%

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

Groundwork Ohio Statewide Poll: Key Findings

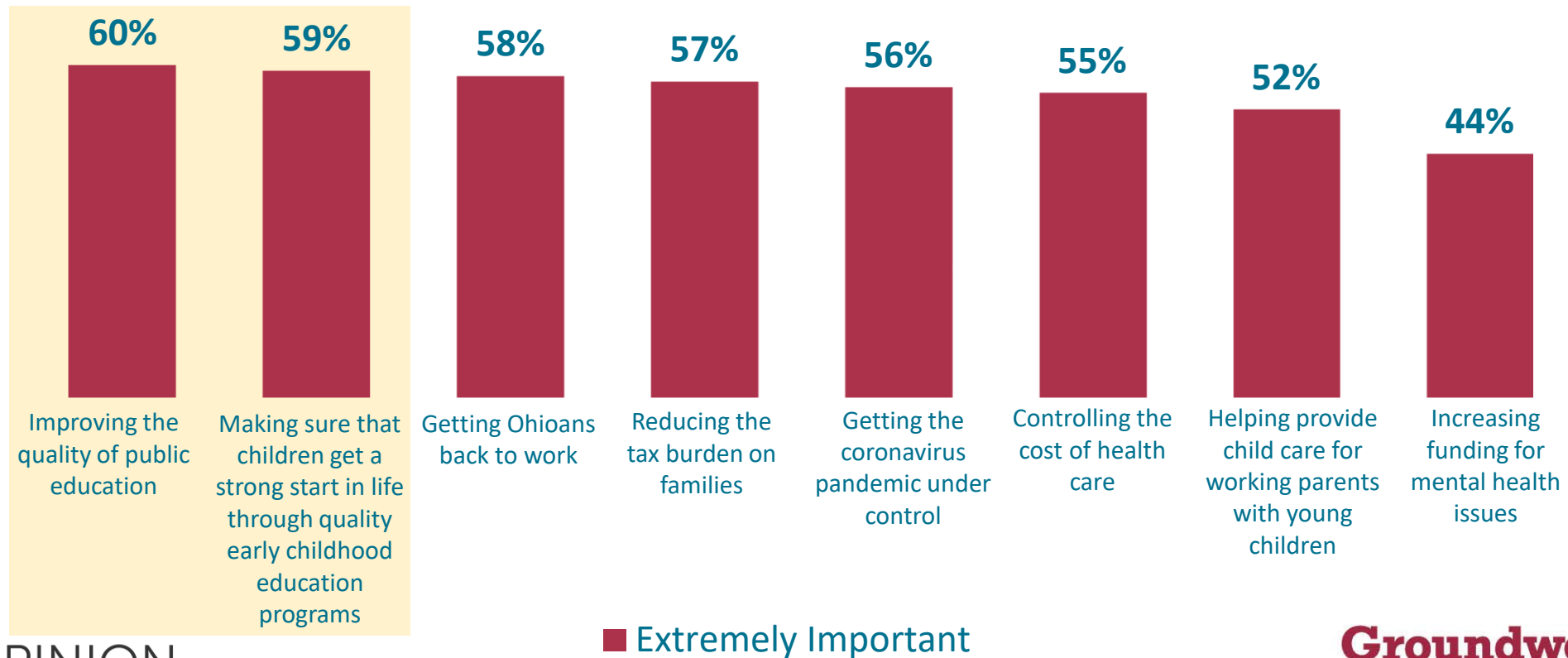


Ohioans Believe Getting COVID-19 Under Control and Getting Ohioans Back to Work are the Most Important Issues



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

(ASKED AMONG PARENTS WITH CHILDREN <5)



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.

Child Care is an Economic Issue

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:

	Center-based	Home-based/Family Child Care
<i>Infant</i>	\$10,009	\$7,592
<i>Infant and 4-year-old</i>	\$18,267	\$14,038

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.

The Bottom Line

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



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**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



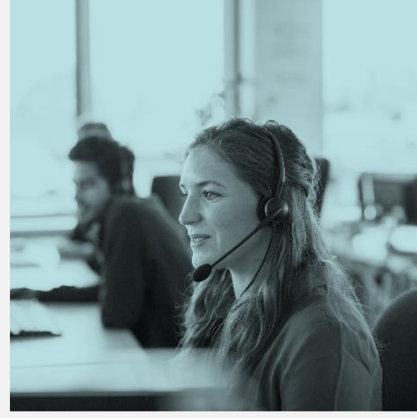
Policy Research

NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis



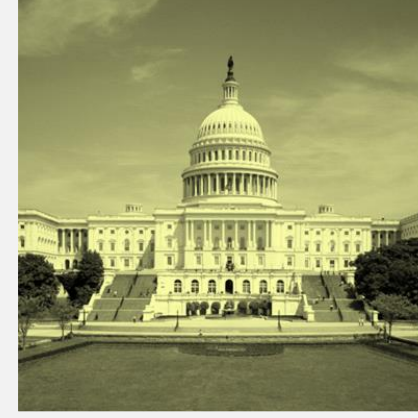
Connections

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

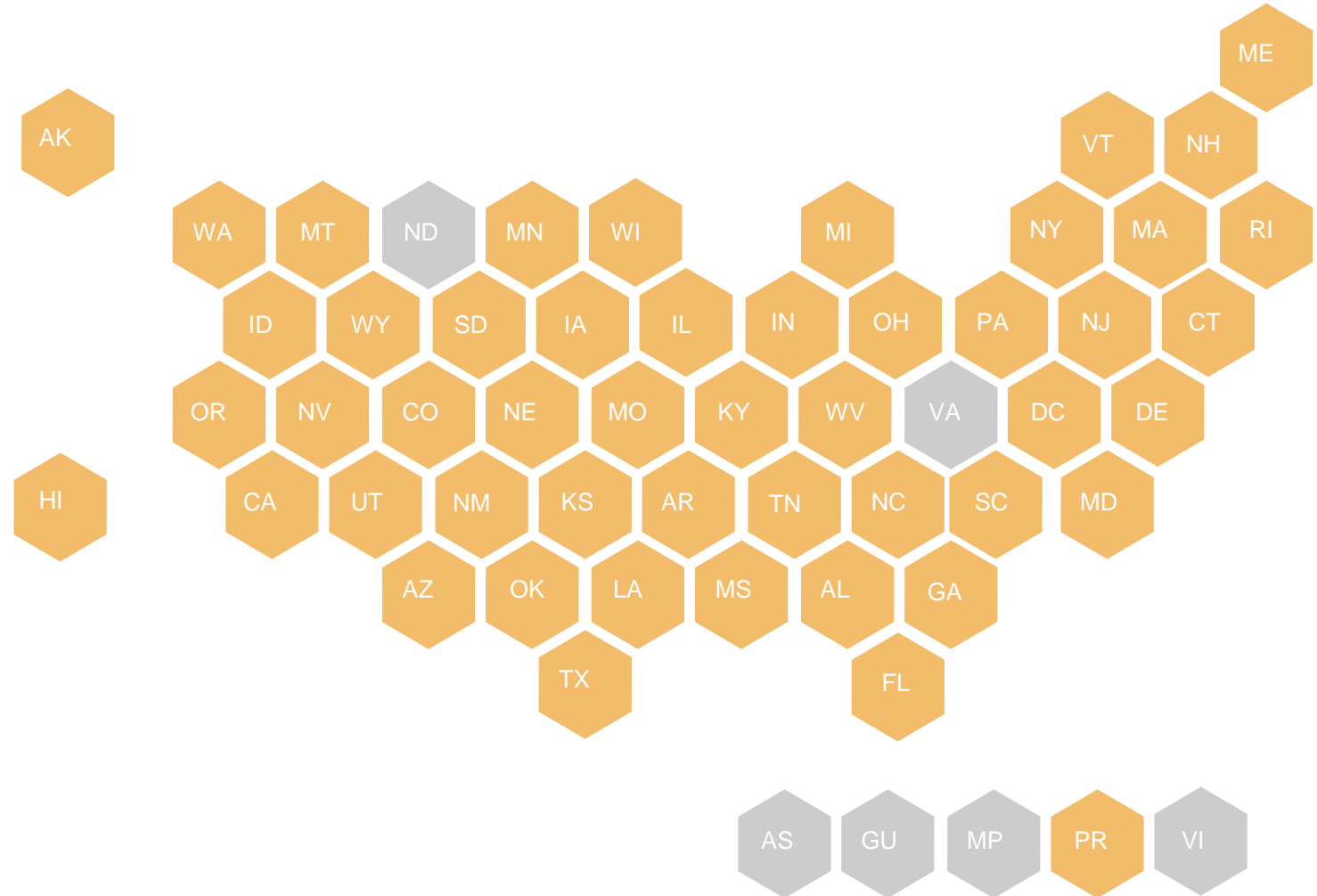


Early Childhood Fellows Alumni



270 Fellows

- 48 states
- Washington, DC
- Puerto Rico

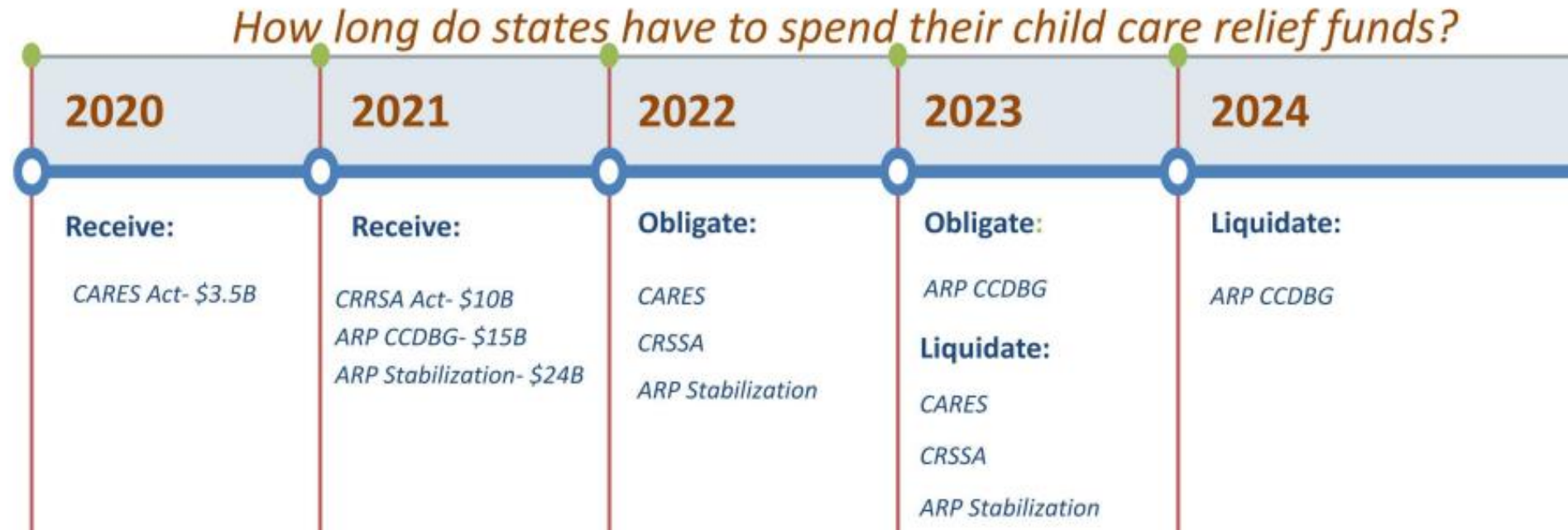


Early Childhood Fellows Program Process & Timeline

Program Process		2022 Timeline
Step 1	State leadership makes nominations	Feb-April
Step 2	Nominees complete application	May 13
Step 3	NCSL staff reviews applications	May 16-18
Step 4	NCSL staff sends program invitations	May 20
Step 5	Fellows complete program	Summer
Step 6	NCSL considers fellows alumni	Fall



Child Care COVID-19 Relief Funding



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

ARPA funds for child care

\$195.3B

**State Fiscal
Recovery Funds**

\$24B

**Child Care
Stabilization
Grants**

\$15B

**CCDF
Supplemental
Discretionary
Funds**



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



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

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
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 - (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