

# Early Care and Education

## THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE WORKFORCE

**Wisconsin's economy cannot succeed without child care. Our child care providers are in crisis.**

### ACCESS

Prior to COVID-19, approximately **half of Wisconsin's children, and almost 80% of children in rural areas, lived in child care deserts**. About **40%** (1,791) of regulated child care providers **temporarily closed** due to the pandemic. Without significant financial support, **many will likely close permanently**.

### AFFORDABILITY

The average price of **infant care** is **\$1,000 to \$1,500 per month**, or approximately **half the annual income of a single parent**. Child care often costs more than college tuition and rent. Often, families who qualify for subsidy are unable to find or afford care.

### QUALITY

Over 80% of child care providers participated in YoungStar in December 2019. Just over half of YoungStar-rated providers are considered high quality (rated 3-5 stars). **Participation in YoungStar and the percentage of providers receiving quality ratings has declined in recent years.**

### WORKFORCE

Over half of all child care teachers have an Associate's or higher degree. Wages **average \$10 to \$13 an hour**, with few benefits. **The majority of child care teachers qualify for public assistance**, and there is a nearly 40% turnover rate. At least **12,000 child care professionals became unemployed due to COVID-19**.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### **Subsidize child care costs for your employees**

Earn a reputation as an employer with amazing benefits and family-friendly policies; attract great talent.

### **Invest in child care programs close to you**

Ensure local child care can remain open; increase productivity and reduce time off for your employees who are parents.

### **Support child care teachers**

Sponsor teacher salary bonuses, pay off loans, or subsidize training. Give back to the community, create sustainable improvements and drive economic development.

### **Use your influence to advocate for child care**

Create sustainable improvements through state and local policies that benefit Wisconsin children and families.



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families