



Q: How do we create economic prosperity for women in Ohio??

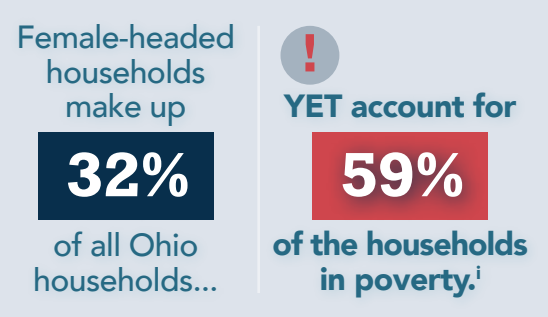


A: Ohio must invest to provide affordable, accessible child care options.

Unaffordable, inaccessible child care in Ohio is holding back women and young children. The child care crisis is a women's economic prosperity crisis.

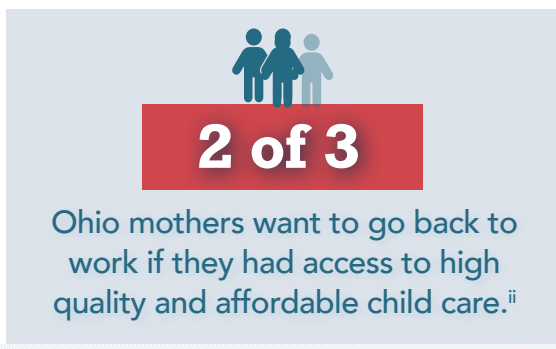
Women, specifically mothers, pay the price.

Female-headed households are more than three times as likely as all Ohio households to live in poverty, and having children in the household increases the likelihood of living in poverty by four-fold.



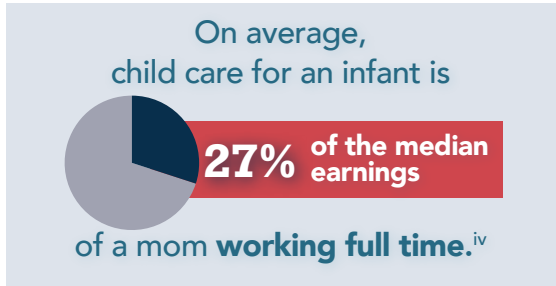
Child care challenges hold women back from workforce participation.

Two-thirds of Ohio mothers with children under five who do not currently work full time say they would go back to work if they had access to high quality and affordable child care. Instead, over 1 in every 3 women in Ohio women changed their work schedules and 1 in 4 cut back hours due to child care arrangements disruptions.



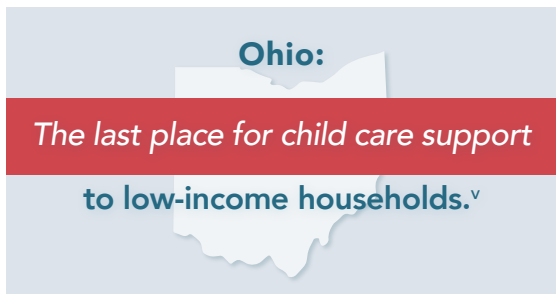
Gender wage gap + unaffordable child care = women cannot thrive

The average annual cost for one infant's child care in Ohio is over \$12,000 annually—over \$1,000/month.ⁱⁱⁱ However, median earnings for women in the labor force full-time year-round in Ohio is \$44,230.



Ohio provides the lowest level of support to families in the country

Ohio now has the lowest eligibility for Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) in the country for kids 0 to 5 at 145% of the Federal Poverty Level. (In 2024, that is \$37,399/year for a family of three.) All other states have raised funding levels to support more families.



“*I haven't been able to return to work because I cannot find suitable child care.*”

– Mom from West Central Ohio

For many Ohioans, child care is simply unavailable.

39% of Ohioans live in a child care desert, areas with no child care providers or very little availability. 41% of white Ohioans, 37% of Hispanic or Latino Ohioans, and 29% of Black Ohioans live in a child care desert. In Ohio, child care deserts are most prevalent in rural areas.



4 in 10

Ohio households live in areas with little or no available child care.^{vi}

To put this all into perspective...

We know increased state investments in child care is a game-changer for both women and Ohio's economy. That money helps children and families, and in turn contributes to the state's economic growth.

Reliable access to child care can generate an additional

\$79,000

in lifetime earnings for mothers.^{vii}

INSTEAD:

Ohio loses approx. **\$3.9 Billion** per year due to child care issues.^{viii}

Investing in child care is an investment in women.

EMPOWERING WOMEN:

Quality child care enables mothers to further their education, pursue careers, and achieve financial independence and provide for their families. This empowerment leads to more diverse and innovative workplaces.

SUPPORTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

Early childhood is a critical period for cognitive, social, and emotional development. Access to quality child care ensures that children receive nurturing and stimulating care to thrive.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES:

When women and children flourish, so do our communities. Higher employment rates, increased productivity, and stronger family units contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of our society.

SOURCES:

- ⁱ The Center for Community Solutions, [the Status of Women](#) (2023)
- ⁱⁱ [Groundwork Ohio Child Care Poll](#) (2023)
- ⁱⁱⁱ [Child Care Aware, The Child Care Stand Still](#) (2024)
- ^{iv} The Center for Community Solutions, [the Status of Women](#) (2023)
- ^v [Cleveland.com "Ohio ranks dead last nationally for subsidizing child care up to age 5: Rethinking Child Care"](#) (August 25, 2023)
- ^{vi} Center for American Progress, [Child Care Deserts](#) (2018)
- ^{vii} [First Five Years Fund, Gender "Quit" Gap Widest in States with Most Child Care Breakdowns](#) (2022)
- ^{viii} [ReadyNation, \\$122 Billion: The Growing, Annual Cost of the Infant-Toddler Child Care Crisis](#)

Q:

How can you help address the child care crisis?

A:

We need you to be part of the solution, not just for your family, but for every family in Ohio. Your support is crucial. By investing in child care, you are not only supporting individual families but also contributing to a larger movement for societal change.

JOIN THE WOMEN'S COALITION

 ADVOCATE	  ENGAGE	   INVEST
<p><i>Use your voice to advocate for policies that support affordable and accessible child care.</i></p> <p><i>We know you don't need yet another job, so Groundwork will make it easy to amplify your voice by bringing advocacy opportunities your way.</i></p>	<p><i>Get involved with Groundwork and local organizations dedicated to child care and early education.</i></p> <p><i>We can help you make these connections, share your expertise, and help raise awareness about the importance of this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>Consider directing philanthropic efforts towards child care initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Your financial support can provide critical advocacy dollars to ensure that Ohio's policymakers are held accountable to solving the child care crisis.</i></p>

This is the opportunity to come together as a coalition of women-serving organizations committed to addressing the child care crisis.

We'll do the following:

- Collaborate with women-serving organizations and initiatives from around the state to identify shared priorities.
- Exchange valuable insights and experiences to address child care needs.
- Be part of the policy agenda conversation with a combined voice.
- Increase visibility of the child care crisis's impact on women in Ohio.
- Raise the urgency of this issue to policymakers.

Learn More & Join the Coalition: 

Together, we can raise the volume on the call for public policy that invests in child care.



 **Groundwork OHIO**

Learn More at GroundworkOhio.org



@GroundworkOhio