

WORKFORCE

Hourly

**Median wage of child care workers
using expired one-time federal
relief funds (2023)** **\$15.15**

**Average wage required for one
adult with one child in child care to
afford the ALICE survival budget
(2022)** **\$24.90**

ACCESS

	Under 5 years		Infants and toddlers	
	County	PA	County	PA
Child population	4,265	667,816	2,434	388,833
Eligible for Child Care Works (CCW)	1,330	168,720	760	98,240
Eligible children enrolled	321	49,414	163	24,865
Unserved, eligible children	1,009	119,306	597	73,375
Percent unserved	76%	71%	79%	75%

QUALITY

	Under 5 years in Child Care Works		Infants and toddlers in Child Care Works	
	County	PA	County	PA
Children enrolled in high-quality	75%	49%	70%	45%
Licensed capacity meeting high-quality standards	70%	46%		



**START
STRONG
PA**

Start Strong PA believes that because every child deserves an equal opportunity to a quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed, we are calling on Pennsylvania to focus on the most important years of a child's development; the first three years of life.

Data is provided by KIDS COUNT®: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children



As part of an enacted 2024-25 budget, the Start Strong PA campaign asks the General Assembly to:

- Support the Administration's proposal to increase subsidy rates to the 75th percentile of the current price families pay for child care services. This increase will help alleviate some of the rising facility, food, utility and supply costs for providers participating in Child Care Works.
- Invest \$284 million in new and recurring state funding to implement a child care teacher recruitment and retention initiative. This will help alleviate the historic staffing crisis that is causing classrooms and entire programs to close and leave working families without access to child care. The funding would provide monthly payments to providers maintaining a subsidy agreement with the commonwealth and would be restricted for initiatives which would help retain and recruit staff such as monthly wage increases, hiring bonuses, benefit packages, or retention bonuses for staff staying for a certain length of time or for staff achieving certain credentials or degrees.



Campaign led by Children First | Fight Crime: Invest in Kids | First Up | Mission: Readiness | Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children | Pennsylvania Child Care Association | Pennsylvania Head Start Association | Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children | The United Way of Pennsylvania | Trying Together

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