



**START
STRONG
PA**

Child Care Crisis April 2026 Survey Results

Pennsylvania Respondents—1,141 Child Care Programs*

2,621

unfilled staff positions

21,917

additional children could
be served if those programs
were fully staffed

When families can't find child care, they can't work.

78%

reported teacher
shortages

87%

reported challenges
recruiting teachers

68%

reported challenges
retaining teachers

The child care staffing shortage is driven by low wages. Wages are SO LOW that they FAIL to meet the cost of living in EVERY county in Pennsylvania.

The General Assembly and Administration must act now and invest in a child care recruitment and retention initiative to prevent more classrooms from closing and further limiting availability for working families in need of care.

*** The 1,141 child care programs responding equals 17.4% of the open, certified programs in April 2026 with 62 of the 67 PA counties represented.**