



**START
STRONG
PA**

Child Care Crisis April 2026 Survey Results

Washington County Respondents—16 Child Care Programs

54

unfilled staff positions

341

additional children could
be served if those programs
were fully staffed

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

94%

reported teacher
shortages

94%

reported challenges
recruiting teachers

88%

reported challenges
retaining teachers

The child care staffing shortage is driven by low wages. Wages are so low in Washington County that they fail to meet the cost of living.

The General Assembly and Administration must increase funding for the Child Care Staff Recruitment and Retention Program to prevent more classrooms from closing and further limiting availability for working families in need of care.
