

ACCESS

	Under 5 years (includes infant-toddler)		Infants and toddlers	
	County	PA	County	PA
Child population	14,990	663,930	8,790	391,570
Eligible for Child Care Works (CCW)	3,610	170,610	2,120	100,620
Eligible children enrolled*	614	50,401	277	24,431
Unserved, eligible children	2,996	120,209	1,843	76,189
Percent unserved	83%	70%	87%	76%

*Eligible families have income up to 200% FPIG (\$64,300 for a family of four) or are TANF, former TANF, or SNAP recipients AND the parent(s) work at least 20 hours/week or a combination of 10 hours/week of work and 10 hours/week of approved training. Parents pay a copayment to the provider to help cover cost.

**The average annual cost
of infant care in Pennsylvania is**
\$13,354
or \$1,113 per month.

Economic Policy Institute: The cost of child care in Pennsylvania

WORKFORCE

Low Wages = Teacher Shortage

Kindergarten Teachers	\$64,270
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks	\$55,820
Animal Control Workers	\$54,360
School Bus Drivers	\$44,310
Waiters and Waitresses	\$36,610
Retail Salespersons	\$34,320
Maids, Housekeeping Cleaners	\$33,340
Child Care Workers	\$29,510

"Child care is the infrastructure that allows our workforce to function. When we invest in early childhood education, we invest in economic stability, school readiness, and the long-term success of our communities."

Brie Rice
Program Specialist
JB's Bright Beginnings
(Westmoreland County)

2024 PA Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, Mean Annual Salary



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 policymakers 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

QUALITY

Children enrolled in high-quality

Under 5 years
in Child Care Works

County

66%

PA

55%

Infants and toddlers
in Child Care Works

County

65%

PA

53%

Licensed capacity

meeting high-quality standards

Providers serving children under 5 years

County

59%

PA

50%

BENEFITS OF HIGH-
QUALITY CHILD CAREincreased
employment and
tax revenueincreased job
retention and
productivity for
employershigher earning
potential for
parentsimproved math
and language
abilityhealthy
developmentreduced grade
repetition

To make meaningful progress toward families finding and affording high-quality child care and pre-k, Pennsylvania policymakers must:

- Support the proposed investments in the early care and education workforce (at a minimum):
 - \$10M increase for the Child Care Staff Recruitment and Retention Program.
 - \$2M increase for the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program.
 - \$7.5M increase for Pre-K Counts.
- Strengthen the child care sector:
 - Raise the child care subsidy income limit so more working families can get help paying for a child care program they trust.
 - Dedicate funds so child care and pre-k programs can better service children with special needs.
 - Advance targeted reforms that reduce unnecessary burdens on child care providers while preserving strong, enforceable health and safety standards that keep children safe.



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 | ReadyNation | The United Way of Pennsylvania | Trying Together

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

@StartStrongPA
on Facebook,
Instagram and X