

Child Care and the Pandemic

June 26, 2020



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION



The Center for Community Solutions

We are a non-partisan, nonprofit that aims to improve health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

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Our Priorities



Advancing Wellbeing of
Older Adults



Enhancing Behavioral Health
Access



Improving Maternal and
Infant Health



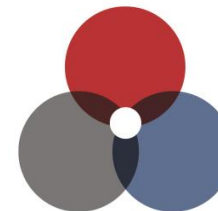
Promoting Comprehensive
Reproductive Health
Education



Strengthening Health and
Human Services Safety Net



Supporting Sound Medicaid
Policy



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Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

www.advocatesforohio.org/webinars

Kelsey Bergfeld, Coalition Manager

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Presenters



Lynanne Gutierrez
Policy Director & Legal Counsel
Groundwork Ohio



Kimberly Tice
Executive Director
Ohio Association for the Education
of Young Children



Shannon Amos
Vice President, Programs
Children's Hunger Alliance

CHILD CARE IN CRISIS

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Our Mission

To champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.



Pandemic Child Care

- All child care programs forced to close as of March 26, 2020 unless operating under a temporary pandemic child care (TPCC) license
- The provided weekly closure payments to programs that typically serve kids in the publicly funded child care program as long as funds allow. TPCC programs receive 5-star rates for enrolled children.
- TPCC programs could only serve essential workers, had limited teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes (1:6) for all ages. Families who qualify for PFCC still receive subsidy, but those that don't paid full tuition .
- There were over 2,200 pandemic child care programs serving about 25,000 children.
- Legislature extended Step Up to Quality deadline to September 2020

Child Care Reopening

- Child care reopened May 31
- All child care programs allowed to resume operations under pre-pandemic license with new regulations
- Weekly closure payments stopped, and programs receive pre-pandemic rates
- Programs don't have limitations on who they can serve but teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes remain lower
- Grant program to help cover expenses and fill the gap between pre-pandemic rates and cost of delivering the service with new ratios

Impact of COVID Safe Environments on Child Care Business Model

	Pre COVID-19 Adult:Child Ratios	Post COVID-10 Adult:Child Ratios
Infants	1:5 or 2:12	1:4 or 2:6
Toddler	1:7 or 2:14	1:6
Preschooler	1:12 or 2:24	1:9
School-age	1:18 or 2:36	1:9

These limits on class size AND new adult-to-child ratios means programs have had to reduce their capacity by 30% to 50%. Fewer children can be served in the same space and more staff are required to provide care.

Federal Response to Child Care Crisis

- CARES Act passed in late March and included \$3.5 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG). Ohio's allocation is \$117,440,585.
- Half went to cost of pandemic care, remaining half being administered through grant program to child care programs across the state.
- Money will be gone by the end of July.

Federal Response to Child Care Crisis

- We are currently working to have a national investment of \$50 billion (\$1.67 billion for Ohio) for child care in a 4th federal stimulus package—the Heroes Act. The House passed bill only includes \$7 billion. Pending introduction in Senate.
- Child Care is Essential Act, H.R. 7027 provides \$50 billion to child care in a standalone bill. Companion bill in Senate.
- Transformational Infrastructure Bill (Moving Forward Act), \$10 billion to child care. Introduced by House Democrats this week.

Ohio Loss of Child Care Capacity

45%

of child care supply could be lost in Ohio
without your advocacy and intervention.

Source: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/>

Children and families need your help!



Groundwork Ohio is Your Child Care Resource

- Subscribe to our newsletter and view COVID-19 updates at www.GroundworkOhio.org
- Contact Lynanne Gutierrez at (614) 204-6106 or lgutierrez@groundworkohio.org





Our Work

STATE LEVEL WORK

- Professional Membership
- Power to the Profession Network
- Ohio Early Childhood Conference and Online Webinars
- Early Childhood Leaders of Influence Cohort
- Courageous Conversations

NATIONAL LEVEL WORK

- NAEYC Public Policy Forum
- Equitable Access Coalition



Mission:

**Empower ALL who care for,
educate and advocate
on behalf of young children.**



Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children



Courageous Conversations

Ohio AEYC is committed to elevating the voices of those actually doing the work. Their voices need to be heard and should be front & center as decisions are made about their services to children and families.

The voice of early childhood educators is the most under-represented voice in designing, shaping and influencing policies and decisions.



STAFFING



PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT



**LOWER RATIOS
SMALLER GROUP SIZES**

Child Care Programs – COVID19 Challenges



Two Truths & A Lie.

- Child care programs are turning children away.
- Child care programs are struggling to enroll enough children.
- All families and center staff are comfortable about the safety of group care.



- Programs appreciate lower ratios and smaller group sizes so teachers can provide more individualized care.
- Programs want to see increased ratios and group sizes to operate in a financially sustainable manner.
- Recent grants from the CARES Act will solve this problem.



BUILD BACK BETTER!

The child care crisis will not be solved by simply reopening child care.

Child care workers' jobs were hard before. The COVID19 challenges will make them harder.

Congress needs to move more funding directly into the pockets of child care providers to keep the lights on, retain staff members and purchase critical cleaning and personal protective equipment.

States need to raise the subsidy rates so that providers have access to a living wage and benefits.





Food Access in Childcare during the Coronavirus Pandemic

SHANNON AMOS

VICE PRESIDENT, AGENCY PROGRAMS

SAMOS@CHILDRENSHUNGERALLIANCE.ORG



Who We Are

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in Ohio. Through our work, Children's Hunger Alliance provides healthy meals and snacks to food-insecure children, advocates for legislation to improve the welfare of Ohio's youngest citizens and teaches nutrition and physical education to those they serve.

- Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio
- 45 staff members
- Serving Ohio's 88 counties
- Regional Office locations in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo





What We Do

Provide meals/snacks through USDA Sponsorship:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - Afterschool programs (300+)
 - Family childcare providers (650+)
 - Daycare Centers (25+)

- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Work with Schools to Increase Breakfast Participation

Educate and engage children and families in nutrition and physical education





USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



Provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care.

As a sponsor CHA is approved by the Ohio Department of Education to:

- Ensure nutrition standards are met for meals and snacks.
- Handle administrative responsibilities on behalf of the center or provider.
- Ensure compliance with federal and state program regulations to maintain program integrity.



Food Access during Pandemic

Pandemic-licensed centers/homes

- Over 375 CHA-sponsored in-home providers and centers applied for and operated under a pandemic license
- Could continue to serve healthy food throughout closure period under CACFP, ensuring food access for children in care
- Received consistent payment/reimbursement for food served
- Some faced challenges with sourcing food due to store limitations and limited product availability
- Some centers used CACFP to market their centers and the provision of healthy meals/snacks throughout the day

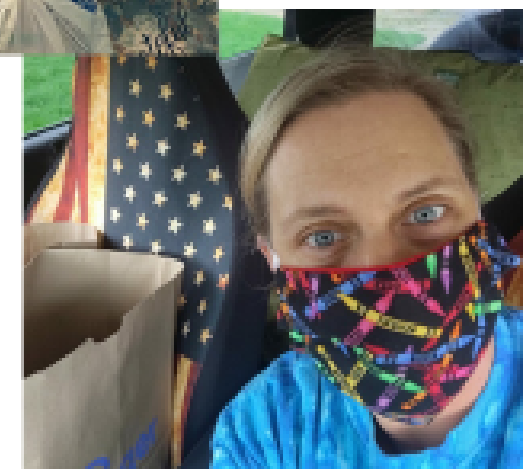




Food Access during Pandemic

Closed centers/homes

- Could continue to serve healthy food throughout closure period under CACFP via a “grab and go” model for children who were previously enrolled in care (USDA flexibility)
- Could provide up to 2 meals + 1 snack per day per child
- Could provide meals/snacks for multiple days at 1 time (up to 1 week)
- Some providers drove meals to children’s homes
- Around 75 CHA-sponsored in-home providers participated in grab-and-go meal distribution during the pandemic
- Flexibility through August 31, 2020





“Being a part of the Children’s Hunger Alliance Food Program has been a huge benefit for our center, especially during this current state of emergency when so many families are losing their jobs and struggling to make ends meet. Because of our partnership with CHA and the reimbursement that we receive, we have been able to ensure the children in our care are receiving at least two nutritious meals and a snack every day. Unfortunately, we know that when some of the children go home at the end of the day, they may not have access to food so it is so important that we are able to make sure they are well fed while they are in our care. These are more like our kids and working with Children’s Hunger Alliance helps me to have to peace of mind in knowing that I can provide them with well-balanced meals. Thank you CHA for being there!”

*Andrea Brentley, Owner
Treehouse Learning Center*



How Can People Help?

Connect a childcare center or licensed in-home provider with CACFP sponsorship

- 4kids@childrenshungeralliance.org

Volunteer opportunities (Columbus)

- Pack meals which will be distributed through summer food service locations statewide
- Contact Beth Griffin at bgriffin@childrenshungeralliance.org for more information/ sign-up
- New volunteer app POINT will be rolled out in July

Donate

- <https://childrenshungeralliance.org/givemeals/>

Questions/Comments
