



Our Kids Deserve a **Strong Start**



Kentucky's commitment to early childhood opportunities

It impacts every Kentuckian.

From the parents who can't stay employed because of a lack of quality, reliable child care to employers who can't find workers - we are all impacted.

In Kentucky, **50%** of families live in a child-care desert, where there are either no child-care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child-care slots.

Even available child care doesn't mean accessible child care. Sometimes it's too far away or doesn't operate during the hours someone is at work. And many times, it isn't affordable.

The average cost of infant child care in Kentucky is **\$6,258**, more than half the average cost of public university tuition.

1,370,155

Kentuckians in rural areas reside in child-care deserts.



All income ranges in Kentucky are impacted: **55%** of those in the lowest income neighborhoods and **43%** in the highest income neighborhoods.

19

counties in Appalachian Kentucky have fewer than five child-care centers. **Four** counties have only one child-care center, and Martin County has none.



PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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