

Maryland Statewide Child Care Summit

Summary



Maryland Statewide Child Care Summit Summary

JOINT SPONSORSHIP: Women's Caucus of the State Legislature and the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards

ATTENDEES: 300+

AUDIENCE: Day of poll showed even distribution of parents, childcare providers, government agencies, not-for-profits, government representatives, legislators, policy makers, early childhood educators.

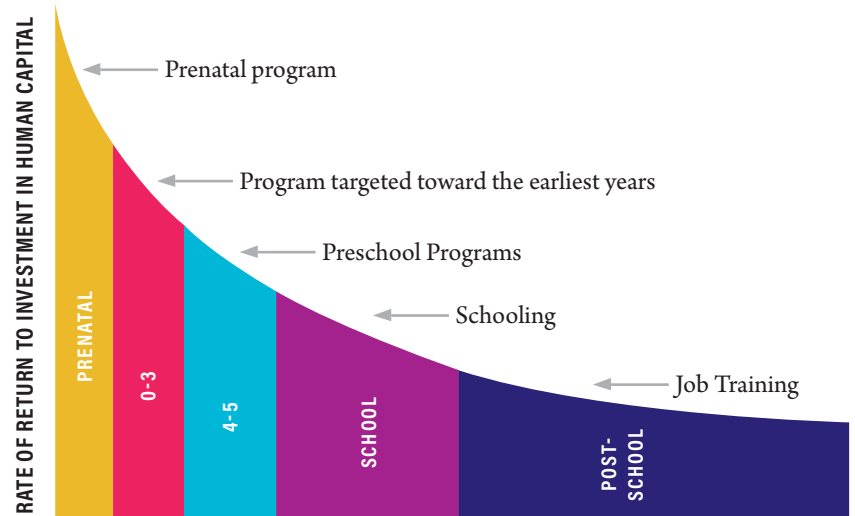
GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY: 23 of 24 counties/jurisdictions represented

GENERAL FEEDBACK:

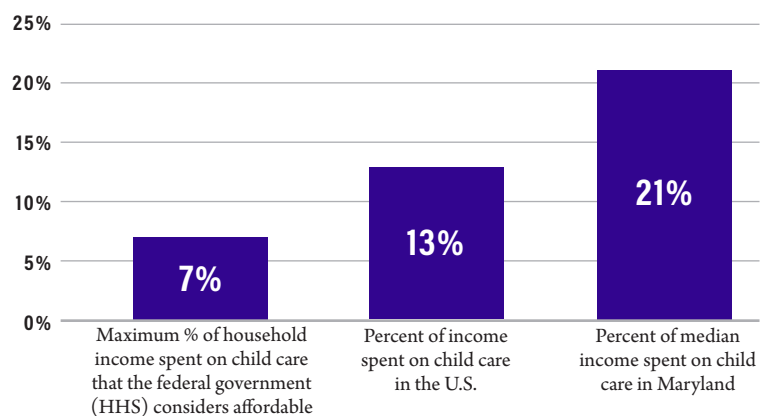
- A decreasing child care workforce related to pay, conditions and regulations
- A decreasing number of child care providers
- The # of children who need childcare exceeds the available slots
- Blueprint legislation has focused on pre-k at the expense of 0-3 care
- Insurance costs for providers have increased.
- EXCELS quality standards require significant documentation and time.
- Mixed delivery PreK system has barriers for private providers
- Exacting licensing regulations with no flexibility

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



CHILD CARE TRENDS IN MARYLAND



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PROVIDER FEEDBACK:

- Provide a tax break for family child care homes as a financial incentive.
- Funding for capital improvements needs to be a grant not a loan.
- Homeowner and liability insurance rates for providers are skyrocketing.
- Create a plan for the True Up reconciliation for Child care subsidy payments.
- Providers need a hub for MSDE requirements and resources.
- Background check procedures causing major delays in hiring
- No representation of child care providers on the state Board of Education.

WORKFORCE/EMPLOYEE FEEDBACK:

- Automatic enrollment for childcare workers into the Childcare Scholarship Program: to cover entire tuition
- Health care benefits for child care providers
- MSDE Licensing trainings: Currently a reimbursement system. Make them free

FAMILIES:

- Protect the investment in Child Care Subsidy and ensure no decrease in family eligibility and/or the reinstatement of copayments for families
- Better communication and hubs of information to help families find childcare/childcare subsidy – perhaps use family navigators
- Online communication is difficult on the MSDE website - website is not mobile friendly

ANNUAL WAGE RATE INFORMATION

| | |
|--|----------|
| Public Teacher Salary Average MD ¹ | \$79,420 |
| Non Public School Teacher Salary Average (National) ² | \$67,201 |
| Family Child Care Provider (Country) ³ | \$41,936 |
| Child Care Center Director (County) ³ | \$41,396 |
| Center Senior Staff/Teacher (County) ³ | \$25,568 |
| Center Aide (County) ³ | \$17,402 |



Child Care Legislation 2024 and 2025

2024 PASSED CHILDCARE BILLS

| Bill Number/Name | Bill Purpose |
|---|--|
| HB1139/SB882 - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Permanent Establishment | Permanently establishes and funds the GOFCC program that supports new providers. Beginning FY26 the budget will appropriate \$450,000 for the program. |
| HB1426/SB1102 - Education - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations | Expands Judy and Patty Centers |
| HB1441 - Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs - Alterations | Creates a career ladder for early childhood professionals and provider assistance hubs |
| HB500/SB600 - Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations | Alters qualifications for awards for Childcare Professional Development Fund |

BILLS FROM 2024 WORTH CONSIDERING IN 2025:

BACKGROUND CHECK BILL: Streamlining child care background checks addresses one key piece of the child care staffing crisis.

COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES AND ZONING AUTHORITIES: Operation of Family Child Care Homes stops HOA's prohibiting family childcare

COMMISSION TO STUDY ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE: Set up commission to study universal access for 0-3

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES: Age of Children in Care - Reduce the infant age from 24 months to 15 months

FINAL RECOMMENDATION FROM MARYLAND STATEWIDE CHILD CARE SUMMIT 2024

Create independent study/commission to study childcare in Maryland considering:

- Where licensing and administration should be housed and study models in other states
- EXCELS quality standards
- Funding mechanisms
- Communication systems



Creating A Common Agenda for Childcare – Statewide Child Care Summit
September 10, 2024

