



Expanding Access for Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care

An Essential Support for Working Families

Ohio offers Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) to working families at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The program, however, fails to support many more low-income, working families who are unable to achieve self-sufficiency without child care support. A single mother of two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) in Ohio who has an annual gross income over \$28,236 does not qualify for PFCC under current eligibility rules and would have to spend a significant amount of her annual gross income on child care. After meeting all other basic needs, the family would be left with substantially less expendable income than a family at 130% of the FPL.

1 IN 4 CHILDREN
between birth and 4-years-old in Ohio
ARE LIVING IN POVERTY¹

More than
1 IN 3 OHIO CHILDREN
live in single-parent families²

With 130% FPL as current eligibility, poor working families cannot afford quality child care, and Ohio's low child care eligibility perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

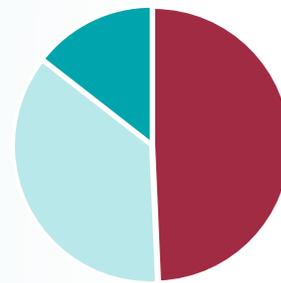
130% FPL – ELIGIBLE
\$28,236.00 annual income (\$13.57/hr)



Current Eligibility
130% FPL

- Child Care Costs:
\$2,472.08 vs. \$16,066
- Other Living Expenses:
\$11,376 vs. \$11,804
- Remaining Expendable
Annual Income:
\$14,387.92 vs. \$4,709.60

150% FPL – NOT ELIGIBLE
\$32,580.00 annual income (\$15.66/hr)



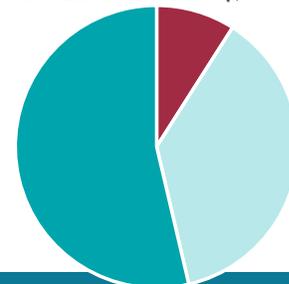
Are we preventing working families from breaking out of poverty?

If we expand eligibility to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, a **single mother of two (an infant and a 4-year-old) in Franklin County** would have the work support she needs to provide for her family and **more than triple** her remaining expendable income, providing a greater opportunity to break out of poverty.

If we expand PFCC eligibility to 150% FPL

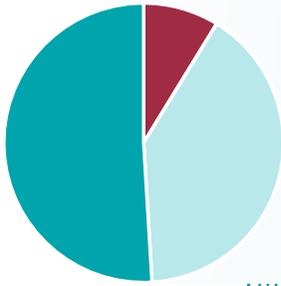
- Child Care Costs:
2,855.84
- Other Living Expenses:
\$11,804
- Remaining Expendable
Annual Income:
\$17,919.76

150% FPL – ELIGIBLE
\$32,580.00 annual income (\$15.66/hr)



Too many working parents in Ohio have to choose between dropping out of the workforce or putting their child in a low-quality or unsafe environment.

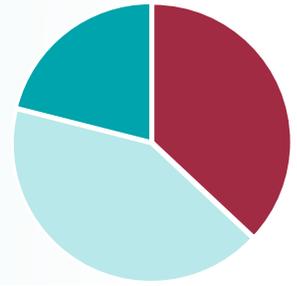
130% FPL – ELIGIBLE
\$28,236.00 annual income (\$13.57/hr)



**Current Eligibility
130% FPL**

- Child Care Costs:
\$2,472.08 vs. \$16,066
- Other Living Expenses:
\$11,376 vs. \$18,016.32
- Remaining Expendable
Annual Income:
\$14,387.92 vs. \$9,357.68

200% FPL – NOT ELIGIBLE
\$43,440.00 annual income (\$20.88/hr)



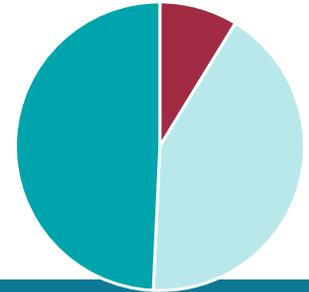
If we expand PFCC Eligibility to 200% FPL...

this *same single mother of two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) in Franklin County* would have the work support she needs to provide for her family and **more than double** her remaining expendable income, providing a greater opportunity to break out of poverty.

If we expand PFCC eligibility to 200% FPL

- Child Care Costs:
\$3,803.80
- Other Living Expenses:
\$18,016.32
- Remaining Expendable
Annual Income:
\$21,619.88

200% FPL – ELIGIBLE
\$43,440.00 annual income (\$20.88/hr)



High-quality child care lays a strong foundation during the most critical period of a child’s development so that our state’s most at-risk children don’t have to face the same difficult decisions their parents did and can break free from the cycle of poverty—creating a brighter future for all Ohioans.

High-quality child care has a lifelong impact on our most at-risk kids by:

- Increasing school readiness and overall attainment rates
- Increasing lifelong earnings
- Building a more prepared future workforce
- Improving overall long-term health

THE BOTTOM LINE:

By expanding eligibility for quality publicly funded child care, we can support working families, give children a better chance at breaking the cycle of poverty, and invest in Ohio’s future economic prosperity.

SOURCES:

1. Groundwork Ohio, [Drafting a New Blueprint for Success](#). (2020)
2. Kids Count Data Center, [Children in single-parent families in Ohio](#)
3. Groundwork Ohio Testimony, Appendix A: [Remaining annual gross income after basic expenses for families at 130% FPL and 150% FPL under current and recommended Publicly Funded Child Care eligibility](#)
4. Groundwork Ohio Testimony, Appendix B: [Remaining annual gross income after basic expenses for families at 130% FPL and 200% FPL under current and recommended Publicly Funded Child Care eligibility](#)

GroundworkOhio.org

4041 N. High Street, Suite 204 • Columbus, Ohio 43214
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