



Childcare Scholarship Assistance

A program from the City of Lakewood's Department of
Human Services, Early Childhood Division

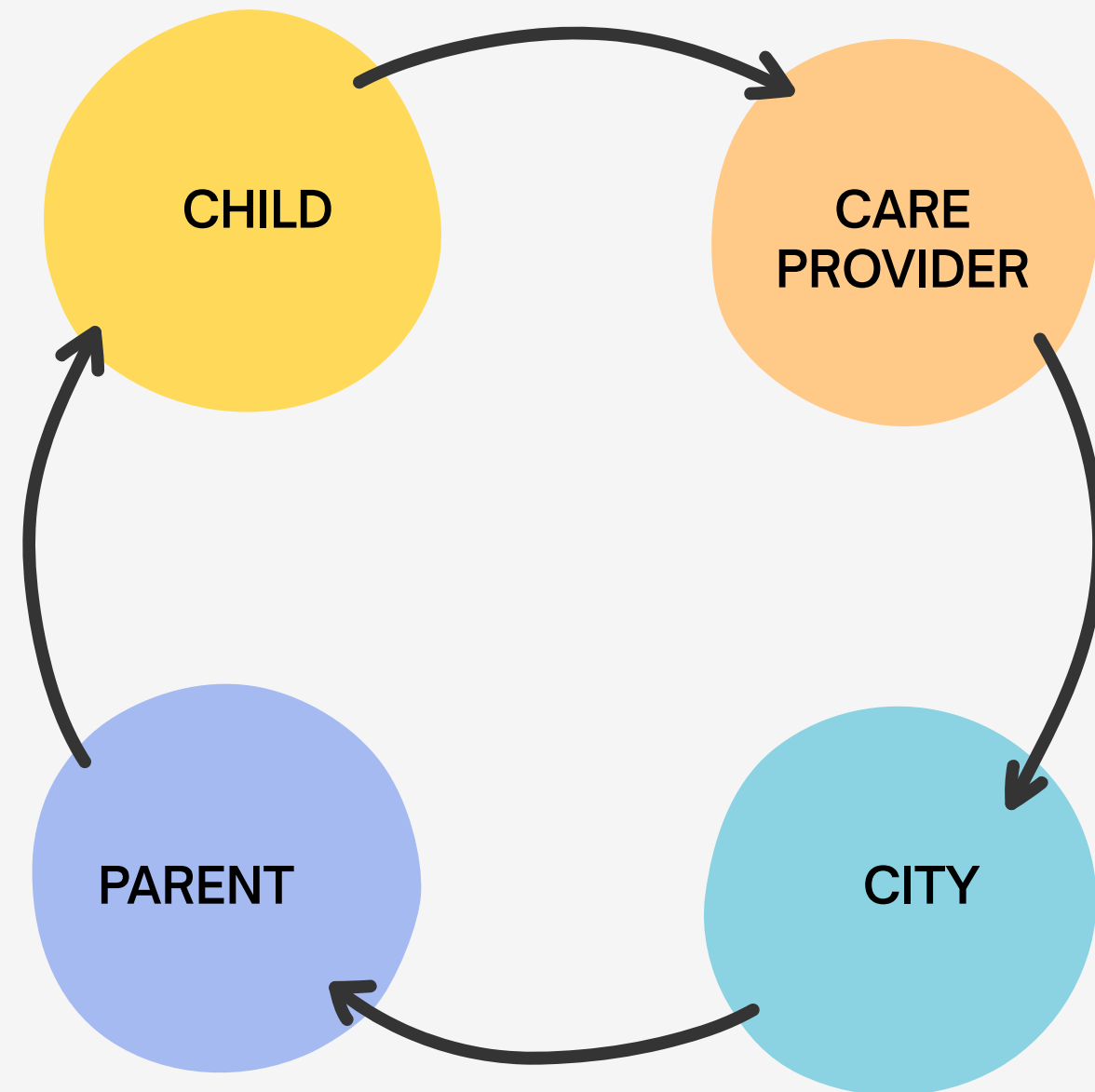
The Program

The Childcare Assistance Program pays 50% of the daily cost of childcare for qualifying families

- Families must live in the City of Lakewood
- Families must use a licensed childcare provider
- Parents must be working and/or attending school
- Families must qualify as low/low-moderate income



The Benefits



CHILD

- Quality child care prepares babies for future learning and success.
- Three out of four infants are in low or mediocre quality care settings that can be detrimental to their development.
- Children are in an environment that follows state guidelines for care and safety.

PARENT

- Know their child is safe and cared for.
- Able to move forward professionally or obtain higher level of education.
- Reduced childcare costs means more money for other areas of budget.

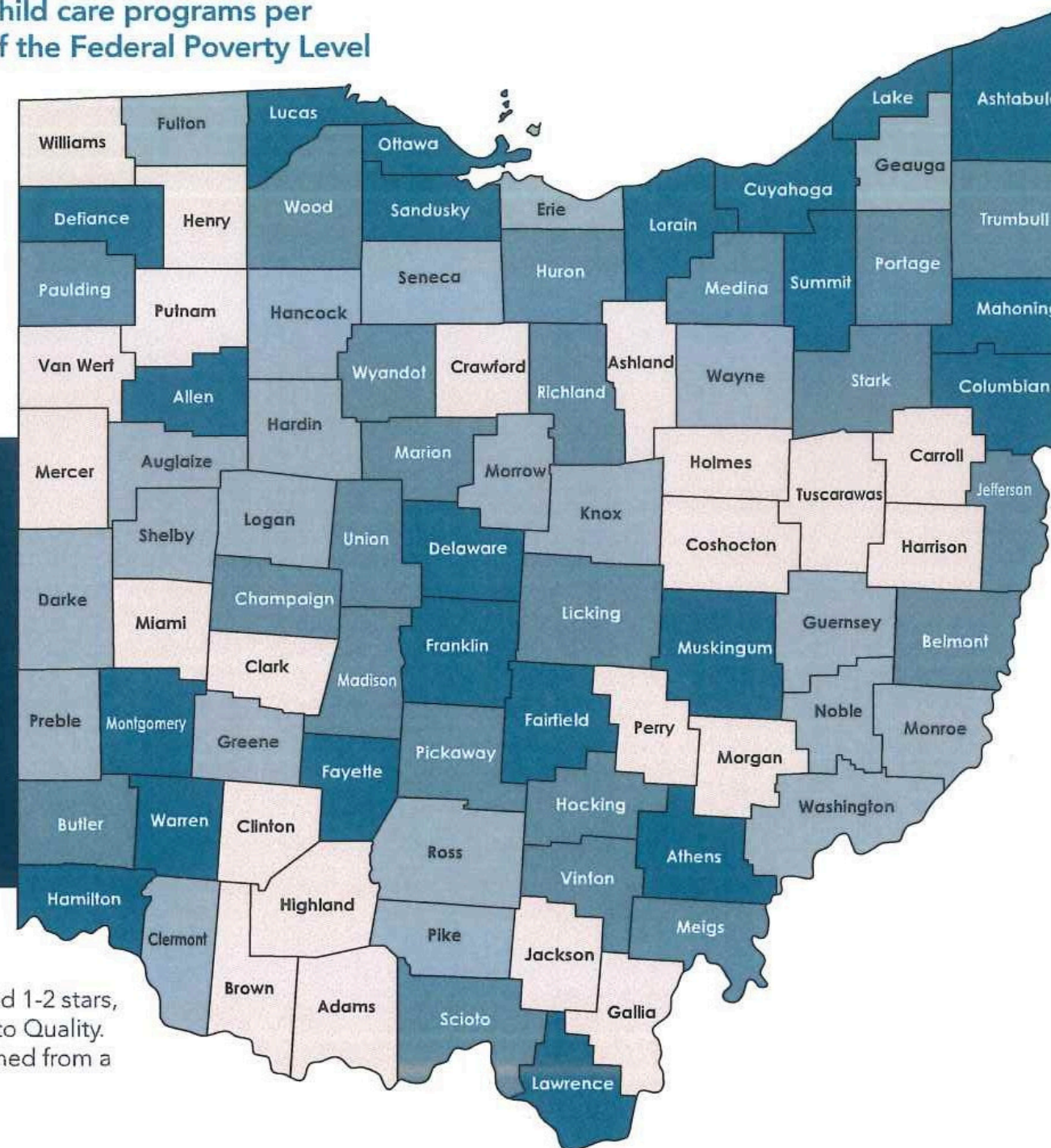
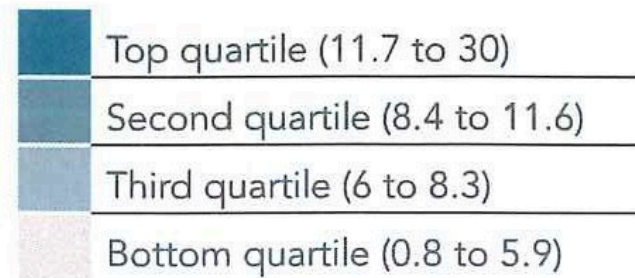
COMMUNITY

- Funds go directly to Lakewood childcare centers.
- Parents maintain employment and contribute to tax base.
- Guaranteed income to help keep Lakewood centers open.

Publicly funded child care access

Too many low-income working families don't have access to publicly funded child care.

Number of quality-rated publicly funded child care programs per 1,000 population, ages 0-5 below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



2

Ohio has the lowest income eligibility for publicly funded child care in the country at 145% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).³ Even for these families, access is limited based on whether you can find an available program to utilize the subsidy where you live and whether it meets the need of your family and child.

Note: Programs are considered quality if they are rated 1-2 stars, and high quality if they are rated 3-5 stars by Step up to Quality. As of July, 2024, quality rated programs were transitioned from a 5-star rating system to a three-tiered system.

The Problem

Not Enough Spaces

Childcare centers are expensive to run. Licensing rules, while necessary for safety, limit the types of spaces and the number of children.

Families Need Help



Ohio ranks LAST (51st) out of 50 states and D.C. for Eligibility for Child Care subsidy by household income.⁴



Most families are working and need care.

More than 95% of families with young children reported working and 20% reported working at more than one job. 71% reported using non-parental care in the past month and over half of those families used center-based care.⁵



Child care is difficult to secure.

More than 1 in 3 respondents reported having difficulty finding child care and 15% of respondents reported that their child care was unreliable.⁶



Families with children with delays and disabilities have a harder time accessing high-quality early learning environments.

Nearly 1 of 5 family respondents had at least one child with a disability. 60% of these families found it difficult to find a child care provider who could meet their child's needs.⁷



Cost is a significant influence in navigating care.

For most, cost is the top concern (72%), followed by provider quality (64%) and location (57%) when selecting child care. Families are burdened by more than just base child care fees. Over half (54%) report paying for transportation fees, nearly half (47%) pay additional fees for supplies, and 30% face punitive late fees. Families living in poverty are more likely to face late fees.¹⁰



Child care is unaffordable.

Over half of the respondents surveyed reported needing full-time care. Almost 60% of the respondents felt that their current child care was not affordable. Over half of respondents whose children were not enrolled in child care cited the expense of child care as the reason.¹¹

The Burden of Care

Child care is a critical support for working parents. Yet, many families struggle to afford the cost of quality child care or live in a region with limited supply.

Child care cost burden

The average Ohio household with two children spends 29% of its income on child care. This ranged from a high of 47% in Jefferson County to a low of 19% in Union County.

Child care costs for a household with two children
as a percent of median household income



Median household income: \$65,720 (2022)

Source for percent of income: Living Wage Institute and U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, as compiled by County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2022-2023)

Source for median income: U.S. Census Bureau Profiles

Child care prices continue to increase

In 2023, for center-based care, annual infant care averaged \$12,351, annual toddler care averaged \$11,125 and annual preschooler care averaged \$9,580, up to a 23% increase from 2021.⁹

Annual child care expenses in
Ohio (avg, 2023)

