

# Family Child Care

## Vital to Ohio's Child Care System



Family child care plays an important role in Ohio's child care system, offering a nurturing and responsive environment for infants and toddlers, and affording care by the same, consistent provider for many years. Nationally, over 90 percent of family child care providers care for at least one child under the age of three and 27 percent of infants younger than one.<sup>i</sup> Children in family child care settings form nurturing responsive, one-on-one relationships with their providers. Parents value the attribute and see it as a positive outcome for their children. Lasting meaningful relationships are developed between caregivers and children and between caregivers and families. Children in home-based programs stay with the same provider often until school age and many continue with after-school care.



These are the building blocks for healthy development and the foundation for children to thrive, including introducing language and literacy skills needed for later success in school and life.<sup>ii</sup>

In July 2022, **13,714 children** were enrolled in Family Child Care (Type A and Type B) using Ohio's publicly funded child care subsidy.<sup>iii</sup>

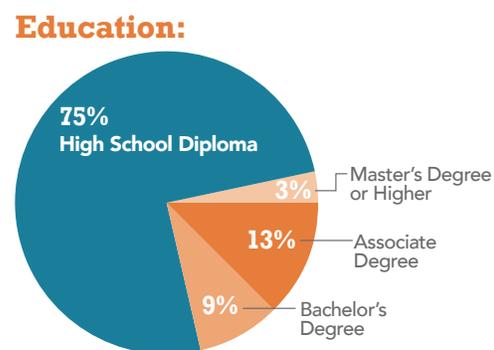
## Who Are Ohio's Family Child Care Providers?

In Ohio, more than 4,000 early childhood professionals provide nurturing care and early learning experiences to young children—our state's future—in a family child care setting.<sup>iv</sup>

**More than 4,000** early childhood professionals

**Gender:**  
86% of Family Child Care providers self-identify as female.

**Age:**  
36 is the average age of Family Child Care professionals in Ohio.



## Challenges for Family Child Care Professionals



Low wages and a lack of benefits



Isolation



Intimidating start-up processes and challenges to maintaining a small business



Insufficient and unstable funding

## Elevating Family Child Care as a Profession & Successful Business Model

Ohio must continue to invest in and support family child care professionals and the children and families who need them by engaging in the following strategies:

### 1 Incentivize family child care to replenish child care deserts, especially for infants and toddlers.

State and local policy can incentivize early childhood professionals to provide and maintain family child care by investing in the following key strategies:

- Increasing the reimbursement rate for Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) to align with the actual costs of providing quality care in a family child care setting.
- Funding initiatives that increase the capacity of family child care providers to serve infants and toddlers.
- Funding initiatives that cover the start-up costs for new family child care providers.
- Supporting family child care providers in participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Ensuring family child care professionals and the families they serve are included at decision-making tables.

### 2 Support family child care providers to attain scale and sustainability by creating and strengthening provider networks.

Staffed Family Child Care Networks can support family child care providers through: <sup>v</sup>

- Ongoing, collaborative, and job-embedded professional development.
- Marketing and enrollment services.
- Tuition collection.
- Record keeping and tax preparation.
- Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsorship.

### 3 Increase Early Head Start-Child Care partnerships in family child care settings.

Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) partnerships allow communities to increase the number of high-quality child care options for families of infants and toddlers. The EHS-CC partnerships integrate Early Head Start comprehensive services into child care centers and family child care settings serving working families with low incomes.<sup>vi</sup>

EHC-CC partnerships not only benefit the families engaging in the evidence-based Early Head Start model, but also provide the family child care provider with a network for mentoring, coaching, collaboration, support in increasing quality ratings through meeting Early Head Start standards, and additional funding sources.

i. National Association for Family Child Care, *Family National Report Research Data Fact Sheet*. (Accessed 2021)

ii. ZERO TO THREE, *Places for All Babies: Home-Based Child Care is an Essential Part of the Solution*. (2021)

iii. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, *Data Production*, July 2022

iv. Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Data Production, September 2022

v. *Defining Staffed Family Child Care Networks* (April 2020)

vi. *Starting an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership* (Accessed 2022)