

Child Care Roundtable

With Congressman Steve Stivers & Senator Stephanie Kunze



Groundwork Ohio's Mission

To champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.





Congressman Steve Stivers

US House District 15



Senator Stephanie Kunze

OH Senate District 16

Pandemic Child Care

- All child care programs forced to close as of March 26, 2020 unless operating under a temporary pandemic child care (TPCC) license
- TPCC programs can only serve essential workers, have limited teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes (1:6). Families who qualify for PFCC still receive subsidy, but those that don't are paying full tuition. TPCC program are compensated for enrolled publicly funded children.
- Currently over 2,200 pandemic child care providers serving about 25,000 children

Child Care Reopening

- Child care reopens May 31
- All child care programs will be allowed to resume operations under pre-pandemic license with new regulations
- Programs will receive pre-pandemic rates for publicly funded kids
- Programs don't have limitations on who they can serve but teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes will remain lower
- Grant program to help fill the gap between pre-pandemic rates and cost of delivering the service with new assumptions

Responding to Reduced Ratios & Class Size

	Pre COVID-19 Adult : Child Ratios	Post COVID-10 Adult : Child Ratios
Infant	1:5 or 2:12	1:4 or 2:6
Toddler	1:7 or 2:14	1:6
Preschooler	1:12 or 2:24	1:9
School-age	1:18 or 2:36	1:9

These limits on class size AND new adult-to-child ratios means programs will have to reduce their capacity by 30% to 50%. Fewer children can be served in the same space and more staff are required to provide care.

Federal Response to Child Care Crisis

- CARES Act passed in late March and included \$3.5 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG). Ohio's allocation is \$117,440,585.
 - Pandemic Care
 - Grant Program Upon Reopening
- We are currently advocating for a national investment of \$50 billion for child care in the 4th federal stimulus package—the Heroes Act. The House passed bill only included \$7 billion.
- Child Care is Essential Act

Ohio Loss of Child Care Capacity

45%

**of child care supply could be lost in Ohio
without your advocacy and intervention.**

Source: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/>

Children and families need your help!



Today's Panelists

- Eric Karolak, Action for Children
- Barbara Haxton, The Ohio Head Start Association
- Carol Haynes, Kiddie Academy
- Dawn Blalock, Little Miracles EDC

Eric Karolak

Action for Children



About Action for Children

- Child care resource and referral agency for Central Ohio
 - Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, Union, Delaware, Madison & Pickaway counties
- 9,000 parents & teachers; 50,000+ children
 - info & referral, home visiting, parent coaching
 - professional development, technical assistance



Child Care is Essential

- Not just another business
- It's vital infrastructure like roads and schools
- Child care sector is strained: as much as 45% of child care in Ohio could be permanently lost

Center for American Progress, April 2020



Temporary Pandemic Child Care

- Closure Order
 - 70% programs closed; 11,700 out of work
- Temporary Pandemic Child Care (TPCC)
 - March 26 – May 31, 2020, essential workers
 - Necessary changes in ratios, group size, cleaning & disease prevention requirements



Pandemic Child Care Lessons

- One-third of providers stepped up to serve essential workers
 - Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) participating
 - Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rated programs
 - Family Child Care
- Investments in subsidy, quality, and across all settings paid a dividend in this crisis



Pandemic Child Care Lessons

- Outlook is challenging and current situation is unsustainable
 - 1 in 5 TPCC closed or never provided care
 - Quit rate: Centers 3x > Family Child Care
- Too few children enrolled at prevailing tuition yields not enough revenue to cover increased costs.

Read [*Pandemic Child Care: Lessons from Central Ohio*](#)



Pandemic Child Care Lessons

- Protect state investments in children and in the infrastructure of child care
 - Child care subsidy (PFCC)
 - Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)
- Expand federal support for child care to the \$50 billion level recommended by national experts



Barbara Haxton

Ohio Head Start Association





There are 60 providers of Head Start and Early Head Start in Ohio,
serving all 88 counties

2020 Funding stands at \$376,457,370

for 27,632 preschool children and 6,055 Infants and toddlers in
Early Head Start

of those, 1,366 are in Early Head Start / Child Care Partnerships

**HEAD START PROGRAMS SERVE OVER 4,700 CHILDREN
WITH DISABILITIES**

Head Start grantees in Ohio partner with ODJFS to provide PFCC to 3,305 children

- Eleven Head Start grantees have EHS/CCP grants that serve 1,366 infants and toddlers in partnership with local child care providers, AND
- Twenty-eight grantees partner with the Ohio Department of Education and serve 3,037 children in the public-school preschool model.

Head Start programs in Ohio serve a major population of at-risk children and provide the intervention services unique to Head Start.

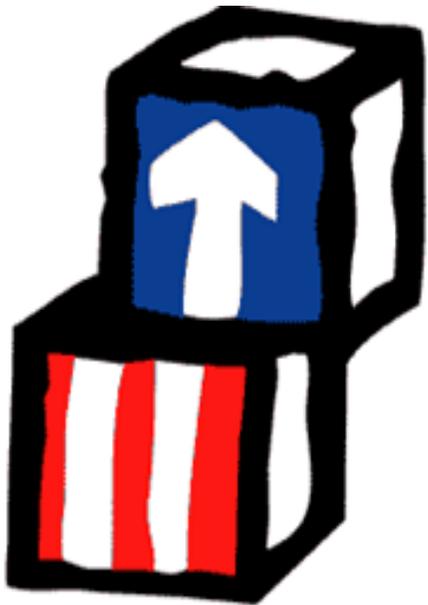
- Head Start is not child-care, it is considerably more and serves to provide a major support system and education foundation for our nation's most vulnerable children and their families. Each program - Head Start and Child Care have a unique and meaningful purpose.



Head Start just celebrated
its 55th birthday!

The program has survived ten
different administrations and 8
Congressional reauthorizations.
There are a wide range of reasons
for the program's success

The Comprehensive services provided each child
The intense two generation approach to services
The Compassionate Partnership developed
between parents and staff



- The ongoing focus on cognitive development
- The commitment and belief in the program AND
- The way the program is funded

Carol Haynes

Kiddie Academy

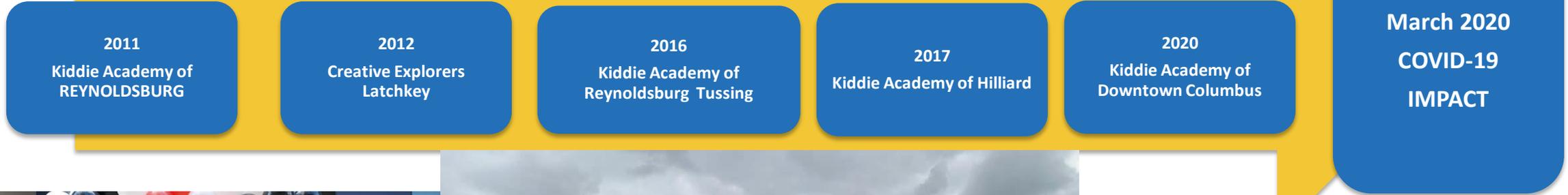


The Impact of Covid-19

Carol Haynes, RN, MS, NP
President & Owner

KIDDIE  **ACADEMY**®
EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

Our Story...



Financial Impact & Implications

The Business Model



Drivers of Cost

- **Ratios**
- **Utilization**
- **Teachers Wages and Benefits**
- Rent/ Mortgage
- Costs/Taxes/Insurance
- Administrative Costs
- Classroom Materials and Food Costs

Capacity & Access to care for families



Our Center Based Workforce...

Cost of new routines- Increase of 3 FTE's tied to pick-up and drop off.

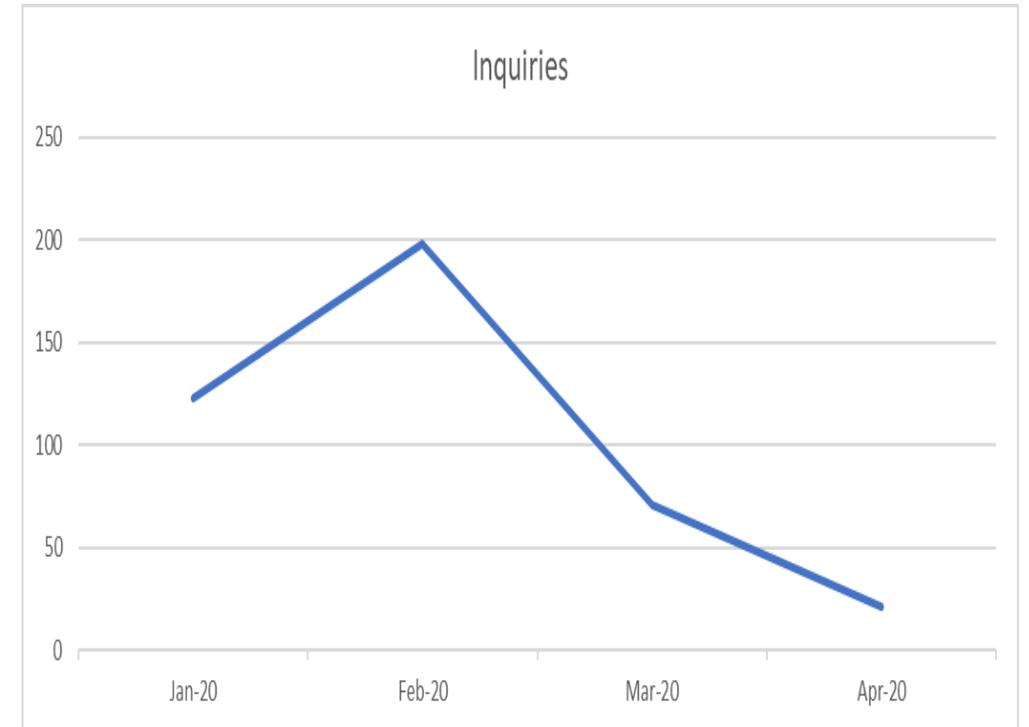
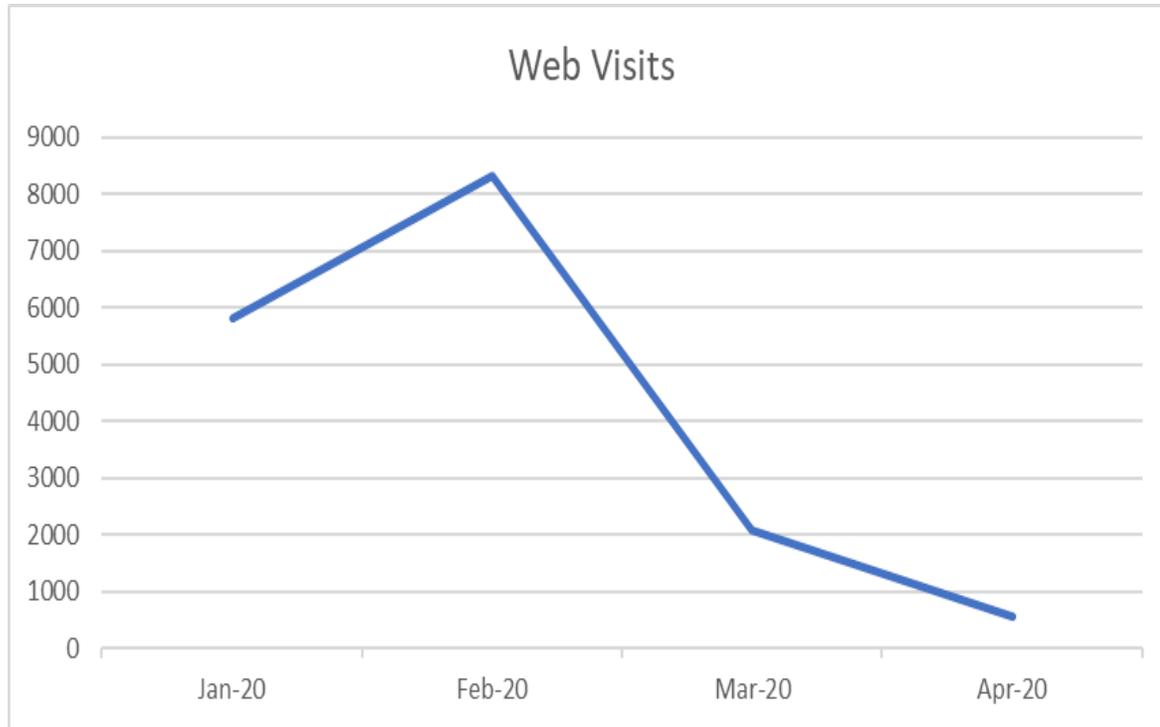
32 **Additional** Staff d/t increase in the number of groups

(\$12.24 x 1.35 x 40hr x 52wk x 32 staff)

 **\$1,099,837.44**

Caregiver Fatigue & Stress/Training Costs

Restoring Caregiver Confidence



Covid-19 Issues related to Center-based Staff, Children and **Access to PPE...**



-Social distancing is known to prevent the spread of COVID-19

“Transmission of coronavirus mainly occurs via respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact.”

[\(Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care\)](#)

QUESTION??

Contact Information

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KIDDIE  **ACADEMY[®]**
EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

Dawn Blalock

Little Miracles EDC



History of Little Miracles EDC

- We have been servicing Franklin, Fairfield, & Licking county and as well surrounding counties for over 17 years.
- **Open 5am to 12am (midnight) Monday through Friday.**
- Currently operating as a pandemic site
- Location only affords us the opportunity to serve PFCC students.



Breakdown of Teachers Pay

\$10.95 per hour



- Prior to the Pandemic; after taxes, teachers salary is around **\$1400 per month.**
- **The typical tenure for Childcare teachers is less than 1 year.**
- Average hourly wage is valued the same as a fast food employees.
- With unemployment and additional \$600 per week, employees are unwilling to return
- We can not compete with companies that are raising their salaries and including hazardous pay.

We are asking Teachers to return to work for less pay than unemployment.

Teachers will come back working harder re-teaching skills their students had developed prior to the pandemic such as number recognition, writing, or even potty training.



Pandemic Program Guidelines

- We are currently operating as a pandemic program
 - First payment was 7 weeks later
- New guidelines of lower ratios has reduced our class sizes in half.
- Our program was servicing 90 students and now with the pandemic ratios we can only serve 60 students.
 - 30 students displaced
 - Split families and friends apart



Financial Effect of Maintaining High Quality Program



With Post-pandemic ratios decreasing our weekly payout

- How do we ***maintain*** highly educated teachers without any financial incentives for them?
- How do we continue to stay in business when the ***cost of living*** has increased dramatically over the years?
- How many additional centers need to open this year to account for the many children that have been displaced?

So what can we do to help maintain
High Quality Child Care Centers
& make the Childcare Workforce a more
Respected Profession?



Childcare Workforce Opportunity Suggestions

- \$50 Billion Increase for CCDBG
 - Increase Reimbursement Ceiling Rates
 - Adequate Compensation for Child Care Professionals
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Sustained State Support

Recovery Principles & Policy Considerations

Laying the Groundwork for Strong Kids and a Strong Economy During COVID-19 Recovery

Groundwork Ohio
COVID-19 Guiding Principles

As we seek more answers to so many yet-to-be-asked questions about the coronavirus pandemic and our state's long path to recovery, we remain vigilant to these shared values that guide our important work. Groundwork is committed to an Ohio recovery that leaves no one behind by building a stronger foundation for our youngest and most vulnerable children and their families.

Apply the Science of Early Childhood Development

Years of research tells us that the impact of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic can be deep and long-term. The basic principles of neuroscience indicate that early preventive intervention is more efficient and produces more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life. Brains are built by early experiences with 80% of brain development occurring by the age of 3 and 90% by the age of 5. These early experiences, reliant on quality interactions between trusted adult caregivers and young children, will build either a strong or weak foundation for all later development. Accordingly, young children experiencing the trauma of the pandemic during this critical period of development will be impacted by their experiences during this time for the rest of their lives.

The science tells us the prenatal period and the first 1,000 days of a child's life are some of the most critical to brain development. With an 18-month minimum outlook on this virus, many of Ohio's babies will spend over half of these critical first 1,000 days experiencing the uncertainty and challenges brought on by the pandemic. As we advance early learning and healthy development strategies to support all young children during COVID-19, we must ensure that they reflect brain science by meeting the unique needs of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, young children and their families.

Groundwork recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to be vigilant with evidence and as such will continue to support policies that are data and research-driven and build on the foundation of the substantial and well-documented body of work on brain and early development.

Focus on Proven Prevention

As the COVID-19 pandemic brings much uncertainty and chaos to many Ohio families, it impacts the physical and emotional health of young children in unique and less understood ways. Some of the impacts, like going without clean diapers or formula or feeling the sting of child abuse, are immediate. Some bring longer-term, but no less detrimental, effects including the loss of strong early learning opportunities, that also may prevent parents from returning to work, and sustained trauma that undermines the social and emotional development of young children necessary for future learning and success. These devastating impacts are preventable with informed, workable policy solutions that support infants, toddlers, preschool children and those who care for them.

Groundwork will continue to support policies that focus on preventing trauma and addressing the needs of children early, to support health development and lifelong success and avoid costly and less-effective interventions later in life.

Tackle Equity Squarely

Race, rural geography, age, gender and physical and intellectual ability, among other social factors, play a determinative role in the gaps that emerge early and persist throughout the lifespan. These gaps emerge earlier than state and federal policy recognize. Our youngest children of color, those living in poverty and in rural communities will be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Just as there must be a commitment to protecting all Ohioans from contracting and ultimately dying from the virus, there must also be a recognition that the economic impact of the pandemic falls disproportionately upon these vulnerable populations of children. Additionally, policy choices, without consideration of equity, regarding the reopening and rebuilding of Ohio's child serving systems could exacerbate both the inequities brought on by the virus and those historically present within our state systems prior to the pandemic.

Groundwork will continue to insist that policymakers and stakeholders alike learn from past practices and use that knowledge to prevent the exacerbation of inequities, and seek to illuminate them.

Demand Accountability through Timely Data

We use data to determine needs, measure outcomes, and evaluate impact. Our ability to quantify loss and measure the progress and impact of policies in real time as a result of COVID-19 is vitally important. Access to crucial data has been limited over time making legitimate policy analysis difficult. Some of the limitations include outdated data systems and limited staff capacity to produce real time analyses. Other limitations include the basic understanding and even lack of commitment to transparency, especially as it concerns marginalized populations. Fast-paced responses required to address COVID-19 may inhibit our ability to thoughtfully evaluate policy change.

Groundwork will continue to work with policymakers and administrators on reasonable access to available data, use such data to inform policy recommendations, and will seek to quantify and measure success of any policy proposal using disaggregated data.

Provide a Systems Framework

COVID-19 shines a bright light on both the strengths and weaknesses of Ohio's early care and education system. As the state seeks to recover from the inevitable loss of quality capacity in many of its systems serving young children, every opportunity to shore up the foundation of these systems to reopen "better" or "stronger" over the coming months and years must be exercised. This can only be done by taking a multi-disciplinary, cross-sector approach that engages all child-serving agencies and interested stakeholders alike.

Groundwork will strive to put policy solutions into a larger systems framework to better serve our children and families to create the best opportunity for sustainable programs with high quality outcomes.

GroundworkOhio.org

   @GroundworkOhio

Groundwork Ohio
COVID-19 Child Care Considerations



Complex Considerations for the Recovery of Ohio's Essential Child Care System

Updated April 27, 2020

Governor DeWine has made an incredible effort over the past weeks to protect the public from harm, support the health systems that are needed to fight COVID-19, address the severe economic impact on many businesses, and set the stage for a swift economic recovery. Child care is essential for each of these efforts. In fact, none of them can happen without a well-functioning child care system.

But the past several weeks have exposed more broadly the fundamental weaknesses in our child care system that many families, early educators and employers have experienced over the past decades. We recognize this complex system requires a complex response to survive this crisis and to continue providing essential support to children, families and the state's economy. After all, high-quality child care is the foundation on which all other industries rely.

There is no quick fix or easy solution for Ohio's child care system as we move into the recovery period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care requires investment, time, attention and creativity to get through this crisis and help our state get back on its feet.

Recognizing the complexity of Ohio's child care system and the unique needs of young children and families, Groundwork encourages the state and its stakeholders to consider all issues this vital intervention faces. Obviously, these issues can't be resolved at the same time. However, consideration must be given to the full breadth of the challenges in order for sustainable progress to be made. Policy choices in the short-term that reflect the broader systems challenges will create a stronger foundation for which recovery can flourish in the long term.

The following issues for consideration create a basis for such thoughtful decision-making as the state contemplates its plans for the eventual re-opening of child care programs:

- **Keep kids at the top of the agenda.** It has been communicated that children often carry the virus but are not contracting the virus at the same rate as older adults and have a low risk of complications if found to be positive for COVID-19. Accordingly, the decisions around group size in child care settings have been motivated by the goal of eliminating community spread to others by children. While we would not argue with the best available evidence and medical science on this topic, this message should not undermine the state's duty to also protect children for the sake of protecting children from the virus. Additionally, perpetuating this message without adequately balancing it with the fact that children are being harmed deeply

www.GroundworkOhio.org/COVID19



Groundwork Ohio is Your Child Care Resource

- Subscribe to our newsletter and view COVID-19 updates at www.GroundworkOhio.org
- Contact Lynanne Gutierrez at (614) 204-6106 or lgutierrez@groundworkohio.org



A hand is shown reaching out from the left side of the frame, with a teal overlay. The background is a blurred image of a person's face. The text "THANK YOU!" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the image.

THANK YOU!

The recording and resources shared will be available at www.GroundworkOhio.org/covid19webinars later today.!