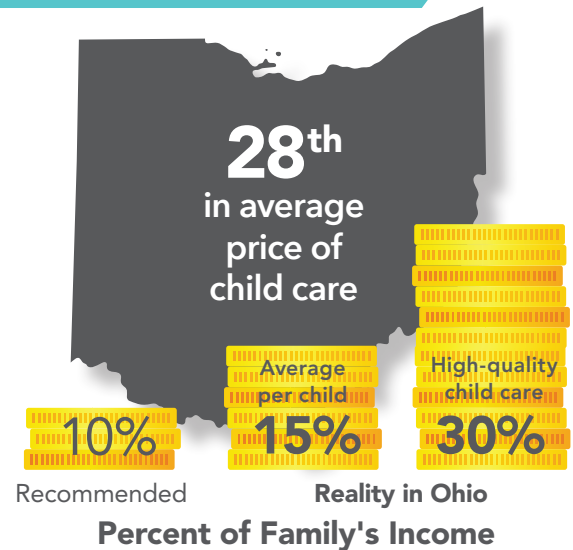


OHIO LAGS BEHIND NATION IN ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

The Price of Child Care

High-quality child care is a critical component of Ohio's early learning system, but **for many parents, the price puts child care out of reach**. The US Department of Health and Human Services considers 10% of a family's income to be affordable. **In Ohio, the average price of child care is nearly 15%¹ of the median family income for just one child**—worse than 27 states in the nation.

High-quality care can cost parents 14% more, while **the cost of the highest quality care can be close to that of college tuition at Ohio State**. In low-income areas, these high prices could equal almost 30% of a family's income.²



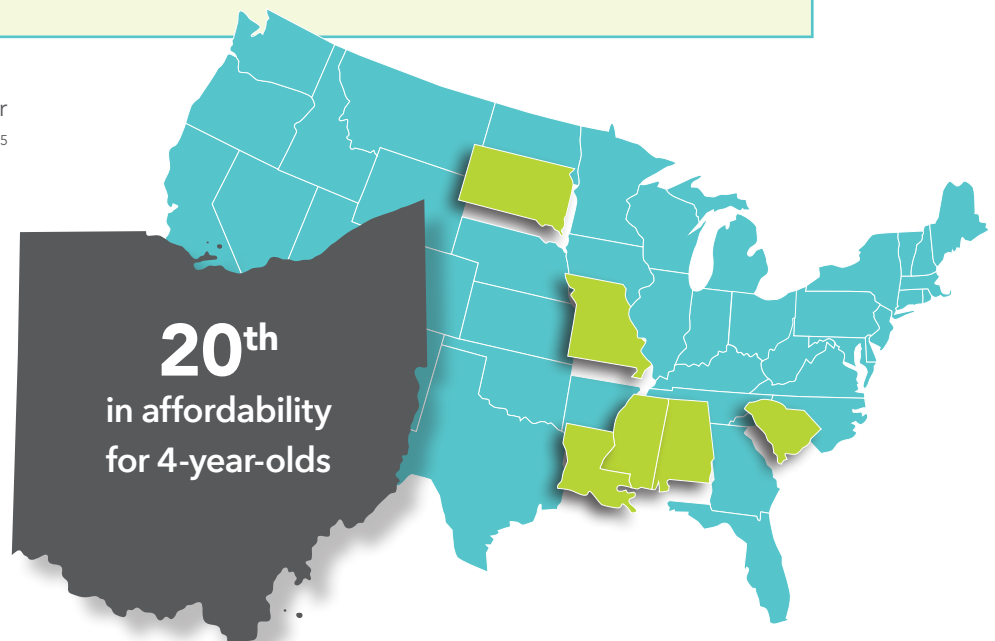
The major contributing factor to the high price of child care for families is Ohio's low income eligibility for child care assistance.

In 2017, only six states had income limits to qualify for assistance that were lower than or equal to Ohio's income limits, as a percentage of poverty.³

For some families, this barrier is too much to overcome. In fact, in 2016, 75,669 Ohio parents quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed their job because of child care problems. That's more parents than 33 other states in the nation.⁴

In 2016, 75,669 Ohio parents quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed their job because of child care problems.

Overall, Ohio ranks 20th in the nation for affordability of child care for 4-year-olds,⁵ while **states including Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, Louisiana, Missouri, and Alabama consistently lead the nation on several indicators related to affordability**.



The Cost of High-Quality Preschool

Most programs do not charge families the full cost of a high-quality preschool program because this would make preschool completely **unaffordable**. In fact, in Ohio the true cost of a high-quality preschool is equal to about 30% of the median income.⁶ The price of preschool in Ohio covers only about 50% of the actual cost of a high-quality preschool program, 31st in the nation.



Ohio ranks 32nd in the nation for access to public preschool for 4-year-olds (out of 43 states and DC that have public preschool) and 29th in access to public preschool for 3-year-olds (out of 28 states and DC that have public preschool for 3-year-olds). **The state only meets five out of ten quality standards for preschool** measured by the National Institute for Early Education Research.⁷

... BUT WE
CAN DO
BETTER



PRE4CLE recommends Ohio's new governor urgently address the following early learning priorities to support high-quality early education:

- **Implement a strong plan and adequate resources to reach the goal that all state-funded programs receive high-quality ratings by 2025** (up from the current level of 14% of providers, statewide). Support for teacher education, professional development, and other quality resources as well as adequate child care reimbursement rates are critical to reaching this goal.
- **Expand eligibility for child care to at least 200% of the federal poverty level** to support working families and increase kindergarten readiness.
- **Continue support for Ohio's Early Childhood Education program**, which provides free, half-day preschool to 18,000 children at 200% of the federal poverty level.



PRE4CLE

PRE4CLE is Cleveland's plan to expand access to high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4-year-old children in the city.

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¹ Child Care Aware (2017). Parents and the high cost of child care. Retrieved from <https://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/research/costofcare/> ² O'Donnell, P. (2016, March 29). Preschools costing as much as college can be unaffordable without help: Cleveland Connects: The First 2000 Days. *The Plain Dealer*. Retrieved from http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2016/03/preschools_costing_as_much_as_college_can_be_unaffordable_without_help_cleveland_connects_the_first_2000_days.html ³ Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2017, October). Persistent gaps: State child care assistance policies 2017. *National Women's Law Center*. Retrieved from: <https://nwlc-ci49tixgw5lbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2017-1.pdf> ⁴ Schochet, L. & Malik, R. (2017, September 13). 2 Million Parents Forced to Make Career Sacrifices Due to Problems with Child Care. *Center for American Progress*. Retrieved from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2017/09/13/438838/2-million-parents-forced-make-career-sacrifices-due-problems-child-care/> ⁵ Child Care Aware (2017). Parents and the high cost of child care. Retrieved from <https://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/research/costofcare/> ⁶ Workman, S. (2018, February 14). ⁷ Friedman-Krauss, A.H., Barnett, S.W., Weisenfeld, G.G., DiCrecchio, N., & Horowitz, M. (2017). The state of preschool 2017: State preschool yearbook. National Institute for Early Education Research. Retrieved from: <http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/State-of-Preschool-2017-Full.pdf>