Pass House Bill 484
Workforce Investment Now Pilot

Policy Matters Ohio

The childcare workforce has decreased by **40%** since 2019

The median hourly wage for childcare workers is **$14.27**

32.5% of Ohioans live in a childcare desert

The Workforce Investment Now (WIN) Pilot Program would provide Publicly Funded Child Care (with no copay) to any childcare worker who can demonstrate they work at least 20 hours per week. Passing this legislation would not only provide necessary financial relief to the current childcare workforce but also draw more workers to the sector, opening more childcare slots for families as a result.

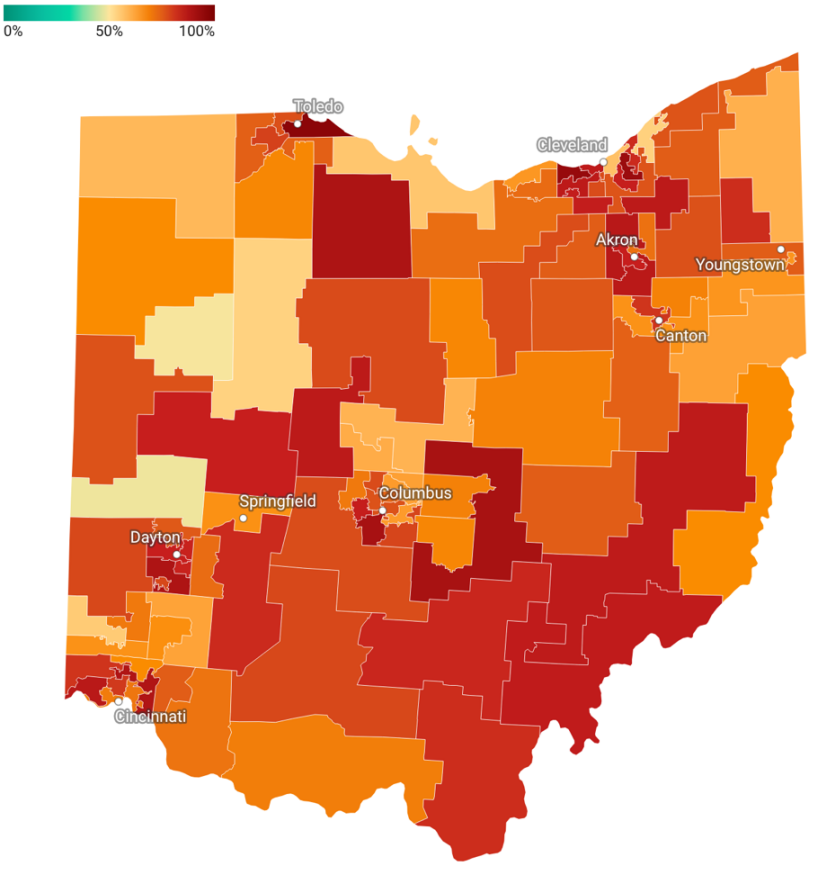
Piloting the WIN Program could use funding already allocated to the Department of Children and Youth last budget cycle for improvements (moving to payment based on enrollment rather than attendance and capping copays for families at 7%) no longer required by the federal government. Legislators can act now by reallocating those dollars toward this pilot.

Ohio has **4,257** childcare centers, **three-quarters** of which are under full capacity.

To reach full capacity, centers in Ohio would need to hire **8,920 to 17,839** workers.

Those additional childcare workers could open slots for up to **124,876** Ohio children.

In nearly every Ohio House District, more than half of the childcare centers are below full capacity



Full capacity is considered to be when enrollment in a program reaches 85% of its total approved capacity
Data received via data request to Ohio Department of Children and Youth, December 2025

Created with Datawrapper

Questions? Contact Heather Smith at hsmith@policymattersohio.org