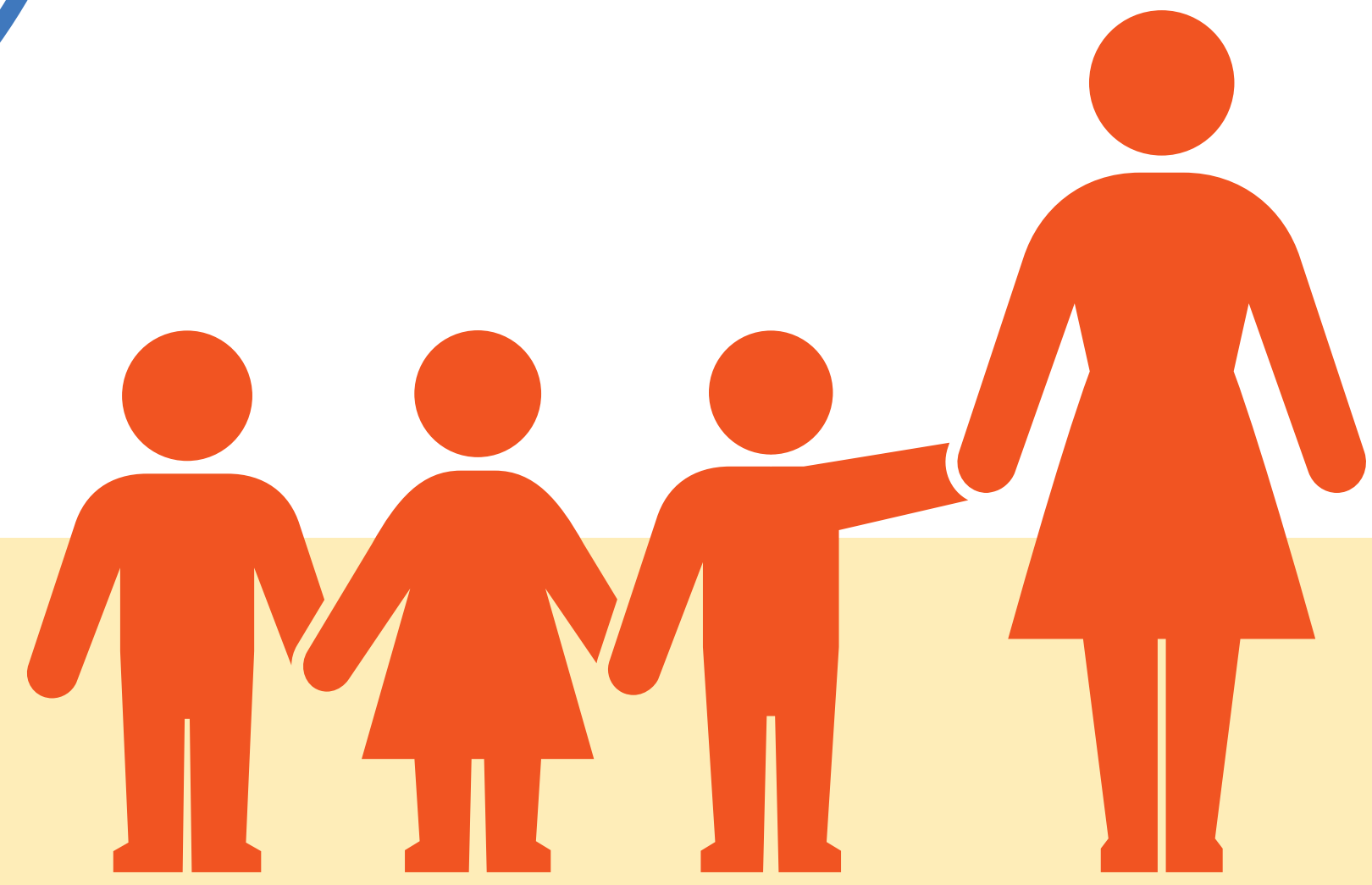




CHILDCARE



DATA:

Average pay of workers¹



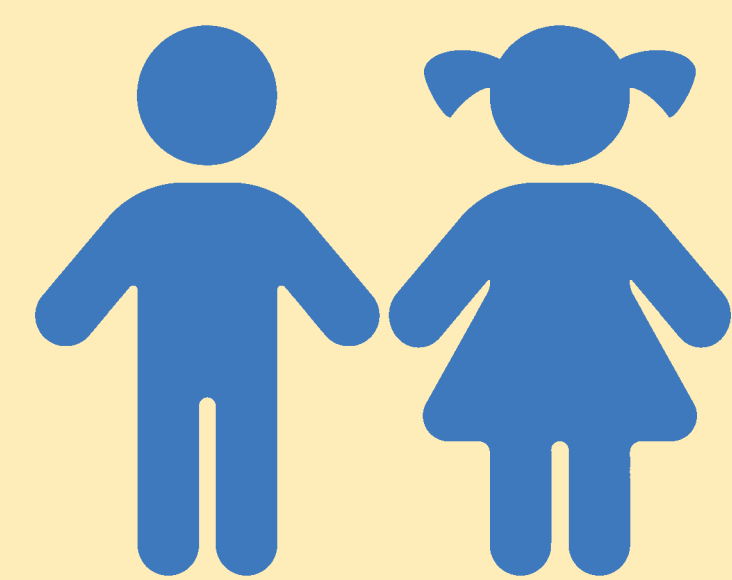
Worker shortage

In December 2022, more than half of survey respondents in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties reported that their program was operating at reduced capacity or had closed classrooms due to staffing shortages or low enrollment of children.

Cost of Childcare

Average cost in Cuyahoga County²

\$8,736 - \$13,156



50% of women in Northeast Ohio with children under 5 years old cited childcare issues as a moderate or extreme barrier to work.³

\$122 billion annually – the childcare crisis is costing an estimated \$122 billion annually in losses for families, businesses, and taxpayers.⁴

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

Employer Practices

- Collaborate with other employers and childcare facilities to support 3rd shift childcare and/or to subsidize childcare for employees.
- Provide childcare incentives/reimbursements to working parents or those taking care of an elderly relative.

Policies

- Scaffold childcare voucher against income increases to eliminate benefits cliffs.
- Restructure childcare funding to provide a livable wage to workers.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT:

A collaboration led by Starting Point that includes the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children, PRE4CLE, Cuyahoga Community College, Ohio Means Jobs-Cleveland | Cuyahoga County, the Case Western Reserve University Center for Poverty and Community Development, and the Greater Cleveland Workforce Funders Group has designed a pilot program to address critical childcare labor issues including low-pay, little upward mobility, and a 20% reduction in early childhood education workers in the last 5 years.

This pilot will partner with 7-14 childcare providers, increase wages and benefits for 100-150 childcare workers for 2 years, allow 75 workers to receive accelerated training, and improve care for 800-1000 children. This program will improve the quality of childcare work, the availability of childcare (which impacts workforce at large), and the quality of care children receive. This initiative tests a new compensation model and supports workers to complete additional training, to inform and support policy changes to build a more sustainable childcare workforce.



¹ 2021 ODJFS, Starting Point Data
² October 2022, StartingPoint, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Blueprint for Ohio's Future
³ Center for Community Solutions 2023, Data from U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey
⁴ cleveland.com/news/2023/03/we-all-need-childcare-cleveland-lets-solve-a-crisis.html