

Early Learning Matters

The Key to a Thriving Community

High-quality, Affordable Early Care and Education

Each Indiana community is unique in its needs and opportunities, but one common thread across the state, in every community, is the importance of affordable, high-quality early care and education.

The first five years of a child's life are foundational in their development. Research shows that investments in early care and education result in fewer investments later in the areas of K-12 remediation, health care, criminal justice costs and more. Accessible and affordable high-quality early care and education creates a two-generational economic impact, allowing parents to participate in the workforce and provide for their families while engaging and educating the next generation workforce.

Early care and education is a community-wide issue. Investments in early childhood education create sustainable, thriving communities. By bringing community leaders, organizations and businesses to the table, communities can create scalable, sustainable solutions that benefit them for years to come.

Key Facts About Early Learning in Indiana

Lifelong Learning:

In a child's first five years, their brain will grow faster than it ever will again.

High Cost of Care:

The annual cost of regulated care for one child in central Indiana is \$9,308 - nearly equal to a year of IUPUI college tuition.

Return on Investment:

Comprehensive, high-quality, birth-to-five early education realizes a 13% return on investment to communities.

Few Options:

One in four central Indiana children who may need child care cannot access any type of regulated child care. Barely one high-quality childcare seat exists for every three children. This puts many parents who want or need to work in an impossible situation.

Lack of Quality:

Only one third of central Indiana's regulated child care programs rank as high-quality.

Contact Us: Text "partner" to (833) 222-1221 or visit bit.ly/partnercca

Across Indiana, families, businesses and local leaders can find the supports they need with child care resource and referral agencies.



Child Care
Resource and
Referral Network

Powered by  CHILD CARE
ANSWERS

In Focus: Hamilton County



18,845

total children
ages 0-5 who
may need care

12,110

Regulated child
care capacity

5,685

High-quality
capacity

14%

Average % of income
a family pays a for
high-quality infant /
toddler care

Actions to Consider

Community leaders and organizations can come together to advocate for affordable and accessible high-quality early care and education. Consider the following:

- Engage local stakeholders and leaders. Include individuals from early learning providers, elected office, K-12 education, higher education, healthcare, families, businesses, economic development organizations and others invested in early learning.
- Create scalable strategies, modeling after what other communities have done.
- Engage businesses and encourage them to support their employees' child care needs.
- Create an early childhood coalition (ask your Child Care Resource and Referral agency for tips and strategies).
- Plan an event on early childhood education and economic growth.

Community Success

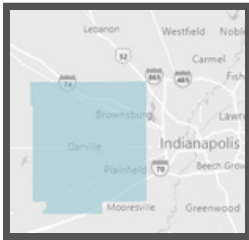
Family Promise of Hendricks County is an organization that works to transform the lives of families experiencing homelessness and poverty in Hendricks County. After experiencing many parents who wanted to work but could not find child care, the organization worked with St. Mark's Episcopal Church to form TOTally Kids Child care. Thanks to this collaboration, they were able to create spaces for an additional 75 children in Hendricks County and provide financial support through CCDF vouchers and sliding scale scholarships.



**Julie
Randall**
Executive Director
of Family Promise
of Hendricks
County

We knew we had to do something on our own to help these families who had to work. This was what our community needed.

In Focus: Hendricks County



8,738

total children
ages 0-5 who
may need care

4,682

Regulated child
care capacity

1,804

High-quality
capacity

13%

Average % of income
a family pays a for
high-quality infant /
toddler care

Actions to Consider

Community leaders and organizations can come together to advocate for affordable and accessible high-quality early care and education. Consider the following:

- Engage local stakeholders and leaders. Include individuals from early learning providers, elected office, K-12 education, higher education, healthcare, families, businesses, economic development organizations and others invested in early learning.
- Create scalable strategies, modeling after what other communities have done.
- Engage businesses and encourage them to support their employees' child care needs.
- Create an early childhood coalition (ask your Child Care Resource and Referral agency for tips and strategies).
- Plan an event on early childhood education and economic growth.

Community Success

Family Promise of Hendricks County is an organization that works to transform the lives of families experiencing homelessness and poverty in Hendricks County. After experiencing many parents who wanted to work but could not find child care, the organization worked with St. Mark's Episcopal Church to form TOTally Kids Child care. Thanks to this collaboration, they were able to create spaces for an additional 75 children in Hendricks County and provide financial support through CCDF vouchers and sliding scale scholarships.



**Julie
Randall**
Executive Director
of Family Promise
of Hendricks
County

We knew we had to do something on our own to help these families who had to work. This was what our community needed.

In Focus: Marion County



56,872

total children
ages 0-5 who
may need care

44,307

Regulated child
care capacity

23,539

High-quality
capacity

17%

Average % of income
a family pays a for
high-quality infant /
toddler care

Actions to Consider

Community leaders and organizations can come together to advocate for affordable and accessible high-quality early care and education. Consider the following:

- Engage local stakeholders and leaders. Include individuals from early learning providers, elected office, K-12 education, higher education, healthcare, families, businesses, economic development organizations and others invested in early learning.
- Create scalable strategies, modeling after what other communities have done.
- Engage businesses and encourage them to support their employees' child care needs.
- Create an early childhood coalition (ask your Child Care Resource and Referral agency for tips and strategies).
- Plan an event on early childhood education and economic growth.

Community Success

Family Promise of Hendricks County is an organization that works to transform the lives of families experiencing homelessness and poverty in Hendricks County. After experiencing many parents who wanted to work but could not find child care, the organization worked with St. Mark's Episcopal Church to form TOTally Kids Child care. Thanks to this collaboration, they were able to create spaces for an additional 75 children in Hendricks County and provide financial support through CCDF vouchers and sliding scale scholarships.



**Julie
Randall**
Executive Director
of Family Promise
of Hendricks
County

We knew we had to do something on our own to help these families who had to work. This was what our community needed.

Data Sources

“Data Center.” Brighter Futures Indiana. Accessed February 20, 2023.
<https://brighterfuturesindiana.org/data-center>.

U.S. Census Bureau. “Median Income in the Past 12 Months” and “ACS Demographic & Housing Estimates”, 2021.

Rolnick, A. (2014). "Investing in Early Childhood Development is Smart Economic Development. The Science of Early Brain Development: A Foundation for the Success of Our Children and the State Economy"

Solomon, Catherine. “13% ROI Research Toolkit.” The Heckman Equation, October 14, 2021. <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/13-roi-toolbox/>.

“Cost of Attendance.” Student Central - Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. Accessed February 20, 2023.
<https://studentcentral.iupui.edu/cost/cost-attendance.html>.

“Supporting Early Brain Development: Building the Brain.” Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, September 2, 2021.
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/supporting-early-brain-development-building-brain>.

WE GROW WITH YOU

Since 1985, Child Care Answers has been a go-to resource for all things child care in central Indiana - a hand to hold for families, child care professionals, and community partners. Families turn to us to find trusted child care and quality information about their child's development. We also equip child care providers with the resources and tools they need to start their own professional care and expand their existing programs. We ensure that community partners, employers, and policy makers have access to a platform that amplifies their own work and creates awareness around a shared vision - making the essential accessible to all.



Child Care
Resource and
Referral Network

Powered by  CHILD CARE
ANSWERS

OEOCSL03232022