

A CHILD CARE POLICY AGENDA FOR MARYLAND STATE LEADERSHIP

Prince George's Child Resource Center 2019

Prince George's Child Resource Center (PGCRC) envisions vibrant, healthy communities where individuals and families care, support and advocate for each other and invest in creating opportunities for children to develop strong, successful life paths.

Maryland Leaders Took Big Steps Forward for Child Care in 2018

Our state had the least generous family eligibility policies in the nation, and the lowest payment rates to child care providers. Maryland leaders made this a priority and family eligibility has expanded to reach more who need assistance, and we are on a course to increase payment rates to providers gradually by FY2022.



Maryland **expands** family eligibility policies to reach more who need assistance, and we are on a course to increase payment rates to providers gradually by FY2022.



Maryland **approves phase-in of payment** rate increase by FY2022. Big win for families in 2018!

We Must Face Challenges

Since 1990, Prince George's Child Resource Center has been working tirelessly to support both child care providers and parents, but challenges remain: parents cannot afford quality child care, providers are paid too little, and the drive for quality is challenged by illegally-operating care and insufficient investment.

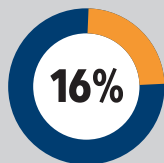
40% of Maryland child care workers' families receive public assistance.

High-quality early childhood educators are unable to stay in the profession because the salary is low.



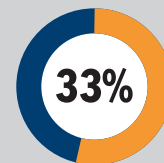
Illegally operating child care programs persist
due to limited enforcement of Maryland state rules.

Prince George's County



16%
family child care providers willing to enroll families who pay with child care subsidy.

The number of licensed centers and family child care programs are declining



33%
centers willing to enroll families who pay with child care subsidy.

Together we can continue to make improvements.

Investments in child care will enable providers to improve quality, enroll more underserved children, and reverse the steady decline in regulated programs. Not only will the support increase opportunities for children to learn and grow socially in a positive environment, it can also help combat systemic issues in Prince George’s County including poverty, hunger and homelessness.

Together we can give every child access to quality child care.

Maryland leaders can support child care providers and help make child care options available to families

- » **Invest** to increase payment rates to providers by FY2021, to retain and grow the number the number of participants in Maryland’s quality rating & improvement system (EXCELS).
- » **Support** the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network which offers training and coaching for child care providers so that children thrive in quality early childhood programs.
- » **Create a new position** to enforce child care licensure requirements and refer unlicensed programs to a local resource center.
- » **Prioritize** high-needs communities to ensure funding goes where it is needed most, and ensuring child care eligibility policy is meeting the real needs of working families in Maryland.

Together we can build a brighter future.

As a community, we need to **build a brighter future** by investing in high-quality early childhood care and education, health care and family support services. **Investment in these services** will put our children on a solid path to success, support teachers in the development of high quality early learning programs, and ensure that employers in our community have the workforce they need now and in the future. **With more than 60,000 residents in Prince George’s County under the age of 5, these investments set the foundation for the future of our County.**

PGCRC WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ITS VISION OF THE COMMUNITY BY WORKING TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES/BENEFITS



Quality - Accessible Child Care (Early Childhood)	Strong Families	Connected & Informed Community	Integrated, Community Focused Policies and Practices
<p>Children have a safe, stable, nurturing environment that fosters a “strong life development path”</p> <p>Child care providers are respected, appreciated, and supported in their role in creating thriving children, families, and communities</p>	<p>Parents/guardians have access to knowledge, education, and resources that support their ability to thrive as caregivers and fully engage in the lives of their children</p> <p>Parents and children have places to thrive that foster their ability to engage with one another and the broader community</p>	<p>People feel included and connected to others including family, peers, and the broader community</p> <p>People feel safe interacting with people across their communities regardless of their demographics, experience, or background</p>	<p>People believe that systems are accessible to them and that the systems work to strengthen their communities</p> <p>Everyone feels represented and invested in community issues, feeling welcome and safe giving voice, expressing desires, and influencing policy decisions</p> <p>Systems, policies, and processes adapt and remain accountable to creating positive community benefit</p>

