

A CHILD CARE POLICY AGENDA FOR MARYLAND STATE LEADERSHIP

Prince George's Child Resource Center 2018

Prince George's Child Resource Center 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.

Our programs and efforts actively support advancement of our community-focused outcomes:

- » Child Care Provider Training & Support
- » Adelphi/Langley Family Support Center
- » Healthy Families Prince George's
- » Project WIN: Early Childhood Mental Health
- » Advocacy

We must face the 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.



children in Prince George's County **demonstrate kindergarten readiness.**



Maryland has the **nation's lowest income threshold for parents to qualify for subsidies.**

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.



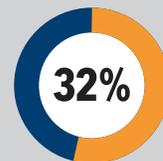
Illegally operating child care programs persist
due to limited enforcement of Maryland state rules.

Prince George's County



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

Payment rates are too low, and program complexity is too high, and this has challenged the drive for quality.



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

Together we can reverse these troubling trends.

Additional investments 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.

WHAT MARYLAND STATE LEADERSHIP CAN DO:

- » **Invest** in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) law.
- » **Support 12-month eligibility** in subsidy and increase funding to get children and families off the subsidy waiting list.
- » **Invest** to increase payment rates to providers to retain and grow the number the number of participants in Maryland’s quality rating & improvement system (EXCELS).
- » **Accelerate** the process for getting a license, while maintaining quality standards through an easier application process, and more investment in training, pre-licensure orientations and resource centers.
- » **Create a new position** to enforce 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 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>

