

# Early Care and Education Works



Our current workforce depends on the ability to find care for their children so that they can do their jobs. Our future workforce depends on their early experiences to build healthy brains and bodies. Early childhood education works for us, and it's time to put in the work for them.

## > 22%

of the Randolph County workforce have childcare obligations and no available caregiver.<sup>5</sup>

## 50%

of Child Care Providers in Randolph County are running at reduced capacity or have closed as a result of the pandemic.<sup>6</sup>

## > 6

infants and toddlers compete for each open childcare slot statewide.<sup>8</sup>

### For the Current Workforce

High quality childcare provides families with a safe, nurturing environment that allows them to go to their jobs knowing that their children are cared for and supported by Early Childhood Professionals.

### For the Future Workforce

Young children are ready to succeed in school when provided with secure and stimulating environments led by Early Childhood Professionals trained to support brain development. Benefits increase when those professionals receive ongoing training.<sup>7</sup>

## Our Early Care and Education System is in Crisis

In Randolph County:

In December 2021, 767 children received child care subsidy and **386** eligible children were waitlisted.<sup>2</sup>

A single mother with one child earning \$33,817 annually would pay **24%** of her gross income without subsidy.<sup>2</sup>

In 2019:

- The average wage for early childhood educators was **\$10.75** an hour.<sup>3</sup>
- Only **33%** of centers provided fully or partially paid health insurance.<sup>3</sup>
- The number one reason why given by educators who left the profession was to **make more money**.<sup>4</sup>

*“There’s just not enough high quality childcare in our area because of the kind of availability. I struggled. I lost my job because of that.”*

-Jamee Tate, Parent

## How You Can Help?



### Advocate

Make sure your elected officials know why Early Childhood Education is critically important.



### Reach Out

Contact a local childcare center and see if there is a way you can support them.



### Educate

Share your knowledge with those around you and keep on learning.

## Resources

- <sup>1</sup>Child Care Services Association. (January 2022). *Infant and Toddler Care in North Carolina (Randolph County)* [Fact sheet].
- <sup>2</sup>Child Care Services Association. (January 2022). *Child Care in North Carolina (Randolph County)* [Fact sheet].
- <sup>3</sup>Child Care Services Association. (September 2020). The 2019 Early Care and Education Workforce in Randolph County
- <sup>4</sup>Care Services Association. (February 2020). Leaving the Classroom: Addressing the Crisis of NC's Early Childhood Educator Turnover
- <sup>5</sup>Dingel, J. I., Patterson, C., & Vavra, J. (2020). Childcare obligations will constrain many workers when reopening the US economy. *University of Chicago, Becker Friedman Institute for Economics Working Paper*, (2020-46).
- <sup>6</sup>Lee, E. K., & Parolin, Z. (2021). The care burden during COVID-19: a national database of child care closures in the United States. *Socius*, 7, 23780231211032028.
- <sup>7</sup>Mitchell, A., & Stoney, L. (2017). Pathways to High-Quality Child Care: The Workforce Investment Credit. In Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board. Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board. 1530 Wilson Boulevard Suite 400, Arlington, VA.
- <sup>8</sup>NC Early Education Coalition. (September 2021). *Think Babies™ NC Fact Sheet: Child Care Availability* [Fact sheet].