

# Child Care Challenges Facing Families in the Capital Area

Economic development officials, child care providers, and other community members in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties have joined forces to address the current child care crisis and develop a regional action plan that meets the needs and preferences of working families. **The information presented below details findings from secondary research and a survey exploring the challenges 166 parents and caregivers of young children face in the capital area.**

## Families' Top Child Care Needs Reflect the Region's Child Care Gap

**78%** Weekday care      **67%** Full-day care      **63%** Care during daytime hours (6:00 AM–6:00 PM)

## Parents Are Facing Barriers to Accessing Child Care

**80%** Cost of care      **72%** Open spots available      **46%** Quality of care

## Child Care Is a Challenge for All Families, but Households Making Less than \$50,000 Annually Face Different Barriers

**95%** Cost of care      **70%** Open spots available

**60%** Finding care that matches their work schedule      **55%** Dependability of care

Families making less than \$50,000 annually are also much less likely to have access to the care they need.



Survey respondents with children under the age of 2 and making less than \$50,000 annually are **spending 21% or more of their income on child care costs.**



**“** I struggle to know all the options—we don't know how any of this daycare stuff works. [It feels like] there is so much information about babies but then you are left to navigate the child care system on your own.”



**“** I wish there were subsidies for people who make a little too much annually [to qualify for existing supports].”

# Limited Child Care Options Impact Our Region's Economy

The top employment impacts cited by survey respondents included:



Job attendance (missing work, arriving late, leaving early, etc.)



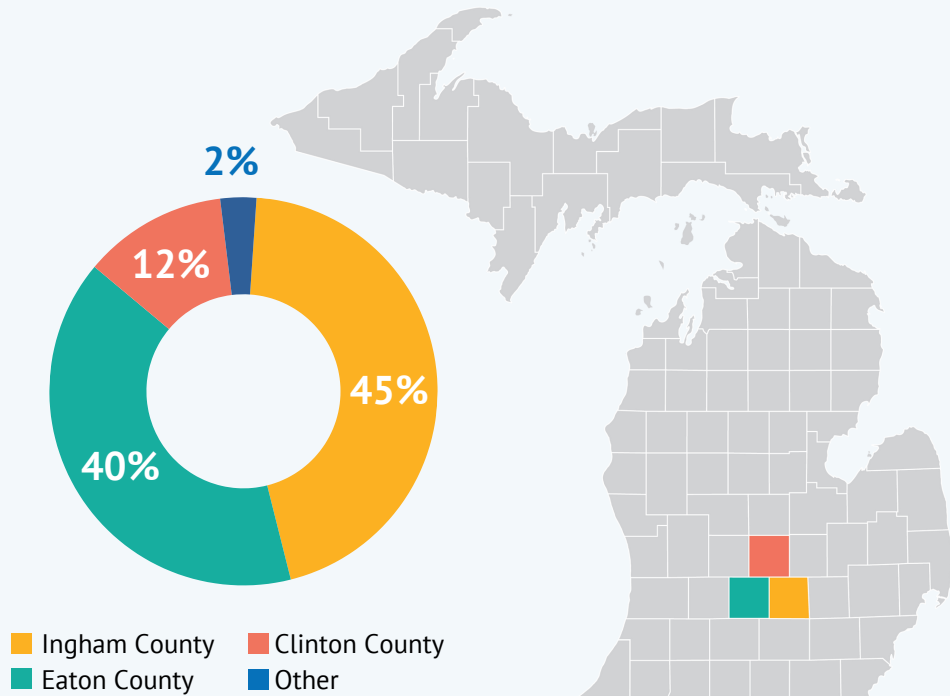
Productivity and performance



Missing appointments and/or engagements (health, personal, social)

“Frequent staff turnover [makes it] hard for children to get used to the people [caring for them].”

## Participant Demographics



For more information about the Capital Area Child Care Coalition or to get involved, please visit [purelansing.com/childcare](http://purelansing.com/childcare).

