

# Child Care & A Strong Economy

A special joint meeting of the Children's Caucus  
and the Business First Caucus

**Ohio Statehouse  
November 28, 2023**

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# ABOUT ACTION FOR CHILDREN

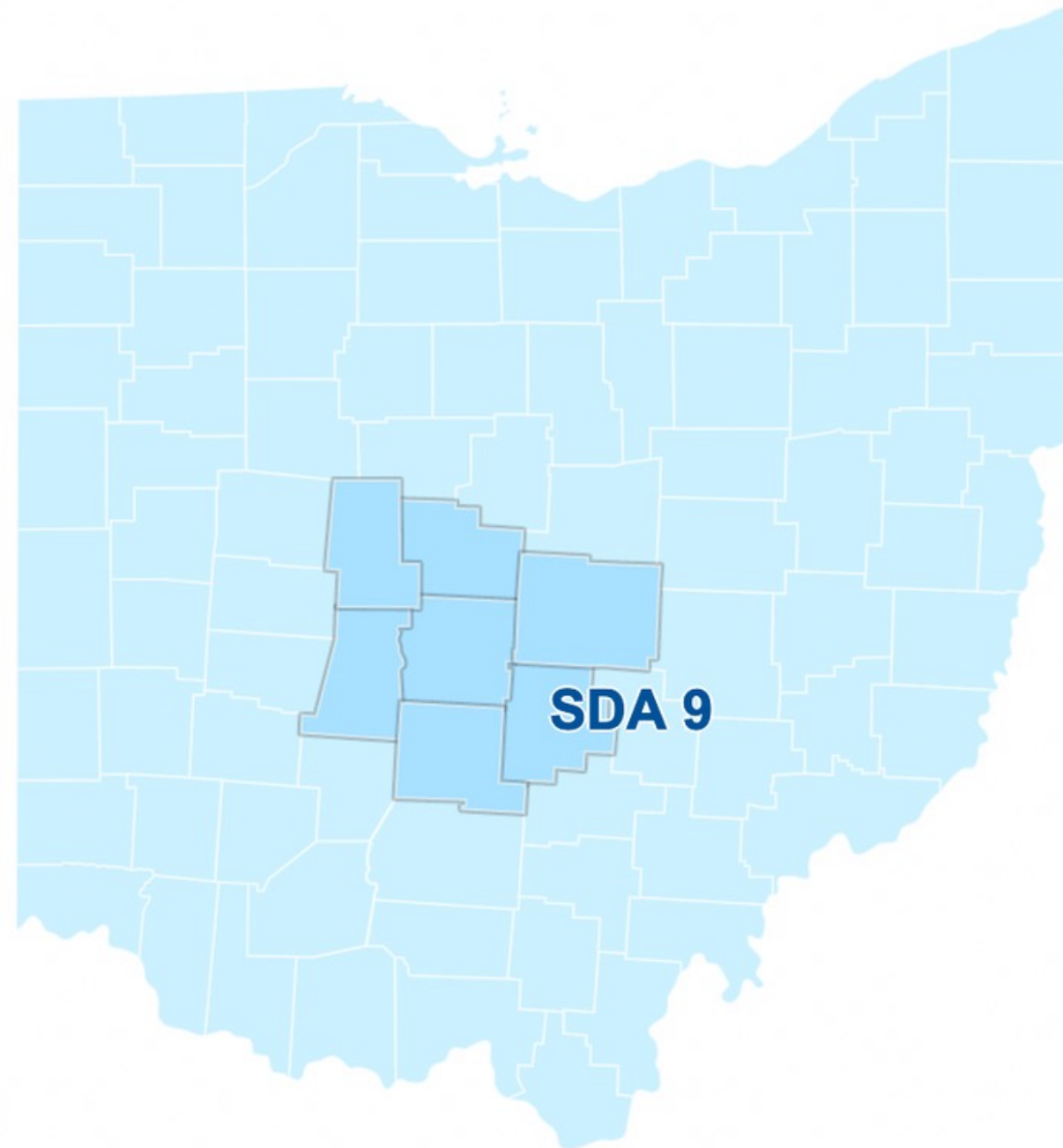
Action for Children is the local child care resource and referral agency for central Ohio, and is committed to assuring quality early learning experiences for all children.

Our services focus on transforming the lives of children by supporting the everyday heroes who most influence our children's early growth; caregivers, educators, parents, and guardians.

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# ABOUT ACTION FOR CHILDREN



Source: OCCRRA

- Action for Children serves Columbus and Franklin County, as well as Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union Counties.
- Programs are also available in Allen, Crawford, Knox, Marion, Morrow, and Richland counties

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# CHILD CARE IS... AN EDUCATION ISSUE



- 90% of brain development occurs before school entry.
- This is where the workforce of tomorrow begins.

Source: First Five Years Fund

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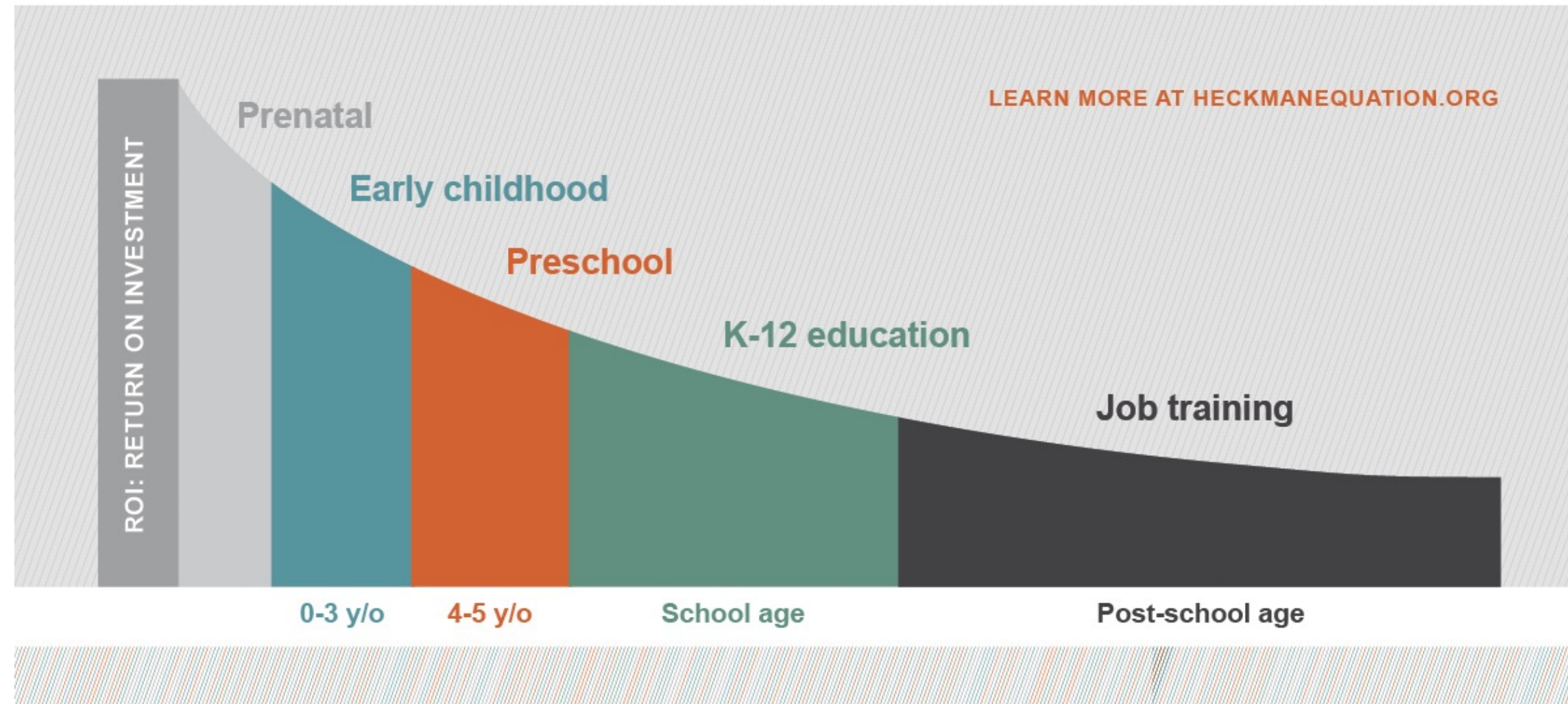


# CHILD CARE IS... AN EDUCATION ISSUE



Return on Investment

**Economic impact of investing in early childhood learning.**



Source: HeckmanEquation.org

- Children who start behind are more likely to stay behind.
- As a society, we either pay now or we pay later.

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# CHILD CARE IS... AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

**67%**

of children live in households  
where all available parents  
are working

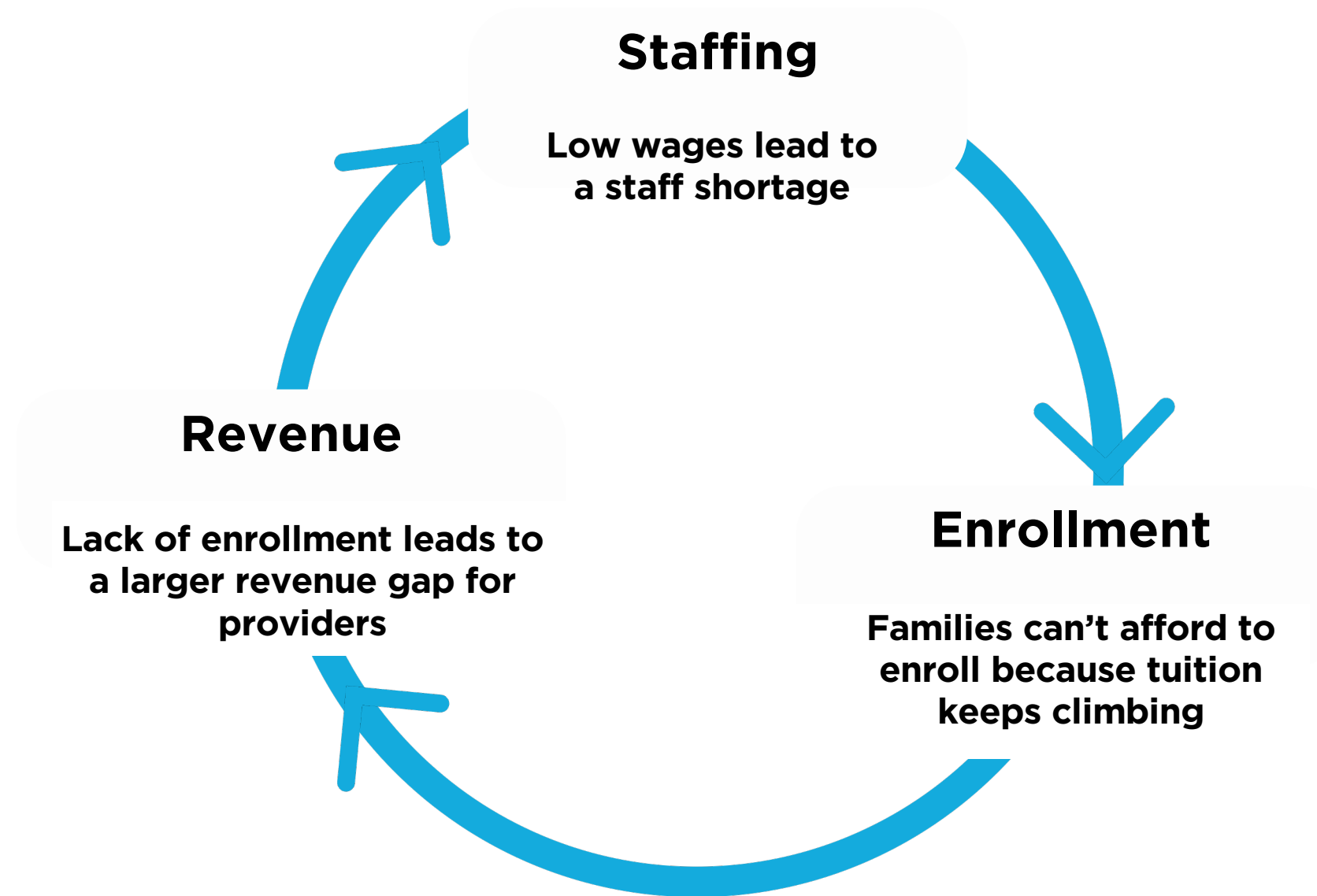
- Child care is essential to the workforce of today.
- It is infrastructure for growth just like roads and bridges.
- Parents can earn when children are able to safely learn.

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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# CHILD CARE IS... AN EQUITY ISSUE



Source: Action for Children's Tipping Point Report

- “Child care is a textbook example of a broken market.”

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen

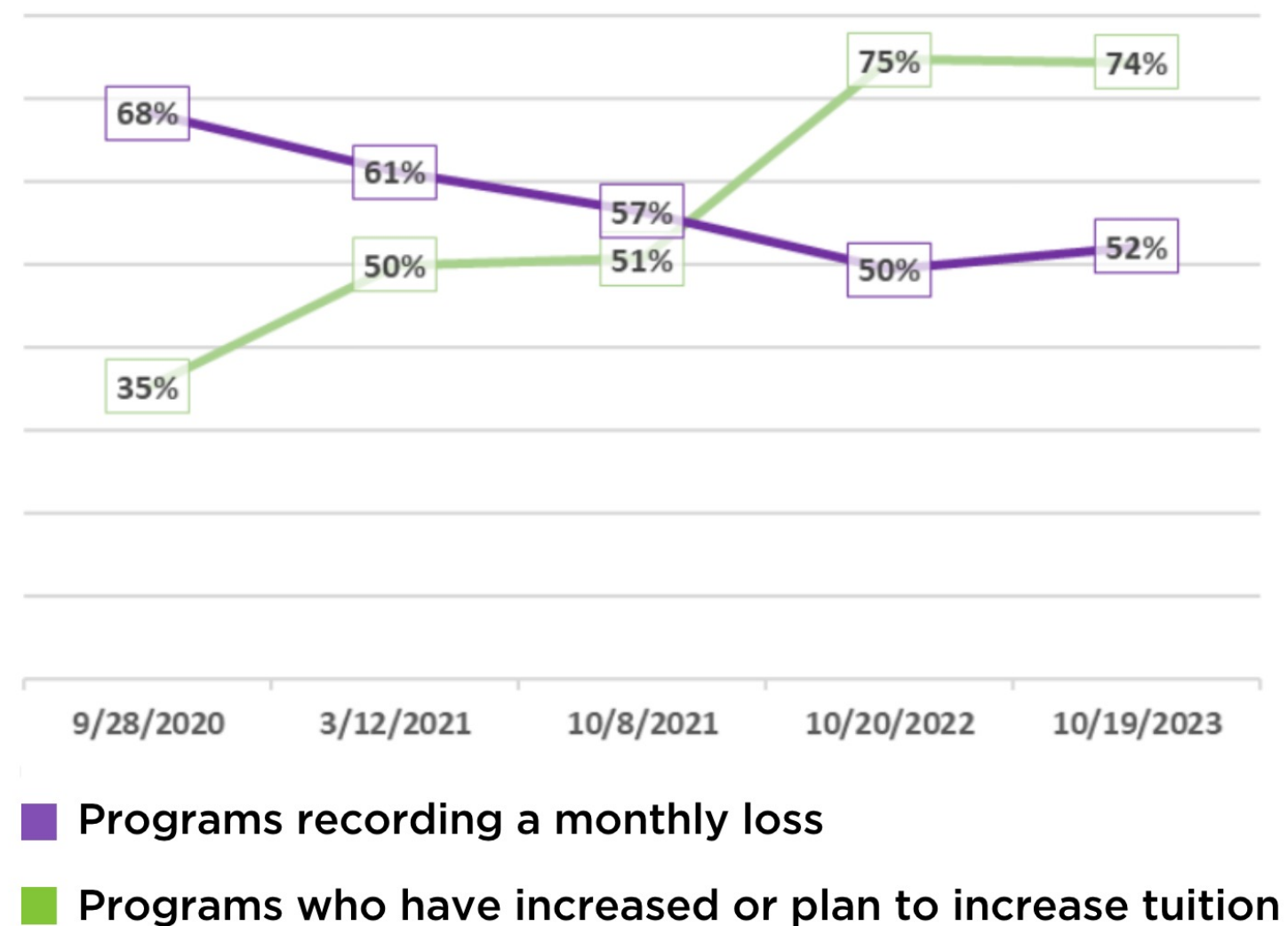
- 40% of Ohioans live in child care deserts

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# A STRONG ECONOMY NEEDS A STRONG CHILD CARE SECTOR

Operations & Finances

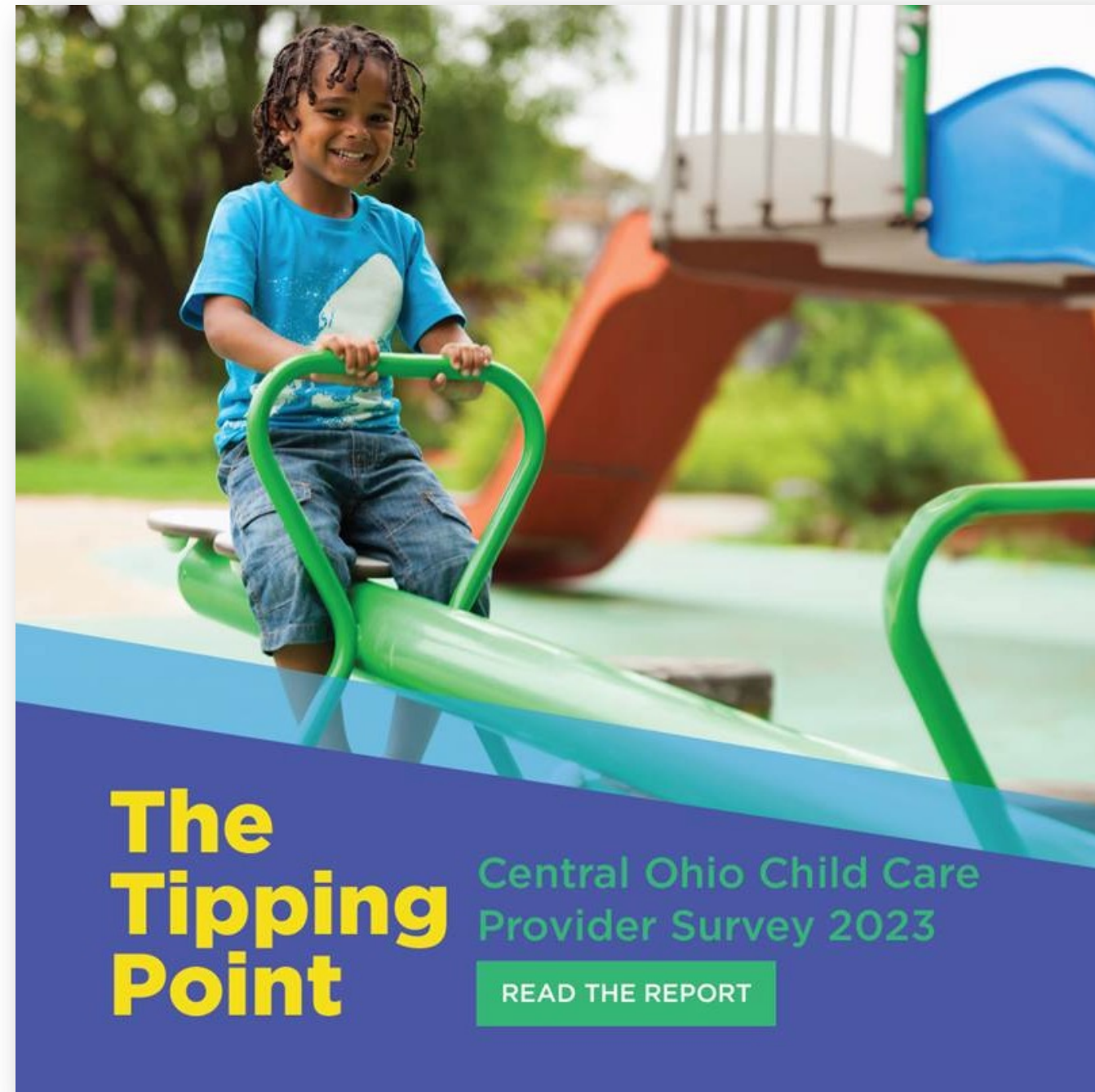


Source: Action for Children's Tipping Point Report

- 7 out of 10 child care centers are having a hard time recruiting and retaining staff, and enrollment is still depressed
- 1 in 5 child care programs operating at the start of the pandemic closed permanently in the following 2 years



# WHAT WE'RE SEEING...



- Child care is at a tipping point. The question now is do we lean forward or fall back?

Source: Action for Children's Tipping Point Report



# WHAT CAN WE DO?



Child care as a public good/employer benefit



Parent-friendly policies



Public-private partnerships



Take up this issue



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# THANK YOU!

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