

# Failure to Invest in High-Quality Child Care Hurts Children and State's Economy

Child care is a necessity for working parents and a key ingredient in the state's recipe for economic growth. Access to safe, stable and high-quality child care reduces employee absenteeism and turnover and improves businesses' bottom line. And, because learning begins at birth, it is in child care that many children are developing the basic language, cognitive and emotional skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

For low-wage workers, child care has become increasingly unaffordable, often rivaling or exceeding housing costs. The state's child care subsidy program has not adequately met the need, and since 2005, the number of low-income Michigan parents receiving publicly subsidized care has dropped by two-thirds, from nearly 65,000 to only 22,000. Total child care spending fell from \$479 million in 2005 to just \$136 million in 2014—a reduction of over 70%.

While changes in the economy, including high unemployment, undoubtedly had some impact, policy decisions—including Michigan's continuing low child care subsidy eligibility levels and provider payments—have been major contributors to Michigan's inadequate child care system.

## VERY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE MOST AT RISK

The underfunding of Michigan's child care system is particularly troubling because of the high numbers of very young, low-income children in care while their parents work. In June 2014, 40% of all the children in state-subsidized child

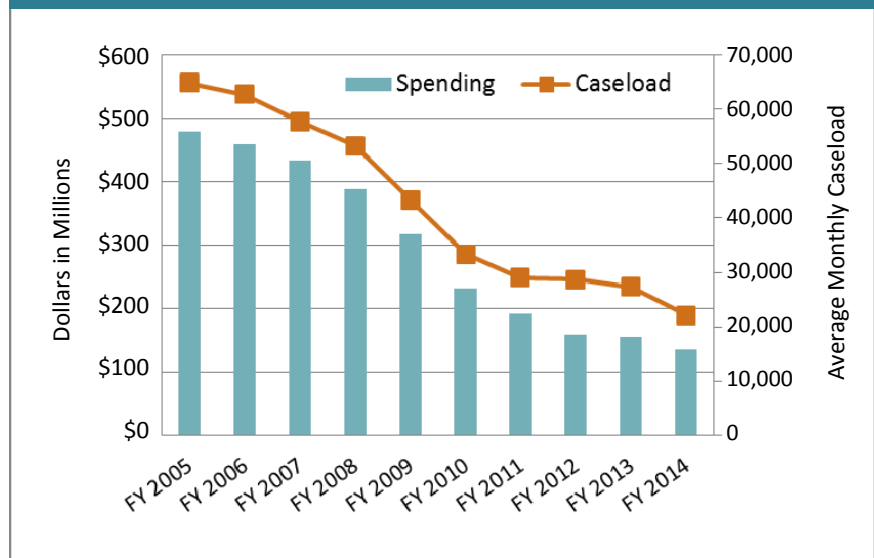
care were under the age of 4, and over 60% were under age 6.<sup>1</sup>

Michigan has too few licensing inspectors to ensure that even basic health and safety standards are met. Placing very young children in care of unknown or questionable safety and quality is a risk Michigan can't afford to take given the scientifically documented importance of the first years of life in terms of lifelong learning and development. It is during the earliest years that the very architecture of the brain is constructed—a window of opportunity to prime children for success in school and life.

## COMMUNITIES HAVE LOST STATE FUNDING THAT IS NEEDED TO KEEP FAMILIES WORKING

The reduction in state child care payments to local communities has economic repercussions. Parents find it

**Michigan Child Care Cases and Spending Drop Dramatically**



Source: House Fiscal Agency  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

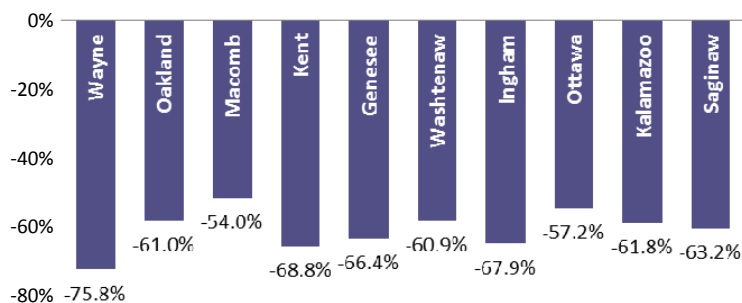
increasingly difficult to secure reliable, consistent child care, making it more difficult for them to keep their jobs and provide for their children. Child care providers—an important sector of the state’s workforce—continue to struggle to bridge the gap between their costs and what parents can afford to pay. And, children who spend large portions of their first 2,000 days of life in low-quality child care can face greater hurdles as they transition to school and ultimately into the workforce.

The impact of reduced spending is felt acutely in Michigan’s most populous counties, where more than two-thirds (67%) of the children in state-subsidized child care reside. For example, between January 2007 and January 2014, the average monthly number of children in state-subsidized child care fell nearly 76% in Wayne County, from 38,910 to 9,408, while state funding fell from \$16.4 million to \$2.5 million. In Kent County, the number of children fell 69%, from 7,314 to 2,283, while payments fell from approximately \$3 million to \$567,000.

While the impact of child care subsidy caseload reductions and funding losses affects counties and regions of the state somewhat differently, all counties have experienced steep declines. For

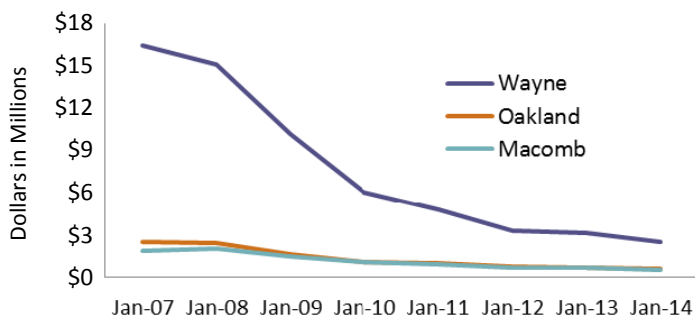
### Number of Children Receiving Child Care Assistance Drops Dramatically in Michigan's 10 Largest Counties

Percent Change Average Monthly Caseload Jan-07 to Jan-14



### State Child Care Spending Falls Steeply in Michigan's Three Largest Counties

Average Monthly Spending



Source: Michigan Department of Human Services  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

### FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES CONTINUES TO FALL

Average Monthly Expenditures in Michigan's 10 Most Populous Counties

January 2008 to January 2014

	Jan. 2008	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2011	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	% Change
<b>Wayne</b>	\$15,100,496	\$10,217,909	\$6,089,536	\$4,795,556	\$3,301,395	\$3,135,791	\$2,488,905	-84%
<b>Oakland</b>	\$2,478,790	\$1,669,909	\$1,078,963	\$991,164	\$791,777	\$723,525	\$588,054	-76%
<b>Macomb</b>	\$2,057,449	\$1,527,740	\$1,061,892	\$934,540	\$706,967	\$698,324	\$507,613	-75%
<b>Kent</b>	\$2,737,270	\$1,995,775	\$1,379,002	\$1,235,170	\$901,535	\$758,170	\$567,364	-79%
<b>Genesee</b>	\$4,167,470	\$2,849,921	\$1,829,989	\$1,511,532	\$1,121,445	\$988,378	\$779,674	-81%
<b>Washtenaw</b>	\$1,011,730	\$709,575	\$463,274	\$403,972	\$335,067	\$301,121	\$230,517	-77%
<b>Ingham</b>	\$1,240,108	\$790,273	\$529,982	\$496,273	\$358,086	\$361,064	\$269,243	-78%
<b>Ottawa</b>	\$432,816	\$305,828	\$237,030	\$243,969	\$209,382	\$158,299	\$127,656	-71%
<b>Kalamazoo</b>	\$1,054,840	\$692,358	\$577,866	\$522,649	\$417,084	\$381,089	\$271,332	-74%
<b>Saginaw</b>	\$1,452,130	\$1,002,649	\$754,220	\$679,207	\$471,785	\$459,965	\$378,924	-74%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>\$41,693,951</b>	<b>\$28,472,763</b>	<b>\$19,016,206</b>	<b>\$16,388,779</b>	<b>\$12,334,786</b>	<b>\$11,424,677</b>	<b>\$9,002,265</b>	<b>-78%</b>

example, in Southeast Michigan, the decline in average monthly child care spending between January 2007 and January 2014 ranged from 63% in Livingston County to 84% in Wayne.

## AN OVERVIEW OF MICHIGAN'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE PROGRAM

Michigan's Child Development and Care program provides child care subsidies to: (1) public assistance recipients; (2) low-income working families with incomes below 121% of poverty (\$22,448 for a family of three); (3) licensed foster parents caring for foster children; and (4) families with open child protective services or preventive services cases.<sup>2</sup> Most children eligible for subsidized care (65%) in fall 2013 lived in low-income working families; roughly another quarter (23%) lived in families receiving public assistance while working or participating in another approved activity.

Child care subsidies are available for eligible children under the age of 13, as well as children between the ages of 13 and 18 in cases where there are health or disability reasons or a court order. According to state policy, there are four valid reasons for care: (1) family preservation;

(2) high school completion; (3) participation in an activity approved by the state; and (4) employment.

Between 2012 and July 2014, Michigan covered only 80 hours of child care in a two-week period—down from a high of 140 hours. The Legislature approved the governor's recommendation to increase reimbursable care to 90 hours biweekly beginning July 27, 2014. Thirty-two states do not impose caps on the hours of care, and of the states that do, Michigan's is the lowest, with the average cap being 120 hours biweekly.<sup>3</sup>

Under federal law, parents are allowed to choose the type of child care settings that best meet their family's needs, with the following options in Michigan:

- **Child care centers** – Facilities, other than private homes, licensed to care for groups of children.
- **Group child care homes** – Private homes, licensed to care for up to twelve children.
- **Family child care homes** – Private homes registered to care for up to six children.
- **Unlicensed child care providers** – Care provided by relatives either in the provider's or child's home; or care provided by an unrelated adult in the child's own home.

In 2011, Michigan's child care subsidy program was transferred to the new Office of Great Start in the Michigan Department of Education, where the goal is to make child care a part of the early learning continuum—rather than solely a work support resulting in children spending long days in child care settings of unknown quality while their parents work at low-wage jobs. While the Child Development and Care program is housed in the Michigan Department of Education, eligibility is currently determined by local Department of Human Services workers.

In 2012, Michigan spent \$23 million on child care quality improvements, or nearly 15% of total federal Child Care Development funds—above the 4% required by federal law.<sup>4</sup> Michigan spends those funds on its child care quality improvement and rating system (*Great Start to Quality*); child care licensing; local Great Start to Quality Resource Centers; tuition scholarships and supports for early childhood educators; the Great Start CONNECT database that helps parents secure better quality care, and serves as a resource for providers; and local Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions.

### A Snapshot of Michigan's Child Care Subsidy

#### Eligible Families:

- Public Assistance Recipients (24% of total families)
- Low-income working families (72%)
- Foster parents and families with open protective or preventive services cases (4%)

Average Monthly Subsidy: \$260 per child or \$3,120 per year, compared to the average annual cost of a child care center in Michigan of \$10,114 for an infant, and \$7,930 for a 4-year-old

#### Monthly Earnings of Families that are Income Eligible:

More than two-thirds have monthly incomes below \$1,847 (for a family of 3), or roughly \$22,000 per year

Age of Children in Care: 60% are under the age of 6; 40% under age 4

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children in Care:

- **Primary race:** 51% African American; 46% White; 3% American Indian, Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Asian or unknown
- **Ethnicity:** 5% Hispanic; 95% non-Hispanic

Average Length of Time Families Receive Child Care Assistance: 15 months

## A NOTE ON MICHIGAN’S OTHER MAJOR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

**GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM:** While Michigan’s child care system is underfunded, the state has made great strides in early education for at-risk 4-year-olds through a \$130 million expansion in the Great Start Readiness Program over a two-year period, bringing total funding to \$239 million. Michigan’s rise in state funding for preschool was the largest dollar and service expansion in the country, and helped to draw down another \$52 million in federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge funding to focus on quality improvements. Michigan expects to serve a total of 63,000 children in the GSRP during this upcoming school year, up from approximately 32,000 in the 2012-2013 school year—nearly doubling the number of children who benefit.<sup>5</sup>

Currently, 90% of each GSRP grantee’s enrollment of 4-year-olds must live in families with annual income at or below 250% of poverty (\$46,380 for family of three). Beginning Oct. 1, 2014, children from families with incomes of up to 300% of poverty (\$55,656 for family of three) can be enrolled *if* Intermediate School Districts can demonstrate that all children at or below 250% of poverty are being served and there is no waiting list. The highest need children must be enrolled first; and homeless children, children in foster care and those in special education inclusive preschool programs are eligible regardless of family income.

GSRP is a half-day program for approximately 50% of the children who participate. Providers can combine funding for two GSRP “slots” to create a school-day program, and more have done so with the recently expanded funding. Michigan has not elected, as many states have, to open its state preschool program to 3-year-olds. This is a critical gap, since research shows that two years of intensive preschool provides the best results, particularly for low-income children.

Despite the large increase in overall funding for preschool for 4-year-olds, there have been only small increases in per-slot funding for the GSRP in recent years. The Legislature rejected the governor’s recommended increase of \$100 per slot for the 2014-15 school year, leaving total per slot grants at \$3,625. Low payments make it difficult to ensure the uniform level of quality needed across the state, as well as build more high-quality programs in the private, community-based sector. In the upcoming school year, Intermediate Schools Districts may lose preschool slots if they fail to submit evidence that they attempted to contract 30% of their total slots to community-based organizations.

**HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START:** In 2013, Michigan received \$266 million in federal Head Start funding.<sup>6</sup> Federal funds are provided directly to local Head Start providers, and are not subject to state appropriations. Michigan does not invest significant state funds in Head Start. Supplemental state spending on Early Head Start and Head Start is limited to less than \$700,000, and includes federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program funds used to expand Early Head Start in three Michigan counties.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, there 43,921 Michigan children enrolled in Head Start programs, including 37,571 in regular Head Start (86%), 6,259 (14%) in Early Head Start, and 91 in migrant/seasonal Head Start. Of the funded options for regular Head Start, 89% were in center-based programs, 9% in home-based programs, and 2% in combination programs. For younger children and pregnant women (Early Head Start), 75% were in home-based programs.<sup>8</sup>

## MICHIGAN’S CHILD CARE SYSTEM IS FAILING MANY LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES

**HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE IS UNAFFORDABLE FOR MANY FAMILIES.** Child care is one of the biggest items in many working families’ budgets. The average annual cost of full-time infant care in a child care center in Michigan is over \$10,000, which is nearly half of the state median income for a single mother, and 13% of the median income of a married couple, placing Michigan as the 12<sup>th</sup> least affordable state in the U.S. for infant care. Full-time center-based care for a 4-year-old in Michigan is nearly \$8,000, with care for school-age children averaging over \$4,500.<sup>9</sup>

Average Child Care Center Costs in Michigan Compared to Housing Costs					
Average Annual Child Care Center Costs				Average Annual Housing Costs	
Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age	Two Children	Rent	Mortgage
\$10,114	\$7,930	\$4,576	\$18,044	\$8,952	\$16,008

Source: Child Care Aware (2013)  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

## Child Care Unaffordable for Many Families

- At \$10,114 per year, the average annual cost of child care for an infant in a center is 48% of the median income of a single mother in Michigan (2012).
- For the same family, child care costs in a home setting of \$7,020 represent one-third of median family income.
- A low- or moderate-income parent of two children in center care would face an insurmountable child care bill of over \$18,000.

Single parents hoping to place their children in high-quality child care centers—where costs are likely higher than the average—would owe more in child care than rent, with average annual rent payments in the state at nearly \$9,000. Certainly they would not be able to afford to buy a home, with average mortgage payments of over \$16,000 annually.<sup>10</sup>

### LOW ELIGIBILITY LEVELS AND PROVIDER PAYMENTS HAVE LIMITED ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE.

**Michigan's child care eligibility levels are among the lowest in the country.** Michigan has one of the lowest child care subsidy eligibility levels in the country, limiting low-income parents' access to the child care assistance they need to work and support their children. The state's child care income eligibility threshold (39% of state median income) has not been changed since 2003, and without adjustments for inflation has fallen from 155% of poverty to 121%, or gross monthly income of under \$1,990.<sup>11</sup>

**Low child care provider payments have forced families to seek out unlicensed care of unknown quality.** Michigan's low subsidy rates have limited access to licensed or higher quality child care. Historically, child care provider rates have varied depending on the type of child care setting (centers, family and group homes, relatives and aides), the age of the child (under or over 2½ years of age), and the region of the state where care was provided.

In 2010, child care provider rates were restructured and are now the same statewide, varying only by the age of the child and the type of child care setting. Michigan continues to reimburse child care providers on an hourly basis, depending on a child's actual attendance, making it difficult for providers to run their businesses and project income. Most states pay child care providers on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

In 2012, Michigan's reimbursement rates for state subsidized child care were well below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of local providers.<sup>12</sup> The state subsidy for a 4-year-old in center care was \$433 per month, less than half the \$974 monthly subsidy that would represent the 75th percentile of market rate in that year. Center care for a 1-year-old was \$650 per month, which is 35% below the 75th percentile of market rate.<sup>13</sup>

In July of 2014, Michigan increased rates for higher quality providers, based on the state's new child care quality rating system that ranks licensed child care centers and homes based on a star system, with five stars representing the highest quality programs.

While this rate adjustment is long overdue and much needed, state rates still do not reflect the true and growing cost of care, and under state policy, low-income families are required to pay the difference between what the state will pay for child care and providers' actual rates. More importantly, there are still relatively few providers in the state eligible for higher payments as a result of quality improvements.

### Maximum State Child Care Hourly Subsidy for Licensed Providers (effective July 27, 2014)

Great Start to Quality Rating	Child Care Centers		Group and Family Child Care Homes	
	Children Birth to 2½ yrs.	Children 2½ and Older	Children Birth to 2½ yrs.	Children 2½ and Older
Licensing Only, 1 or 2 Stars	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$2.90	\$2.40
3 Stars	\$4.00	\$2.75	\$3.15	\$2.65
4 Stars	\$4.25	\$3.00	\$3.40	\$2.90
5 Stars	\$4.50	\$3.25	\$3.65	\$3.15

Source: Michigan Department of Education  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

## Relatively Few Child Care Providers Eligible for Higher Rates Based on Quality

Program Type	Total Programs	Empty Star*	1 Star	2 Stars	Eligible for Higher Rates		
					3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars
Child Care/Preschool Centers	4,108	2,658	6	25	338	962	119
Group Child Care Homes	1,979	1,811	12	40	76	22	18
Family Child Care Homes	3,876	3,695	27	40	84	15	15
<b>Total Programs Per Star Level</b>	<b>9,963</b>	<b>8,164</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>152</b>

\*Empty star: Only meets basic licensing requirements

Source: Great Start to Quality Dashboard Report (Aug. 1, 2014)  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

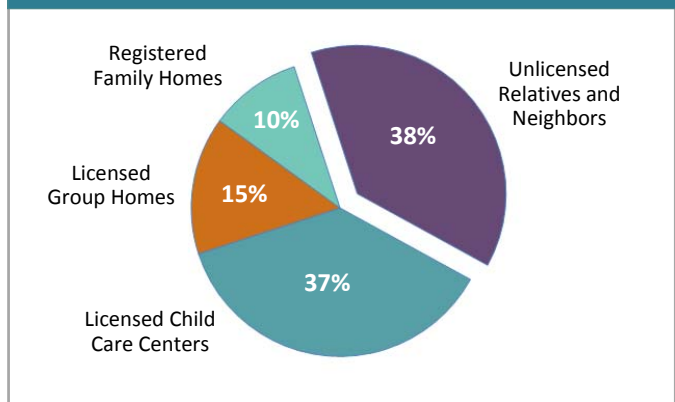
Michigan launched its child care rating system, known as Great Start to Quality, in 2011, but there is still much work to be done to increase the number of child care centers and homes that have high ratings and are thus eligible for higher payment rates. As of Aug. 1, 2014, **of the 9,963 programs/providers eligible to participate in Great Start to Quality statewide, 8,164 (82%) had met only basic licensing requirements.**

Inadequate state child care rates have forced many low-income families to seek out lower cost unlicensed care of unknown or poor quality. In response, state policy-makers—using both a carrot and stick approach—have sought to encourage greater parental reliance on licensed care, as well as improve the quality of unlicensed care. Payment rates for unlicensed child care providers were reduced as part of state budget cuts, but also as a reflection of the intention to focus state subsidy dollars on licensed care. Then, beginning in 2009, all unlicensed home providers were required to participate in a seven-hour orientation training before being able to receive a subsidy. When the training requirement was adopted, 65% of subsidized children were in the care of unlicensed providers; by 2012, only 38% were placed in unlicensed care.<sup>14</sup>

Unfortunately, there are no data showing whether the parents of children no longer in unsubsidized care were able to find higher quality child care in licensed homes or centers, and it is possible that grandparents or other relatives caring for young children simply dropped out of the subsidy system because they were unable to participate in the training, or chose not to because they anticipated only caring for children for a short period of time to help out a family member.

Between 2009 and 2012, overall licensed child care capacity in Michigan fell by nearly 5%, from 366,000 to 349,000. Child care center capacity remained flat, while the capacity of family and group child care homes fell by over 22%.

### Large Numbers of State Subsidized Children Cared for by Relatives and Neighbors (2012)



Source: Michigan Department of Education (March 5, 2013)  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

### Licensed Child Care Capacity in Michigan Down 2009-2012

	Family Homes	Group Homes	Centers	Total
<b>FY 2009</b>	34,645	34,706	296,604	365,955
<b>FY 2010</b>	32,840	30,932	297,042	360,814
<b>FY 2011</b>	29,387	28,755	296,700	354,842
<b>FY 2012</b>	26,886	26,799	295,233	348,918
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-22.4%</b>	<b>-22.8%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>

Source: Michigan Department of Human Services  
Prepared by Michigan League for Public Policy

## MICHIGAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY SUPERVISE LICENSED CARE TO ENSURE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

One area of consistent underfunding has been child care licensing. Michigan has a history of insufficient child care licensing inspectors to monitor child care providers' compliance with baseline health and safety guidelines. In May 2014, the state employed 68 child care licensing inspectors who were responsible for 10,397 child care facilities, resulting in a 1:153 caseload ratio—more than three times the recommended ration of 1:50.<sup>15</sup>

As a result, a recent unannounced site visit and audit of 20 licensed family and group child care homes that received CCDF funding in Michigan found that all 20 providers did not comply with one or more state licensing requirements related to health and safety of children, and half did not do required criminal record and protective services checks.<sup>16</sup>

Subsequent site visits to three child care centers found that the state failed to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements, with all three not completing required criminal record or protective services checks on employees. Included in the audit findings were a blocked fire exit, hazardous substances within the reach of children, a recalled safety crib, unsupervised toddlers, and one caregiver for eleven children in a mixed group including 3-year-olds—all violations of state licensing rules.

One of the primary recommendations of the federal auditors was that Michigan must ensure adequate oversight of child care homes by reducing licensing inspectors' caseloads, something the state responded was unlikely given current budget constraints.

## INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE BOOST THE ECONOMY AND CREATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORKERS

While access to affordable child care has become more limited in Michigan, the state has begun to address the quality of child care, and those efforts were recently bolstered with the new federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. Current initiatives to improve quality are critical, but face an uphill battle because the child care system is so grossly underfunded that it is difficult to attract and retain skilled providers, and high-

quality care is financially out of the reach of so many working families.

To ensure that children have the right start in life, and to give lower wage workers the opportunity to work and support their families, Michigan must increase its investments in child care—particularly for its youngest children. While significant investments are needed throughout the child care system, the following is an initial agenda for the state:

- **Increase child care payment rates with the goal of reaching the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rate.** Michigan's efforts to improve child care quality and get Michigan working will be inhibited if parents cannot afford safe, reliable and high-quality child care, and it is impossible to develop and retain a qualified child care workforce.
- **Increase funding for child care licensing consultants, with the goal of a 1:50 ratio, to ensure that children's basic health and safety are protected when in state subsidized child care.** Failing to invest in the basic safety and health of children who are in child care so their parents can work to support them is incomprehensible and unacceptable.
- **Provide child care payments on a daily or weekly basis, rather than hourly.** To ensure an adequate supply of stable child care, it is important to streamline the system and ensure that providers can project their income and stay in business.
- **Further increase the hours of care so that child care can be reimbursed while low-income parents**

*"Our goal must be to create a coherent system of health and early learning that aligns, integrates and coordinates Michigan investments from prenatal to third grade. This will help to assure Michigan has a vibrant economy, a ready workforce, a pool of people who demonstrate consistently high educational attainment, and a reputation as one of the best states in the country to raise a child."*

Governor Rick Snyder, April 2011  
Special Message on Education Reform

**work or participate in approved education and training.** While the increase in the upcoming year from 80 hours of reimbursable child care every two weeks to 90 is welcome, it is still too low. If a cap is continued, it should not fall below 100 hours bi-weekly because it is a disincentive for low-income parents trying to juggle child care with full-time jobs or training activities, and doesn't recognize both a 40-hour work week and the time required to travel to a child care setting and work, particularly for parents who are working multiple jobs to make ends meet.

- **Expand eligibility for the Great Start Readiness Program to provide a high-quality early learning experience for the state's low-income 3-year-olds, beginning on a pilot basis.** There is evidence that the lowest income children with the most risk factors do best when they have two years of early childhood education that is adapted to their developmental levels. Of the 40 states that have state-funded preschool programs, only 14, including Michigan, do not enroll 3-year-olds.
- **Strengthen Michigan's tax system to support the work efforts of families earning lower wages and increase the quality of child care.** In 2011,

Michigan increased taxes on working families as a way to fund reductions in business taxes. Included was a 70% cut in the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit which reduced the tax credit for a single mom raising two children and working full-time at minimum wage (\$7.40/hour) from \$1,074 to only \$322—funds that could be used to purchase higher quality child care or transportation to and from work. The EITC is a proven tool for supporting working families, and has been shown to have long-lasting positive effects on children, including success in school.

Michigan should also adopt child care tax credits that could help increase access to care and improve quality. One model is the Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credit, which was adopted in 2007, and provides refundable tax credits to: (1) low-income parents who purchase higher quality care for their children while they work to support their families; (2) child care providers based on their level of quality and the number of state-subsidized children they serve; (3) child care teachers and directors in programs that participate in the state's child care rating system; and (4) businesses that invest in high quality child care.

## ENDNOTES

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2. *Child Development and Care*, presentation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education by Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Michigan Department of Education (March 5, 2013).
3. Ibid.
4. *Michigan Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding*, Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start (Oct. 11, 2013).
5. History of GSRP Funding, Michigan Department of Education at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Funding\\_History\\_317203\\_7.pdf?20140818143632](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Funding_History_317203_7.pdf?20140818143632)
6. *Michigan Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding*, op. cit.
7. Ibid.
8. Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder.
9. *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care*, 2013 Report, Child Care Aware of America (2013).
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12. *State Child Care Assistance Policies: Michigan*, National Women's Law Center (October 2012).
13. Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *Downward Slide: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012*, National Women's Law Center.
14. *Michigan Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding*, op. cit.
15. Letter from Michael P. Flanagan, State Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education, and Maura D. Corrigan, Director, Michigan Department of Human Services to Sheri L. Fulcher, Regional Inspector General for Audit Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services, Region V (May 28, 2014).
16. G. L. Jarmon, *Some Michigan Child Care Home Providers Did Not Always Comply With State Health and Safety Licensing Requirements*, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services (July 2014).