

# The Availability of Early Care and Education Programs in Michigan is Very Limited

There are not enough early care and education slots available for Michigan children.

Finding available early care and education slots across the state of Michigan is difficult.

Even though the state has over **8,000** licensed providers



Those businesses can serve fewer than half



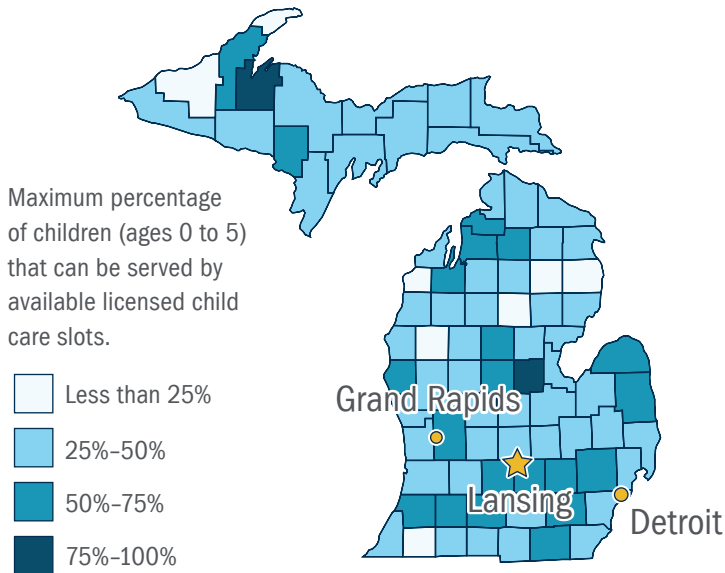
of the families that may need early care and education slots across the state.



Finding early care and education programs is especially difficult for **families of infants and toddlers; families working during non-school hours; or families living in rural and/or lower income communities.**



## Availability of Early Care and Education Programs **Varies by Where You Live** in Michigan



The availability of preschool-specific programs is also limited, specifically income-based preschool programs.

State funded **Great Start to Readiness Programs** or federally funded **Head Start programs** can serve only half of the income-eligible 4-year-old children in Michigan. As a result, many families are put on waitlists.



The **COVID-19 pandemic** has caused both temporary and permanent closures of many early care and education businesses across the state. As a result, Michigan families are facing an even greater challenge finding early care and education programs for their children.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

Despite these challenges, **Michigan is working hard to meet the needs of families.** You can find out more about all kinds of programs for families with young children on the [MI Kids Matter website](#).

**Interested in applying for early care and education cost assistance?** Check out the MI Bridges website to fill out the [application](#). The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) also has a [frequently asked questions](#) webpage you can review.

**Looking for an early care and education program for your child?** Check out the [Great Start to Quality ratings](#) to find a high-quality provider near you.

For more information about Michigan's PDG efforts, please contact Dr. Joy Milano at [milanoJ@michigan.gov](mailto:milanoJ@michigan.gov).

For more information about the Needs Assessment, please contact Dr. Ann-Marie Faria at [afaria@air.org](mailto:afaria@air.org).



**WE WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!**

We want to know if we missed something. What else should we know about the affordability of early care and education programs? **Fill out this survey** to tell us and MDE/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services what you need.

[TAKE THE SURVEY >](#)