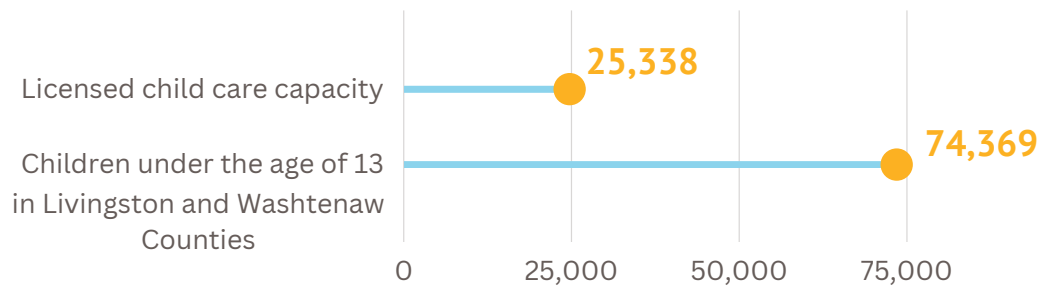


Child Care Challenges Facing Providers in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties

Economic development officials, child care providers, and other community members in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties have joined forces to better understand the barriers facing child care staff and providers in the region. **The information presented below details findings from secondary research and a survey completed by 250 owners and staff of child care providers during summer 2023.**

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY

There is a large gap between the number of children in the region and the number of licensed slots available.

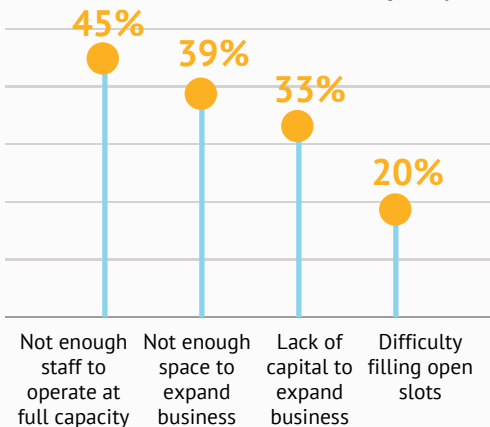


Availability and Enrollment

This gap is wider than it seems because not all licensed slots are actually available.

22% Of survey respondents' licensed slots are *not currently available*

Reported Challenges with Enrollment and Capacity



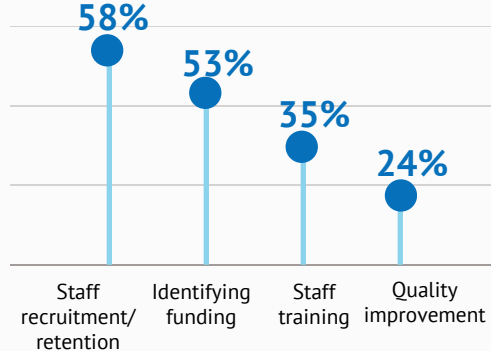
Needs of Child Care Providers as Businesses

The gap could potentially grow as child care providers struggle to operate as businesses.

64% Of survey respondents are concerned with *keeping business afloat*

38% Would *consider closing* without additional resources or supports

Reported Needs of Business Owners



Provider Willingness to Expand Capacity

If adequately resourced, existing providers would expand the number of slots they offer.

78% Of survey respondents would expand at *their current location or a new location*

Top Barriers Preventing Expansion

1. Lack of additional staff
2. Limited capital to expand current space or find new space
3. Need for business planning assistance



Child Care Challenges Facing Providers in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties

STAFFING CHALLENGES

The number of licensed child care slots needs to increase to be able to provide affordable and accessible care to families in our community. However, there is currently an estimated **17 percent shortage in child care workers necessary to staff even the current situation.**

Wages

Number one factor that could lead to staff leaving field, according to survey respondents.



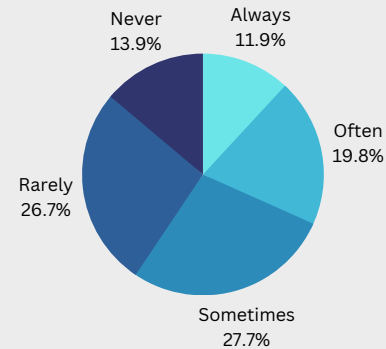
71%

Of surveyed staff reported often or sometimes *struggling to make ends meet*

Burnout

Number two factor that could lead to staff leaving field, according to survey respondents.

Percentage of Survey Respondents Working More Hours Than Scheduled



Child care turnover rate by occupation

	Livingston	Washtenaw
Preschool teachers	56%	56%
Teaching assistants	46%	46%
Child care workers	88%	84%
Administrators	31%	26%

Staff capacity is already limiting the number of slots available to serve families AND is preventing the expansion of additional seats. According to our survey, **over a quarter of workers are considering leaving the field in the next year.** This many workers withdrawing from the workforce will worsen the current situation by further reducing capacity, amplifying challenges facing owners, and increasing burnout among remaining workers.

