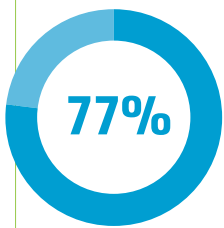


North Carolinians see a child care crisis—and it is hurting the state's economy.

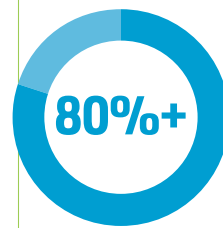
A recent statewide survey of North Carolina voters commissioned by the NC Chamber Foundation shows North Carolinians are experiencing a child care crisis that is hurting families and making it hard for businesses to hire employees and grow. With federal child care stabilization funding ending this year, the crisis is likely to worsen.

Lack of quality, affordable child care is causing parents to leave the workforce or turn down opportunities – exacerbating the state's labor shortage and threatening business and economic growth.

In every part of North Carolina and across political affiliation, voters want the state to act, including increasing state funding, so more families have access to affordable, quality child care.



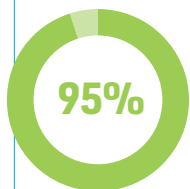
77% of North Carolina voters believe that the lack of quality, affordable child care is a serious problem. Only the cost of housing and crime are higher.



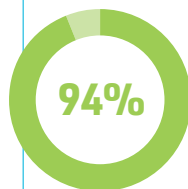
80%+ agree that North Carolina should invest in solutions to help with the lack of child care.

North Carolinians clearly see a link between child care and the economy.

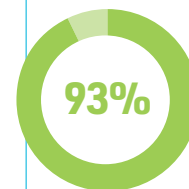
79% agree that quality, affordable child care is important to strengthen the economy and help workers provide for their families.



95% say that quality child care programs help ensure workers are able to go to work reliably.



94% say that quality child care programs help children develop important social skills, such as self-confidence, self-discipline, and the ability to work well with others.



93% agree that quality child care programs help children have academic success in school.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **North Carolina has a severe worker shortage** with **62 available workers for every 100 open jobs.**¹



¹ Cates, L., & Ferguson, S. (2023, March 28). Understanding America's Labor Shortage: The Most Impacted States. Retrieved April 28 2023, from <https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/the-states-suffering-most-from-the-labor-shortage>

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN FIVE AND UNDER

26% left the workforce because they couldn't find affordable child care.

26%

60% had to miss work because of a problem with child care.

60%

37% refused a job opportunity, promotion, or job change because it would increase child care expenses.

37%

32% did not pursue job training or continuing education because of a lack of affordable child care.

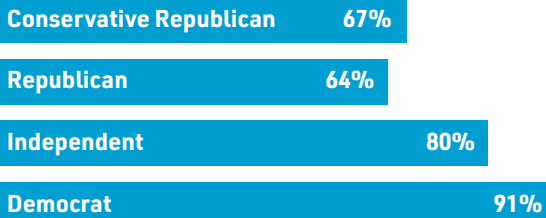
32%

North Carolinians want the state to act.

87% say taking action to ensure more working families have access to affordable, quality child care should be an important priority for North Carolina this year.

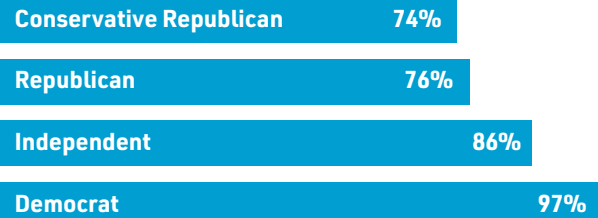
79%

support increasing state funding to provide more working families with access to affordable, quality child care.



86%

say that improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for families is a good investment of taxpayers' money.



89%

say that low wages for child care teachers and workers is a serious problem.

Of that number, **66%** believe it is extremely or very serious.

Affordable, quality child care supports working parents on the job, allows businesses to recruit and retain talent, and helps North Carolina's future workforce develop skills for success in school and life.