**Child Care Capacity and Accessibility**

**CCAO Operating Budget Requests:**

* Support the Executive Budget proposal to increase statutory eligibility for publicly funded child care to 160% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The current statutory threshold is 145% of the FPL.
* Support the Executive Budget proposal to continue the Child Care Choice Voucher program, which provides publicly funded child care to families between 161% and 200% of the FPL. For a family of three, this is $51,648 annual income. For a family of four, it is $62,400 annual income.

**Talking Points (Personalize for your county when applicable):**

* Child care is a crucial workforce support for our communities, and not having access to affordable care is a barrier to work for many parents.
* A recent survey found that 61% of Ohio mothers with children five and younger who do not currently work full time say they would return to the workforce if they had access to high-quality, affordable child care. 49% of parents say they have cut back their work hours to care for their children.
* Share your experiences in your county, whether it is trouble accessing providers, long wait lists, or positive stories about constituents finding child care and returning to the workforce, or helping a new provider open in your county.
* CCAO supports state investment in increasing capacity throughout the state.