

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

2022

2023



Tri-County Head Start

INTRODUCTION

Tri-County Council for Child Development, Inc (TCCCD) operates the Tri-County Head Start(TCHS) grant. Head Start grantees are required to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment every 5 years, corresponding with their grant cycle, and updated annually. The purpose of the assessment is to collect related data to the needs and resources available to Head Start eligible children and families. The community needs assessment is also used to inform the Head Start planning process. Utilizing data to improve services for eligible children and families.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following key findings and recommendations were discovered during the analysis of the collected data.

- Childcare Workforce Crisis - TCHS will continue to work towards solutions to raise wages and broaden the early childhood education (ECE) workforce.
- Expansion of State-Funded PreK - TCHS will start to prioritize the underserved 0-3 population as state funded slots for 4 year-olds have tremendously grown. However, the need for quality care that meets a families working schedule has grown and TCHS will look for ways to meet that additional need.
- Data shows that families are not using community resources, using that data we will increase social connection and support through family committee meetings and education.

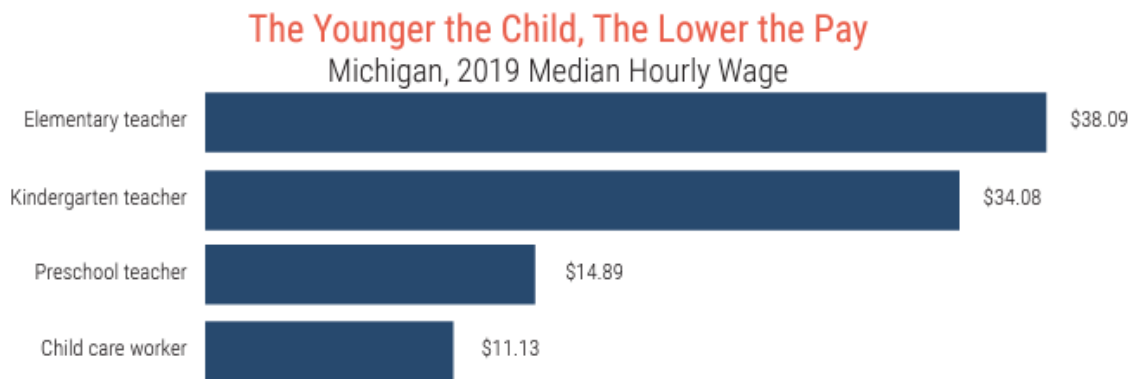
POPULATION STATISTICS

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CHILD POPULATION BIRTH-5 (CHANGE SINCE 2010)	10,280 (-10.9%)	2,997 (-17.1%)	5,397 (-8.5%)
CHILDREN IN POVERTY AGES 0-17	22.1%	16.1%	18%
CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START BASED ON POVERTY	2,271	482	971
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	776	275	433
AVERAGE COST OF FULL TIME CHILDCARE PER MONTH	\$905	\$905	\$905
RECEIVED LESS THAN ADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE	42.5%	49.3%	33.9%
CHILDREN IN INVESTIGATES FAMILIES	36.9%	37.7%	30.5%

Birth rates in all three counties continue to decline, and slots for state-funded PreK for 4 year-olds continue to grow. This shows that TCHS needs to pivot our program to meet the unmet need for childcare for 0-3 year-olds, and the unmet need for care outside of school hours.

CHILDCARE WORK FORCE CRISIS

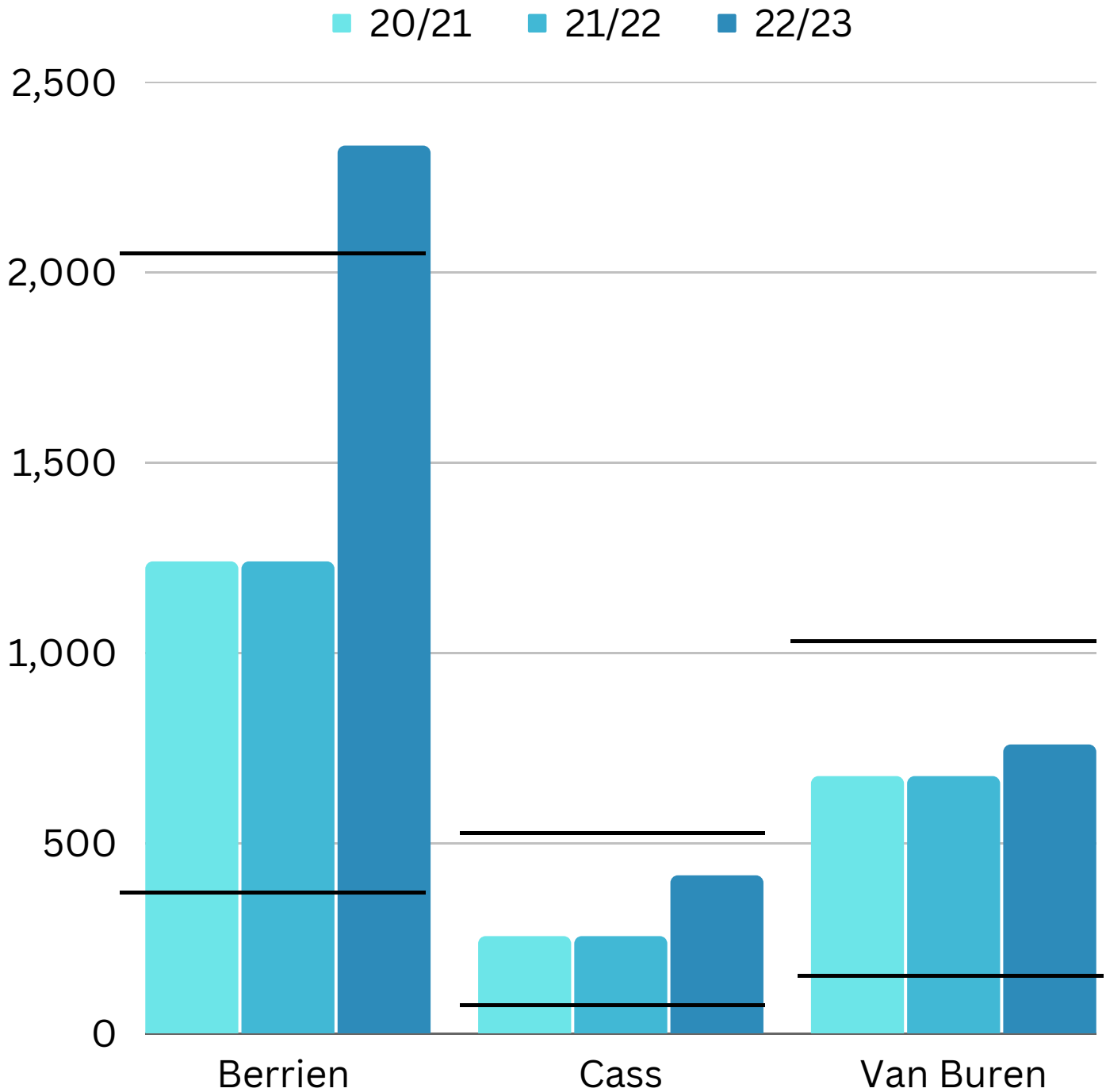
The child care system nation-wide is in crisis. Historically low wages, higher requirements, and challenging work are driving staff with a passion for early childhood for K-12 teaching opportunities.



Source: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley

- Currently TCHS has 224 positions, with 56 of them being unfilled
- Nationally the medium wage for a childcare worker is \$11.13/h, while fast food and retail are starting at \$15/h.
- Michigan Early Educators with a bachelors degree are paid 21.5% less than their colleagues in the k-8 system.
- Low wages have caused a turnover rate of 25-30% in ECE effecting the quality of care for infants and toddlers. TCHS turnover rates fall much below that at 16.9%.

EXPANSION OF STATE FUNDED PREK



Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) allocated slots by county and year

The top black line represents the estimated number of four year olds in each county, and the bottom the number of those children living in poverty. With the expansion of GSRP, we need to shift our focus on ages 0-3, and offering parents care that lines up with their Monday-Friday schedule and working hours

FAMILY RESOURCE

Tri-County Head Start offers a variety of resources at no cost to families, as well as connections to local resources. TCHS also hosts engagement, teaching, and training events for the community. Since the pandemic, there has been a drop of people utilizing not only our resources, but the resources available throughout their communities.

	BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR	END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES UTILIZING WIC	325	328
THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES UTILIZING SNAP	236	231

As an example, almost all of our families would qualify for WIC assistance, yet only 51% of them are using the program.

Since the start of the COVID pandemic, we have seen a decrease in families attending events held by TCHS and events in the community. A whole new generation of children were born within the last three years, whose families are unaware of the resources available in their community. We hope to get parents more involved by informing them of the different services available and holding TCHS events at times more suited to our families' availability.

RESOURCES

Michigan Early Childhood Workforce Index

<https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/states/michigan/>

Confronting Michigan's Early Childhood Workforce Crisis

<https://mlpp.org/confronting-michigans-early-childhood-workforce-crisis/>

Kids Count Michigan

<https://mlpp.org/kids-count/>



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