

# Ohio Knows Quality Matters.....

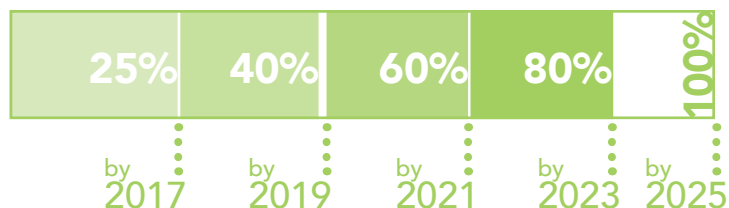
Groundwork  
OHIO



In 2005, Ohio established the Step Up to Quality Program (SUTQ) with the goal of increasing access to high-quality programs as part of Ohio's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.

In SUTQ, early care and education programs earn 1- to 5-Star ratings based on meeting nationally researched quality program standards administered by ODJFS.

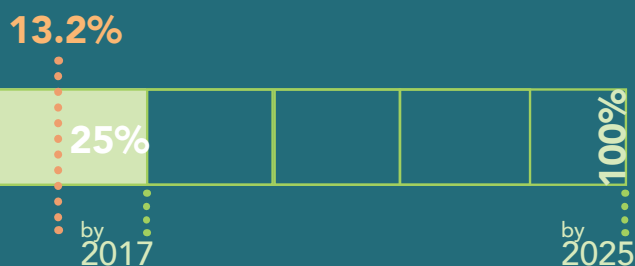
As part of the Grant, the state set statutory goals that mandated 100% of licensed child care providers be high-quality rated (3 to 5 stars) by 2025 with the following threshold benchmarks as of June 30:



To ensure adequate progress towards these benchmarks, all programs are required to be rated by 2020.

....But, access to high-quality early childhood education in Ohio is lacking.

In FY 2016, we are far off the statutory benchmark of 25% by this June.



Only 35% of all programs serving publicly funded children are even rated at all.

There are also racial disparity concerns.

Among the children currently receiving publicly funded child care (PFCC):

**17% of white** PFCC children are in high-quality programs. Only **11% of black** children are.

**70% of black** PFCC children remain in unrated programs compared to **57% of white** children.

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# How Do We Achieve Quality in Ohio?

We need to fix the fact that 38 Ohio counties—over 1/3 of our state—are in the incorrect peer group to the state's advantage.

These 38 counties are being paid less than their similar counterparts, which makes it much more difficult for them to make up any ground in improving access to quality. Funding quality in Ohio cannot be achieved without addressing this significant gap first.

If this accounting injustice is fixed, children in these 38 counties will have the funds they deserve to increase their access to high-quality early childhood education programming.

## Correct funding levels support:

- Enriching curriculum aligned with standards
- Highly-educated teachers
- Lower teacher-to-student ratios
- Consistent communication & engagement with families

**102,421**  
**CHILDREN**

are served in Ohio by publicly funded early childhood education programs.

**39,711 (38.8%)** of these children are served in the 38 counties impacted by the accounting injustice that exists.

**13,840** children of this 39,711 are in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) star-rated programs ranging from 1 to 5 stars with the remainder being served by unrated programs.



**The cost to fix the rate injustice for these 13,840 kids is \$11 million in both FY18 and FY19.**

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