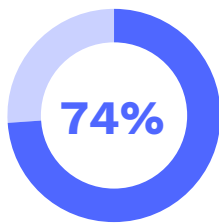


Small Businesses Overwhelmingly Support Federal Investments in Child Care



A national poll commissioned by the First Five Years Fund (FFYF) and conducted by the bipartisan polling team of Hart Research and New Bridge Strategy during the week following the 2022 midterm elections reveals that a strong majority of small business owners across the political spectrum support increasing federal funding for child care and early learning. **The study demonstrates clearly that the national shortage of affordable child care programs is doing significant harm to businesses' bottom lines, and the U.S. economy broadly.**

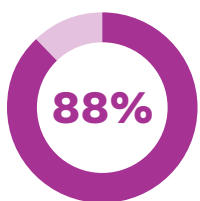
A strong majority of small business owners think that access to high-quality, affordable child care is essential or important to strengthening the economy and helping workers.



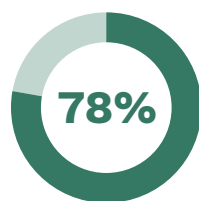
of small business owners believe that federal funding for child care and early learning programs should be increased in order to lower the cost of these programs and make them more affordable.



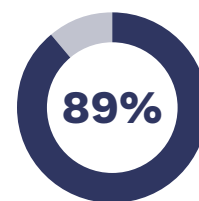
Access to Child Care Would Help Small Businesses



of business owners agree that employees who have young children will be more likely to remain in the workforce if they have access to affordable, high-quality child care.



of business owners agree that their business would be on stronger footing if employees had better access to affordable, high-quality child care.



of business owners agree that employees who have young children will be better able to do their jobs if they have access to affordable, high-quality child care.

Small business owners want Congress to act quickly to ensure quality child care is affordable for families who need it, and they support proposals under consideration on Capitol Hill.

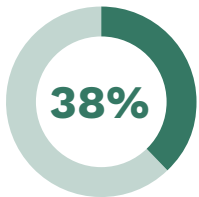
84% of small business owners support a proposal which would expand funding to states to increase child care options for working parents. Including:

84% of small business owners say it would be acceptable if a proposal which expands funding to states to increase child care options increased the federal deficit in the short run if it paid for itself in the long run by improving children's education, health, and economic situations.

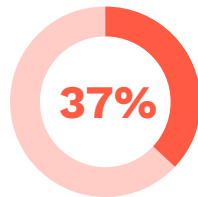


1 in 3 small businesses has dealt with multiple child care-rooted workforce problems in the past 12 months

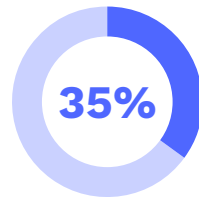
Small business owners have faced the following challenges specifically because of a shortage of affordable, reliable child care:



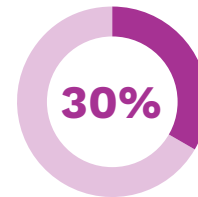
of small business owners said reliability of workers - such as showing up for shifts and being on time - has been made more challenging.



of small business owners said recruitment and retention of qualified workers has been made more challenging.



of small business owners said keeping workers focused and engaged has been made more challenging.



of small business owners said expanding and growing their businesses has been made more challenging.

Small business owners agree that the child care status quo does not work. 83% say that half or fewer of the child care programs in their area are both affordable and high quality, including majorities who say that less than half meet these criteria.

Methodology:

309 owners of small businesses, defined as those with between three and 499 employees. Audience is 63% male and +10 Republican in partisanship