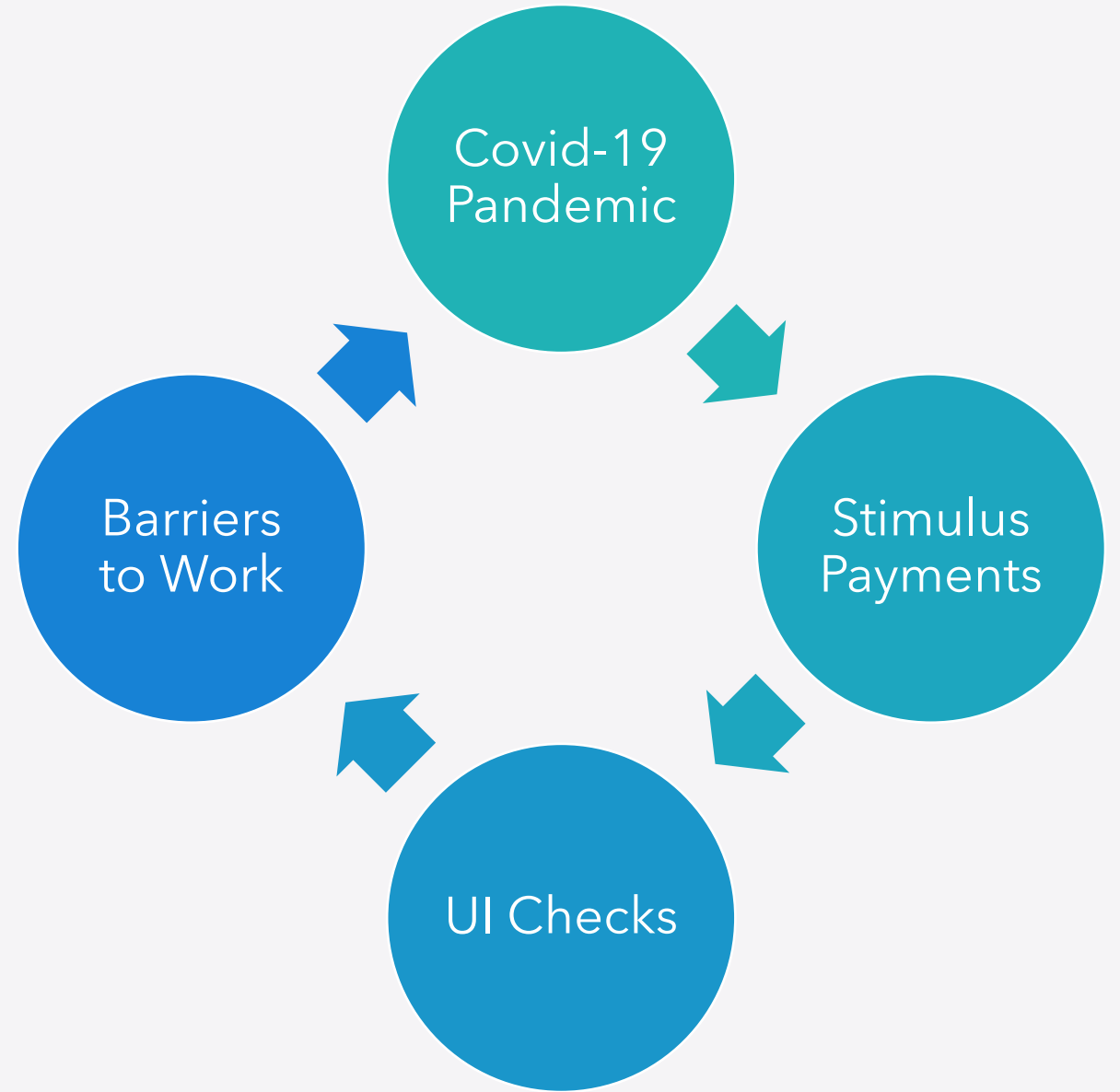




Southern State Approaches to Mitigating the Childcare Crisis: Kentucky Edition

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Chairwoman of House Families and Children

How did I get here?



2022 Regular Session (KYGA)

- SCR 142 (22 RS) D. Carroll
 - Create the Early Childhood Education Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of the early childhood caregiving and educational structures and operations in the Commonwealth; outline task force membership; require the task force to meet monthly during the 2022 interim; and require the task force to submit findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2022.
- HB 499 (22 RS) S. Heavrin
 - The Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership is a workforce development program that allows employers to partner with the state to help reduce the out-of-pocket child care costs for working families, especially low-to-moderate income families who don't qualify for other forms of support.



2022 Interim (KYGA)

- Early Childhood Education Task Force
 - Findings
 - Recommendations

2023 Regular Session (KYGA)

- HB 165 (23 RS) N. Wilson
 - Required the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to report to the LRC regarding the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership Program starting on December 15, 2023
 - Allowed a child-care provider to terminate an active contract created pursuant to the program.



2024 Regular Session (KYGA)

- HB 561 (24 RS) S. Heavrin
 - Instructs the Cabinet for Economic Development to work with the Area Development Districts to create and implement the Certified Child Care Community Designation Program
 - Removes the pilot program designation of the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership;
 - Establishes a new requirement on the Cabinet for Economic Development to develop and implement strategies and programs to promote awareness of the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership.

2024 Regular Session (KYGA)

- HB 179 (24 RS) S. Heavrin
 - NCOIL (National Council of Insurance Legislators) Model Legislation
 - Legislation was needed authorize the sale of paid family leave insurance. Insurers can only offer products that the Department of Insurance is allowed by statute to authorize.
 - Voluntary paid family leave insurance is an insurance product that employers may voluntarily purchase to provide paid family leave benefits to their employees.
 - This is a market-driven policy proposal that includes NO mandates on employers, workers, or families.



2024 Regular Session Budget: Child Care Funding- \$60 million/annually

- Maintain higher reimbursements for child care providers serving low-income families
- Continue allowing child care teachers to receive free child care - which is critical for supporting the child care workforce
- Continue the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership
- Help low-income families receiving child car subsidies to overcome the “benefits cliff”
- Early childhood development scholarships
- New Innovations in Early Childhood to support initiatives like on-site employer-based child care



Honorable Mentions

- Family Child Care Start-Up Grant Program
- CCAP Eligibility for Child Care Workers
- Early Childhood Education Scholarships
- Increased the income eligibility threshold for CCAP to 85% SMI by using existing funding to maintain the threshold

Future Thoughts for Kentucky

- Regional Studies/Task Force Options
- On-site child care centers at industrial parks
- Removing school district barriers for child care
- STARS Program Evaluation
- Entrepreneurial Moms
- Ratios
- After-school programs



Policy Discussions Moving Forward

- Child care vs. Early Childhood Education
- What is government's role in child care?
- What exactly does the child care industry need?
- Child care vs. Universal Pre-K
- State Policy vs. Federal Policy



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