



LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

HEIDI MARGULIS
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Position Statement: Local Child Care Land Development Code Reform

The Louisville Metro Board of Health supports proposed changes to the Land Development Code which aim to improve equity and access to affordable, quality childcare in Louisville including increasing the number of children which a family childcare home can serve in residential and industrial zones.

Access to quality, affordable childcare was limited prior to the pandemic and Louisville has lost 9% of its providers since March 2020. Access is also inequitable, with predominately white areas having greater availability.

Studies show that children who attend a high-quality childcare are better prepared to thrive in Kindergarten. Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) recently published a [Health Impact Assessment](#) (HIA) which states that early childhood education and care “can help promote health equity by reducing disparities in early language development, particularly for children that come from economically disadvantaged households”. By increasing the number of children served by family childcare homes in the areas where people live and work, Louisville will be providing opportunities for lifetime success to more children.

Across the country, lack of access to affordable, high-quality childcare has widely been cited as a major factor in women leaving the workforce. Workforce participation by Kentucky women has dropped from 58% in 2000 to 51% in 2020. The LMPHW HIA referenced above surveyed families and found that during the pandemic, 78% of respondents felt some level of stress around their childcare arrangements and that 46% of respondents reported that someone in their family had to “quit a job, not take a job, or significantly modify a job” because of childcare problems. By increasing access to childcare, Louisville will enable more women to participate in the workforce, supporting both their families and our local economy.

In addition to supporting changes to the Land Development Code which aim to improve equity and access to affordable, quality childcare, The Board of Health encourages all levels of government to invest in the continued success of childcare providers. Investments in incentives, business supports and infrastructure will enable providers to continue to provide quality care into the future.

Heidi Margulis
Chair, Louisville Metro Board of Health