



REGION 47 SNAPSHOT INFOGRAPHIC

Using a Collective Impact Model, between September 2022 and June 2023, we led our Action and Family Councils through data discussions to identify gaps and needs for children and families.

We coordinated focus groups, interviews, and surveys to gather input from community members across the Region.



8,878

Children Under the Age of 6 in Region 47



3,455

Children 0-5 at 200% Federal Poverty Level



2,168

Children 0-5 Without Publicly Funded ECEC Slots

32%

Percentage of children ages birth to five who have a slot at a licensed child care center or home

“It all comes back to the workforce. Without an Early Childhood workforce, we cannot expand the programming that families need. The Early Childhood workforce shortage is not only about the low pay, but respect, education, and support play a huge role.” - Action Council Member, Lee County

After identifying the most common and pressing Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) needs of their communities, Regional Councils made recommendations for how best to meet them.

REGION 47 NEEDS

1. Increased ECEC program slots, prioritizing children ages 0-3.
2. Increased affordable, quality child care or extended-day programs.
3. Increased awareness and education on the importance and availability of ECEC programs.
4. A well-developed and supported ECEC workforce.
5. Prioritization of parent/caregiver partnerships and support services.

REGION 47 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Allocate non-competitive grant funding and infrastructure support tailored to meet the community's needs.
2. Revised CCAP policies that work for all families and providers.
3. Create a modern, simplified regional resource guide for caregivers.
4. Provide funding for competitive wages and a higher education pipeline for future employees.
5. Fund and support systems focused on priority populations.



“Our first day care was not a good experience. We didn’t know what to do. I actually quit my job because there were no other options.” - Parent, Ogle County