



**Child care:**

**Increasingly vital to our workforce & economy**

*Presentation for the Joliet Chamber of Commerce – Aug. 5, 2020*

# A matter of urgency for families, employers

The  
Washington  
Post

Economy

The big factor holding back the U.S.  
economic recovery: Child care

**Some parents may be pushed out of the  
workforce due to lack of child care**

**PBS**  
**NEWS**  
**HOUR**

**'This is not working.' Parents  
juggling jobs and child care under  
COVID-19 see no good solutions**

# Who is ReadyNation?

- **Growing national network:**  
**2,700+ business leaders**  
**(about 275 in Illinois)**
- **Nonpartisan, nonprofit,**  
**no government funding**  
**& no programs/services**
  - **Goals:**  
**Better-skilled workforce,**  
**stronger economy**



# Workplace concerns: Both “hard” and “soft” skills

## National survey of 300+ execs:



- **62%** report difficulty finding candidates with strong “character skills”
- Yet **88%** see **increasing need** for those abilities in the workforce
- And **89%** support public investments in early childhood programs to help kids acquire these skills

# Classroom concerns: A similar deficit of skills

## 2018 overview of Illinois kindergartners found:

- **Only 53%** were ready for school in social-emotional development
- **46%** in language & literacy
- **33%** in math skills



# In Joliet classrooms: Similar concerns

## Among School District 86 kindergartners:

- **Only 44%** were ready for school in social-emotional development
- **24%** in language & literacy
- **14%** in math skills



# Connecting the dots



“If not addressed and resolved, these **school-readiness issues** can easily turn into **workforce-readiness issues** that – down the road – are very literally **bad for business.**”

**Jeff Griffin, President**  
*Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce,*  
*at release of “Build a Better Workforce” report,*  
*2019 – see <http://bit.ly/BetterWorkforce>*

# Long-standing child care challenges

## Issues include:

- **Costs to families** – average 10.6% of families' earnings; even higher for households of color
- **Quality, stability** – including low teacher pay, high staff turnover
- **Availability** – e.g. off-hours care, geographic “deserts” lacking care

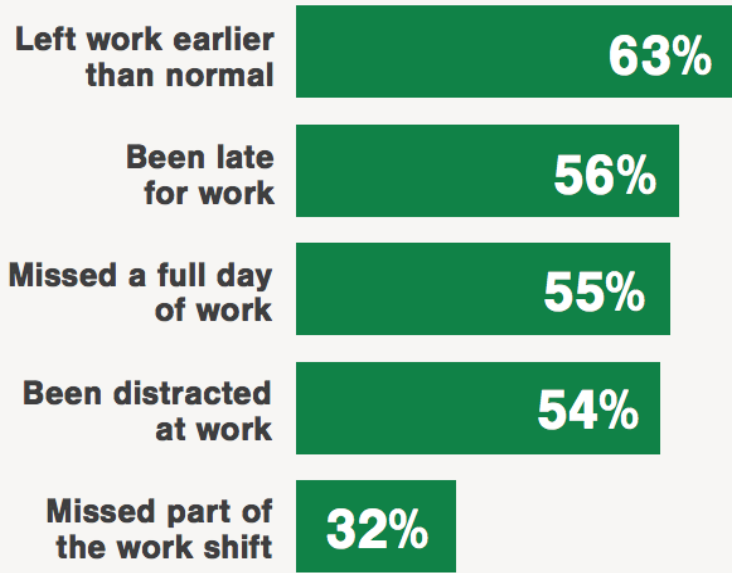




# Dire effects on workers & employers

## Time and effort at work

As a result of child care problems have you ever:



Source: ReadyNation national survey and report (2019)

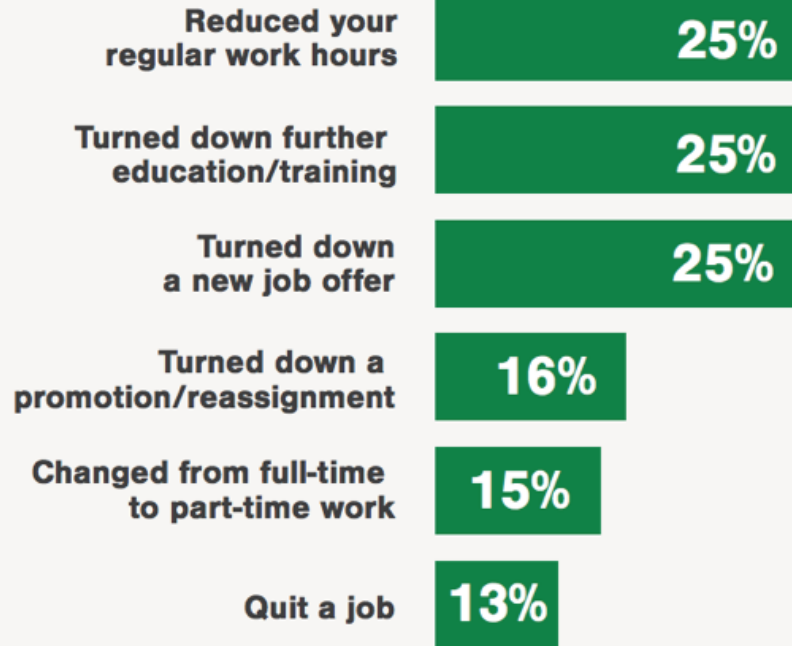
*Results of national survey of 800+ working parents of infants & toddlers*

# Dire effects on workers & employers

*Further results  
of national  
survey of  
working parents  
of infants & toddlers*

## Career pathways

As a result of child care problems have you ever:



Source: ReadyNation national survey and report (2019)

# A significant drain on our nation's economy

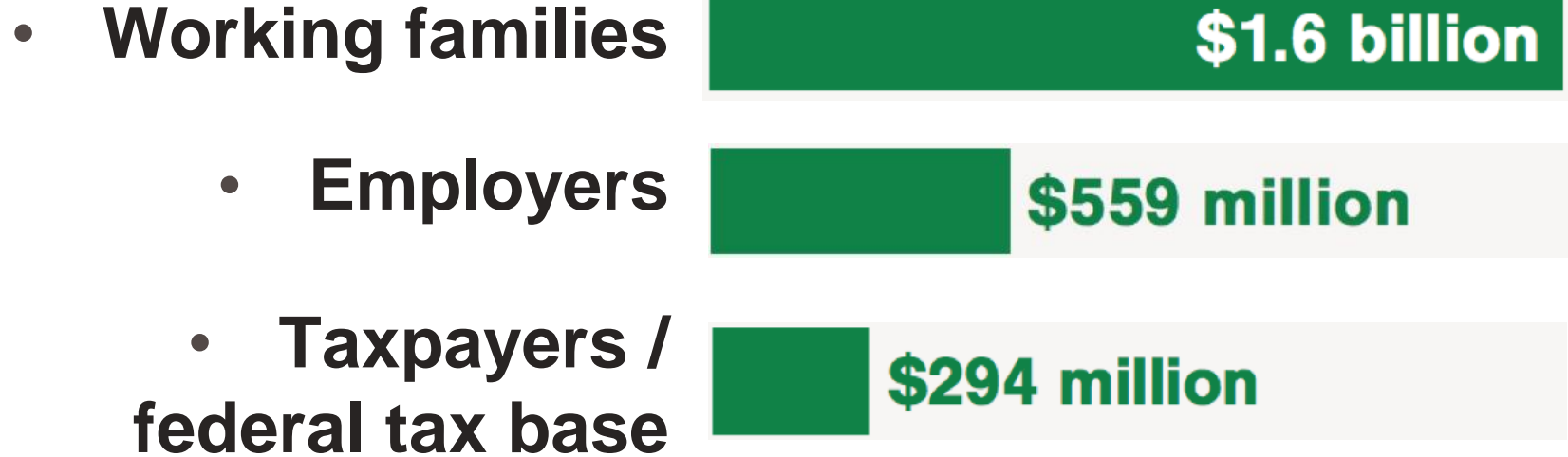
A photograph showing a man in a dark suit and tie leaning into a car seat to interact with a baby. The baby is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and has a pacifier in their mouth. The man's hands are visible, one near the baby's hand and the other near a sippy cup. The background shows the interior of a car with light-colored leather seats.

**\$57 billion**  
the annual cost  
of the US child  
care crisis

- **Costs specific to** infant/toddler care, alone!
- **Two-thirds** of these costs affect working parents directly
- **Nearly a quarter** are costs to employers: absenteeism, rehiring, lost productivity

# Annual blow to Illinois: \$2.4 billion in losses

## Breakdown of costs to:



See “Strengthen Child Care, Grow Illinois’ Economy” report at <http://bit.ly/ILChildCareCrisis>

# The pandemic is sharpening our challenges

## How child care problems adversely affect the economy

Individual Parents	Businesses	Taxpayers
<p>Lost earnings now from lower productivity and less work experience</p> <p>Extra costs of job search for alternative work and child care arrangements</p> <p>Lost earnings in the future from lower productivity, less work experience, and lower skills upgrading</p>	<p>Lost revenues now from lower output</p> <p>Extra costs to rehire quits and cover absenteeism</p> <p>Extra costs to manage disrupted workers</p> <p>Lost revenues in the future from lower output</p>	<p>Lost tax revenue now from lower GDP</p> <p>Lost sales and consumption tax revenue</p> <p>Lost tax revenue in the future</p>

# What can business leaders do? Help connect the dots



**Keith Krutz, President**  
*IMS Buhrke-Olson*  
*manufacturing,*  
*Arlington Heights*

“There’s a ‘domino effect’ when **working parents lose their child care** help: Many must take time from work to seek other arrangements, and their **employers incur extra expenses** to fill in the blanks.

“The costs of **workforce absenteeism** quickly add-up, for everybody.”



# What can business leaders do? Help connect the dots



**effingham**  
**RADIO** .COM

## Effingham County Chamber of Commerce President Stresses Importance of Investment in Early-Childhood Education

Effingham, IL / Effingham Radio  
Samantha Letumo  
April 09, 2017 12:00 pm



During a recent visit to the state, Effingham Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Norma Lansing, emphasized the importance of continuing to restore funding for supported preschools.

Since 2010, early childhood education in Effingham County has been suffering from cuts in State funding. Lansing commented on the effects of the cuts to that of losing funding in the area. However, state leaders are working to restore funding to preschool around the state. Lansing, a member of ReadyNation, is applauding these leadership efforts.

*Norma Lansing, President & CEO of the Effingham Chamber of Commerce*

# What can business leaders do? Help connect the dots

## ReadyNation participation

- Keeps business execs **in the loop** of issues, info
- Carries **no costs**
- And **no obligations**



Barriers to child care are, too often, barriers to working parents' full and productive employment.”



**Joni Duncan**

Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



# Restoration grants & PPE help for providers

**Child Care Restoration Grants:** \$270 million for licensed providers with reduced capacity and experiencing business interruption:

- Application info: <https://tinyurl.com/ILGrantApp>
- Background: <https://tinyurl.com/ILGrantBkgnd>

**Note: Aug. 14 application deadline**

**Info on ordering Personal Protective Equipment** for child care providers (only pay shipping): <https://tinyurl.com/ILPPEhelp>

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Illinois State Director**  
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**[facebook.com/ReadyNationIL](https://facebook.com/ReadyNationIL)**

