



2025 OHIO CHILD CARE POLICY SUMMIT AGENDA:

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025

Ohio Chamber of Commerce – 34 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

9:00 AM **Registration & Coffee**

9:30 AM **Conference Welcome**

Rick Carfagna, SVP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

9:35 AM Opening Keynote

Unveiling the “Untapped Potential: Ohio” Economic Report

- A debriefing by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation on a study to assess the direct financial impact of insufficient child care coverage on Ohio’s economy.

Presentation:

- Aaron Merchen, Senior Director, Policy & Programs, Early Childhood Education, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Sasha Nicholas, Associate Manager, Programs, Early Childhood Education, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Callie Kennel, Principal, Cicero Group

10:20 AM Break

10:30 AM ***Early Childhood Workers: Developing the Workforce Behind the Workforce***

Moderator: Lynanne Gutierrez, President & CEO, Groundwork Ohio

- Dr. Chris Angellatta, CEO, Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association
- Dr. Tatiana Wells, Program Director, Early Childhood & Teacher Education, Cuyahoga Community College
- David Smith, Executive Director, Horizon Education Centers

11:15 AM ***Business Engagement Strategies for Childcare: Money Hiding in Plain Sight***



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Moderator: Justin Barnes, VP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

12:00 PM

Break/Grab Lunches

12:15 PM

Lunch Panel

Update on State Budget and Legislative Activity

- State Representative Andrea White
- State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney
- State Representative Mark Johnson

1:00 PM

Keynote Speaker/Fireside Chat

- Kara Wentz, Director, Ohio Department of Children & Youth
- Rick Carfagna, SVP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

1:30 PM

Closing Remarks