



Local Action for National Day Without Childcare

May 11, 2026

What is A Day Without Childcare?

This is a national initiative aimed at recognizing the vital role of childcare in supporting families, employers, and the economy. In 2025, over 1,300 providers participated nationwide by closing for a day to show their impact. Staff and parents use this day to advocate for childcare funding to state and local legislators.

Will childcare providers in York County close on May 11?

No. Closing early childhood education providers, even for one day, can create real challenges for working families. In 2026, York is choosing awareness over disruption. The initiative, "York County Runs on Childcare," emphasizes the everyday importance of early childhood education in our community.

What does York County Runs on Childcare mean?

Childcare is considered essential infrastructure supporting

- Working families
- Local businesses
- The economy
- Children's early development

Without reliable childcare, parents can't work, businesses struggle, and children's learning is affected.

What are we trying to accomplish with this campaign?

- Raise awareness of the value of early childhood education
- Highlight challenges faced by childcare providers
- Advocate for increased investment
- Stress that childcare is essential infrastructure, not a luxury

What specific policies would help childcare?

- Expanding access to state childcare subsidies so more families can obtain and maintain affordable care
- Supporting Governor Shapiro's budget proposal to invest \$35 million in the early childhood education teacher recruitment and retention (a \$10 million increase)

What challenges do childcare providers face?

- Staffing shortages
- Rising operational costs
- Supporting children with challenges and special needs
- Balancing affordability with fair compensation

How does childcare impact the local economy?

For Pennsylvania, the growing annual cost of the childcare crisis is \$6.65 billion in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue. (Ready Nation and Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission)

How can families and community members support this effort?

- Sharing information about the importance of early childhood education
- Thanking early childhood education professionals
- Advocating for supportive policies
- Supporting children with challenges and special needs
- Discussing childcare needs with leaders

How can businesses support this effort?

- Publicly acknowledge the importance of childcare
- Offering flexible family policies
- Partner with early childhood education providers
- Support policies that improve access and affordability of childcare
- Discussing childcare needs with peer leaders

Who can I contact to learn more?

York County Runs on Childcare is a collaborative partnership between York County Economic Alliance, Community Connections for Children, United Way of York County, and the School District of the City of York.

Please contact Laura O'Grady, VP of Impact and Strategy for United Way of York County to learn more:

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