Bartholomew County Early Learning Coalition

“How can we work together to build a quality early learning system for children in Bartholomew County that is accessible for families and sustainable for early learning programs?”

**Process**

Utilizing the stakeholder engagement process, the coalition collected qualitative and quantitative data and formed relationships.

- **July 2022**: EL COORDINATOR HIRED
- **January 2023**: ADMINISTRATOR SURVEY
- **March 2023**: PARTNERSHIP WITH SU CASA
- **June 2023**: IMPLEMENT SHORT-TERM, PLAN LONG-TERM

**Quality**

We can only serve 3 out of every 10 young children in high quality early learning slots.

**Programs with Extended Hours**

We only have 1 program open after 6pm, and no weekend care available.

**Affordability**

A family of 4, with 2 children, earning the median household income of $83,717, would need to pay 26% of their income on child care.

- **Average Infant, Center-based care**: $11,682/year
- **Average Preschool, Center-based care**: $10,576/year

**Average Early Childhood Teacher Wages**

$12.50-$19.23/hour

52% of programs aren’t able to offer health insurance.

Why does it cost so much, yet teachers make so little?

- Low staff: child ratios
- Facility licensing standards
- Food and materials cost
- Insurance & equipment

2023 Teacher Shortage & Long waitlists

- 30 Vacant Positions
- 10 Closed Classrooms
- 94 unavailable child slots
- Over 100 families on waitlists

**Priorities**

**Continued Employer and Community Engagement**

- Increase slots for children ages 0-3

**Explore Shared Services hub to alleviate administrative burdens and reduce costs**

**Early Childhood Workforce Development**

- Explore funding mechanisms to reduce tuition burden for families
- Increase extended hour care options