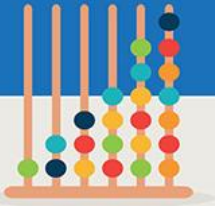


# PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE



Child care costs are burdening families while quality child care options are not widely available



Child care is a major expense in family budgets, often **exceeding** the cost of housing, college tuition, food and transportation.



## HOUSING

The cost of child care fees for two children exceeded housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage in 23 states and the District of Columbia.



## COLLEGE TUITION

In 30 states plus the District of Columbia, the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care was higher than a year's in-state tuition and fees at a four-year public college.



## FOOD

In every region of the United States, average child care fees for an infant in a child care center were more than double the average amount that families spent on food.



## TRANSPORTATION

Center-based care costs exceeded transportation costs in almost every region in the United States.



Unlike all other areas of education investment, including higher education, families pay the majority of costs for early education.

**60%** of funding for child care in the United States comes directly from parents.

High costs make child care especially unaffordable for many low-income families.



**50%**

The average annual cost of center-based care for an infant is nearly half of the income of a family of three living at the poverty level.

Research shows 90% of a child's critical brain development happens by age 5.



Yet, child care providers are one of the lowest paid professions.

The average income for a full-time child care professional in 2013 was

**\$21,490**

Unreliable child care also hurts business.



Lack of child care options lead to employee absences – costing businesses **\$3 billion** annually in the United States.



of employed parents experienced some kind of child care breakdown in the past three months which were associated with absenteeism, tardiness, and reduced concentration at work.