SNAPSHOT
CHILD CARE IN ALASKA

Child Care is Critical for Alaska’s Workforce
56% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force.¹

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender Disparities in Economic Participation
67% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in AK.²

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector
Capacity is declining in AK³
49% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in AK there were 3.6 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 7.1.

Provider costs are increasing in AK⁴
Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 37%. Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 76%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19
Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
8% of child care workers in AK lived in poverty.⁵

Costs of providing care were high⁶
$1,360/month for center-based infant care
$1,220/month for center-based toddler care
$700/month for family-based care

Subsidies were insufficient⁷
Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child⁸
$505

Child care is hard to find for many families
61% of people in AK were living in a child care desert.⁹

Child care is hard to afford
A minimum wage worker in AK spends 57% of their earnings on child care, on average.¹⁰

Child Care is Important to the Economy
Yet only 8% of low-income eligible families in AK receive federal subsidies.¹¹

For additional state profiles and more on this topic, visit Investing in the Future of Child Care: sffed.us/childcare
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Endnotes


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