# Child Care in Arizona

## Child Care is Critical for Arizona’s Workforce

- **64%** of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 59% ten years ago.\(^1\)

## Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation

- **63%** of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in AZ.\(^2\)
- **77%** of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in AZ.\(^3\)

## COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector

- **50%** of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in AZ there were 2.5 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 5.0.
- **Provider costs are increasing in AZ**\(^5\)
  - Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by **84%**.
  - Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by **75%**.

## The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

- **19%** of child care workers in AZ lived in poverty.\(^6\)
  - **18%** of White workers
  - **15%** of Black workers
  - **22%** of Hispanic workers
- **48%** of people in AZ were living in a child care desert.\(^10\)

## Costs of Providing Care Were High in AZ\(^7\)

- $1,040/month for center-based infant care
- $800/month for center-based toddler care
- $710/month for family-based care

## Subsidies Were Insufficient\(^8\)

- Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child\(^9\)
  - **$467**

## Child Care Is Hard to Afford

- A minimum wage worker in AZ spends **44%** of their earnings on child care, on average.\(^11\)

## Child Care Is Important to the Economy

- Yet only **10%** of low-income eligible families in AZ receive federal subsidies\(^12\)

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


Author Bina Patel Shrimali
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