SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN CALIFORNIA

Child Care is Critical for California’s Workforce
64% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 61% ten years ago.¹

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation
63% of mothers with children under 5 participate in the labor force.²
73% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force.³

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector
Capacity is declining ⁴
51% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in CA there were 3.6 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 7.4.

Provider costs are increasing ⁵
Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 54%.
Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 75%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19
Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
15% of child care workers in CA lived in poverty.⁶

Costs of providing care were high ⁷
$1,500/month for center-based infant care
$1,160/month for center-based toddler care
$860/month for family-based care

Subsidies were insufficient ⁸
Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child ⁹
$31

Child care is hard to afford
A minimum wage worker in CA spends 63% of their earnings on child care, on average.¹⁰

Child Care is Important to the Economy
Yet only 7% of low-income eligible families in CA receive federal subsidies.¹²

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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