Child Care is Critical for Oregon's Workforce

- 67% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 64% ten years ago.¹

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

- 67% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in OR.²
- 68% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in OR.³

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

- Capacity is declining in OR⁴
  - 48% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in OR there were 3.1 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 5.9.

- Provider costs are increasing in OR⁵
  - Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 31%.
  - Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 78%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

- Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
  - 21% of child care workers in OR lived in poverty.⁶

- Costs of providing care were high in OR⁷
  - $1,340/month for center-based infant care
  - $1,160/month for center-based toddler care
  - $750/month for family-based care

- Subsidies were insufficient⁸
  - Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child⁹: $83

- Child care is hard to afford
  - A minimum wage worker in OR spends 55% of their earnings on child care, on average.¹⁰

Child Care Is Important to the Economy

- Yet only 12% of low-income eligible families in OR receive federal subsidies.¹²

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

Endnotes

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