SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Child Care is Critical for U.S. Workforce
68% 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
68% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.²
79% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in U.S.³

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector
Capacity is declining in U.S.⁴
49% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in U.S. there were 2.6 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 4.2.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19
Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
17% of child care workers in U.S. lived in poverty.⁵

Costs of providing care were high in U.S.⁶
$1,230/month for center-based infant care
$910/month for center-based toddler care
$800/month for family-based care

Child care is hard to find for many families
51% of people in U.S. were living in a child care desert.⁷

Child Care Is Important to the Economy
Yet only 12% of low-income eligible families in U.S. receive federal subsidies.⁸

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


Acknowledgment
Thanks to Brooke Ada Tran for research assistance, Laurel Gourd for editorial guidance, and the SF Fed Creative Team for graphic design.

Disclaimer
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