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 AK\(^3\)
  - 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 AK\(^4\)
  - 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.\(^5\)

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

- Costs of providing care were high\(^6\)
  - $1,360/month for center-based infant care
  - $1,220/month for center-based toddler care
  - $700/month for family-based care

- Subsidies were insufficient\(^7\)
  - Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child\(^8\)
    - $505

- 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](http://sffed.us/childcare)
SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN ALASKA

Endnotes


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Disclaimer

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