SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN IDAHO

Child Care is Critical for Idaho’s Workforce

62% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 57% ten years ago.¹

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender Disparities in Economic Participation

59% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in Idaho.²

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

Capacity is declining in ID³

53% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in ID there were 2.7 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 5.8.

Provider costs are increasing in ID⁴

Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 10%. Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 73%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

Child care workers struggled to make ends meet

21% of child care workers in ID lived in poverty.⁵

Costs of providing care were high in ID⁶

$840/month for center-based infant care
$720/month for center-based toddler care
$620/month for family-based care

Subsidies were insufficient⁷

Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child⁸

$142

Child care is hard to find for many families

49% of people in ID were living in a child care desert.⁹

Child care is hard to afford

A minimum wage worker in ID spends 50% of their earnings on child care, on average.¹⁰

Child Care is Important to the Economy

Yet only 14% of low-income eligible families in ID receive federal subsidies.¹¹

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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