SNAPSHOT
CHILD CARE IN UTAH

Child Care is Critical for Utah’s Workforce
54% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 50% ten years ago.¹

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation
55% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in UT.²
64% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in UT.³

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector
Capacity is declining in UT⁴
73% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in UT there were 5.7 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 21.1.

Provider costs are increasing in UT⁵
Center-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 27%.
Family-based providers’ costs are estimated to increase by 69%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19
Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
9% of child care workers in UT lived in poverty.⁶

Costs of providing care were high in UT⁷
$1,180/month for center-based infant care
$840/month for center-based toddler care
$540/month for family-based care

Subsidies were insufficient⁸
Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child⁹
$422

Child care is hard to afford
A minimum wage worker in UT spends 66% of their earnings on child care, on average.¹⁰

Child Care Is Important to the Economy
Yet only 13% of low-income eligible families in UT 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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Acknowledgment Thanks to Brooke Ada Tran for research assistance, Laurel Gourd for editorial guidance, and the SF Fed Creative Team for graphic design.

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