

SNAPSHOT CHILD CARE IN WASHINGTON

Child Care is Critical for Washington's Workforce

 **63%** of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force, up from 60% ten years ago.¹

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

 **63%** of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in WA.² **67%** of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in WA.³

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



Capacity is declining in WA⁴
29% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in WA there were 3.8 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 5.3.



Provider costs are increasing in WA⁵
Center-based providers' costs are estimated to increase by **55%**.
Family-based providers' costs are estimated to increase by **83%**.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

Child care workers struggled to make ends meet
17% of child care workers in WA lived in poverty.⁶



14% of White workers
35% of Black workers
15% of Asian workers
20% of Hispanic workers



Child care is hard to find for many families
63% of people in WA were living in a child care desert.¹⁰

Costs of providing care were high in WA⁷
\$1,390/month for center-based infant care
\$990/month for center-based toddler care
\$760/month for family-based care

Subsidies were insufficient⁸

 Monthly gap between subsidy and cost to provider, per child⁹
\$447

Child care is hard to afford

A minimum wage worker in WA spends **52%** of their earnings on child care, on average.¹¹



Child Care Is Important to the Economy

Yet only 22% of low-income eligible families in WA receive federal subsidies.¹²

SNAPSHOT

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Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey: 2009 (1-Year Estimate) and 2019 (1-Year Estimate).
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 3 Black racial category consists of Non-Hispanic individuals. U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 4 Workman, Simon, and Steven Jessen-Howard. "Coronavirus Pandemic Could Lead to Permanent Loss of Nearly 4.5 Million Child Care Slots." Center for American Progress, April 24, 2020. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/>
- 5 Workman, Simon, and Steven Jessen-Howard. "The True Cost of Providing Safe Child Care During the Coronavirus Pandemic." Center for American Progress, September 3, 2020. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/09/03/489900/true-cost-providing-safe-child-care-coronavirus-pandemic/>
- 6 White, Black and Asian racial categories consist of Non-Hispanic individuals. U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2014-2018 (5-year Estimate).
- 7 Workman, Simon and Steven Jessen-Howard. "Understanding the True Cost of Child Care for Infants and Toddlers." Center for American Progress, November 15, 2018. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/11/15/460970/understanding-true-cost-child-care-infants-toddlers/>
- 8 Workman, Simon. "Where Does Your Child Care Dollar Go?" Center for American Progress, February 14, 2018. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/02/14/446330/child-care-dollar-go/>
- 9 Based on state subsidy for infant center-based providers. Workman, Simon and Steven Jessen-Howard. "Understanding the True Cost of Child Care for Infants and Toddlers." Center for American Progress, November 15, 2018. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2018/11/15/460970/understanding-true-cost-child-care-infants-toddlers/>
- 10 "Do You Live in a Child Care Desert?" Center for American Progress, 2018. <https://childcaredeserts.org/2018/index.html>
- 11 "Child Care Costs in the United States." Economic Policy Institute, October 2020. <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/>
- 12 Estimated percentage of eligible families receiving subsidies through the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant based on state eligibility parameters. Ullrich, Rebecca, Stephanie Schmit, and Ruth Cosse. "Inequitable Access to Child Care Subsidies." The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), April 2019. https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019/04/2019_inequitableaccess.pdf

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