



Alaska

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Alaska needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	66,551
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	61.7%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$22,464
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	28%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	32%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	3,881

HOW ALASKA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	17%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$25,915
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	72%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.99
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.82

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Alaska can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	53,509
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,899
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$562.2
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$210.38



Alabama

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Alabama needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	365,682
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	65.4%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$10,653
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	19%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	14%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	31,136

HOW ALABAMA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	33%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,091
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	62%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$8.93
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$10.98

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Alabama can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	268,847
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$6,677
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$654.8
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,035.93



Arkansas

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Arkansas needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	194,366
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	63.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$11,338
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	22%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	21%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	19,179

HOW ARKANSAS IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	5.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	40%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,066
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	69%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.32
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.25

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Arkansas can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	176,283
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$7,705
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$953.8
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$613.37



Arizona

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Arizona needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	554,542
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	60.2%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$18,687
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	33%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	52,727

HOW ARIZONA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	7.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	15%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,526
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	64%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.24
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.42

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Arizona can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	400,127
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$14,620
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,850
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,735.46



California

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. California needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	2,904,242
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	61.0%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$23,077
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	21%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	197,781

HOW CALIFORNIA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	7.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	45%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$13,528
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	69%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.29
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$16.19

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps California can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	2,184,753
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$18,072
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$33,400
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$12,407.23



Colorado

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Colorado needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	373,879
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	62.8%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$26,367
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	34%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	25%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	41,656

HOW COLORADO IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	15.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	31%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$13,478
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	54%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.60
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.88

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Colorado can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	309,258
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$20,907
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,430
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,727.29



Connecticut

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Connecticut needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	228,433
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	70.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$27,144
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	29%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	18%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	16,481

HOW CONNECTICUT IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	17.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	35%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$23,700
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	59%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.87
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$16.58

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Connecticut can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	169,372
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$20,690
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,030
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$937.82



Delaware

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Delaware needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	61,714
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	69.7%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$19,220
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	27%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	22%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	3,264

HOW DELAWARE IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	29.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	16%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$21,242
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	65%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.21
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.54

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Delaware can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	52,584
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$14,292
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$744.30
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$204.87



Florida

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Florida needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	1,339,897
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.8%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$15,922
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	28%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	26%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	100,711

HOW FLORIDA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	11.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	85%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$19,875
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	72%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.09
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.70

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Florida can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	1,036,466
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,939
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$10,400
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$4,289.96



Georgia

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Georgia needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	841,549
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	65.4%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$14,395
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	23%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	24%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	26,782

HOW GEORGIA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	12.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	62%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$17,922
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	63%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.53
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.42

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Georgia can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	599,556
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$10,048
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,590
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,614.74



Hawaii

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families’ economic security. Hawaii needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	105,237
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	63.5%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$22,416
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	28%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	29%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	12,584

HOW HAWAII IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	16.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	9%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$8,209
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	49%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.64
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$17.94

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Hawaii can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	84,712
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,781
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$219
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$337.65



Iowa

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Iowa needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	225,551
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	75.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$18,186
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	25%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	19%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	17,915

HOW IOWA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	19.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	67%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$17,007
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	60%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.20
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.12

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Iowa can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	190,770
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,132
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,179
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$891.84



Idaho

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Idaho needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	147,928
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	56.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$13,461
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	22%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	10%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	9,954

HOW IDAHO IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	7.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	9%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,340
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	66%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.04
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$10.75

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Idaho can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	110,204
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$9,254
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$544.8
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$450.21



Illinois

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Illinois needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	941,058
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	68.0%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$23,426
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	12%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	61,969

HOW ILLINOIS IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	9.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	36%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,527
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	62%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.77
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.64

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Illinois can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	701,532
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$18,281
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$11,400
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$3,557.20



Indiana

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Indiana needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	502,363
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$21,329
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	34%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	28%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	43,318

HOW INDIANA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	10%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$8,387
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	59%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.62
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.65

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Indiana can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	406,798
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,891
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,940
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,545.31



Kansas

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Kansas needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	244,946
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$20,309
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	30%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	11%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	15,370

HOW KANSAS IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	11.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	27%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$21,718
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	66%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.25
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.94

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Kansas can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	189,756
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$15,577
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$2,170
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$815.05



Kentucky

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Kentucky needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	315,765
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	64.8%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$12,112
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	22%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	14%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	32,323

HOW KENTUCKY IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	8.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	37%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$18,459
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	70%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.28
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$15.49

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Kentucky can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	253,961
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$8,171
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$938.5
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$890.86



Louisiana

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Louisiana needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	354,082
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	68.0%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$11,265
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	21%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	15%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	16,395

HOW LOUISIANA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	8.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	42%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,402
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	64%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$8.95
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$17.07

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Louisiana can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	281,747
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$7,464
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$624.5
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,115.63



Massachusetts

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Massachusetts needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	450,314
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	71.2%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$34,381
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	35%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	24%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	60,353

HOW MASSACHUSETTS IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	20.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	12%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$20,515
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	56%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.74
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$15.71

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Massachusetts can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	335,290
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$27,493
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$7,070
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,878.52



Maryland

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Maryland needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	450,794
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	71.7%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$24,470
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	27%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	15%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	29,673

HOW MARYLAND IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	9.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	42%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$25,137
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	57%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.29
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.16

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Maryland can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	353,843
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$18,051
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,370
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,846.84



Maine

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Maine needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	68,731
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	69.2%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$16,897
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	24%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	18%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	6,684

HOW MAINE IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	11.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	43%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,759
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	61%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.18
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.92

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Maine can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	67,110
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,962
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$622.8
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$198.03



Michigan

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Michigan needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	682,742
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.4%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$17,561
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	27%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	12%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	49,203

HOW MICHIGAN IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	8.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	39%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$18,039
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	68%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.09
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.94

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Michigan can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	547,190
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,011
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$5,700
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,159.15



Minnesota

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Minnesota needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	402,218
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	74.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$27,144
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	12%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	30,243

HOW MINNESOTA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	14.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	13%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,780
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	53%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.27
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.93

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Minnesota can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	329,114
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$21,187
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,830
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,748.64



Missouri

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Missouri needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	451,928
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	68.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$16,016
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	25%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	14%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	21,027

HOW MISSOURI IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	17.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	10%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$17,583
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	65%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.96
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.03

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Missouri can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	352,232
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,543
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,180
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,617.58



EARLY LEARNING FACTSHEET

Mississippi

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Mississippi needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	235,426
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	68.0%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$9,734
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	20%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	16%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	11,547

HOW MISSISSIPPI IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	32%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,081
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	68%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$8.84
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.13

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Mississippi can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	164,249
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$6,395
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$290.4
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$565.19



Montana

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Montana needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	75,330
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	63.8%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$17,090
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	25%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	29%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	5,406

HOW MONTANA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	9.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	19%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,859
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	60%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.84
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.90

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Montana can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	59,621
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$12,302
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$471.7
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$211.86



North Carolina

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. North Carolina needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	736,516
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	65.4%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$17,174
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	29%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	22%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	62,873

HOW NORTH CAROLINA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	15.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	27%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$11,998
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	60%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.86
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.44

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps North Carolina can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	541,497
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,002
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$7,130
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,471.41



North Dakota

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. North Dakota needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	68,649
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	70.4%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$16,254
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	20%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	10%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	5,060

HOW NORTH DAKOTA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	13%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$17,583
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	54%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.56
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.58

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps North Dakota can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	51,451
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$10,647
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$231.8
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$227.96



Nebraska

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Nebraska needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	154,570
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	72.2%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$17,192
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	24%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	17%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	4,204

HOW NEBRASKA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	15.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	36%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,683
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	57%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.33
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$17.37

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Nebraska can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	123,551
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$12,166
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$771.2
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$513.40



New Hampshire

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. New Hampshire needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	72,907
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	70.3%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$22,152
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	25%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	17%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	6,999

HOW NEW HAMPSHIRE IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	23.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	5%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,864
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	49%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.79
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.75

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps New Hampshire can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	63,035
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$15,964
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$625.0
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$315.67



New Jersey

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. New Jersey needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	615,886
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.9%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$22,709
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	24%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	13%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	73,495

HOW NEW JERSEY IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	20.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	33%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$22,005
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	50%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.51
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$15.57

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps New Jersey can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	490,311
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,010
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,960
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,256.89



New Mexico

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. New Mexico needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	155,714
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	60.6%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$15,569
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	33%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	24%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	19,538

HOW NEW MEXICO IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	18.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	50%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$17,713
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	87%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.66
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.89

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps New Mexico can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	116,949
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$12,230
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,260
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$395.32



Nevada

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Nevada needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	228,544
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	65.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$19,103
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	33%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	51%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	38,507

HOW NEVADA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	5.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	8%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$20,214
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	74%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.39
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.01

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Nevada can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	169,425
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$15,008
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,920
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$714.59



New York

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. New York needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	1,329,181
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	64.8%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$27,092
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	37%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	35%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	123,142

HOW NEW YORK IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	20.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	56%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,501
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	79%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.38
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$16.64

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps New York can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	1,026,773
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$21,961
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$22,500
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$3,898.37



Ohio

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Ohio needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	874,644
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	69.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$17,675
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	27%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	15%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	75,669

HOW OHIO IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	11.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	22%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$18,182
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	66%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.86
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.80

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Ohio can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	654,023
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,174
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$6,580
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,466.18



Oklahoma

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Oklahoma needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	340,555
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	61.9%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$14,533
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	26%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	11%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	18,712

HOW OKLAHOMA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	13.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	84%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$13,264
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	58%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.10
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.86

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Oklahoma can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	249,417
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$10,550
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,400
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,101.15



Oregon

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Oregon needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	257,642
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	62.5%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$21,645
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	18%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	26,754

HOW OREGON IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	12.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	21%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,362
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	71%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.45
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.70

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Oregon can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	208,986
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,885
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$3,330
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$898.62



EARLY LEARNING FACTSHEET

Pennsylvania

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Pennsylvania needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	842,666
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	67.9%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$21,363
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	30%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	14%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	88,958

HOW PENNSYLVANIA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	26.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	23%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,757
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	59%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.71
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.99

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Pennsylvania can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	675,586
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,344
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$7,550
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,688.90



Rhode Island

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Rhode Island needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	58,458
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	72.0%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$23,223
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	32%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	27%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	5,652

HOW RHODE ISLAND IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	20.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	20%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$19,861
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	68%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.82
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.57

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Rhode Island can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	56,009
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$18,190
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$832.4
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$210.37



South Carolina

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. South Carolina needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	381,343
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	67.7%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$12,393
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	22%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	15%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	45,268

HOW SOUTH CAROLINA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	6.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	48%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,106
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	69%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.15
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.08

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps South Carolina can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	272,005
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$8,466
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,280
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$991.52



South Dakota

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. South Dakota needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	67,940
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	74.5%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$N/A
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	N/A
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	13%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	4,548

HOW SOUTH DAKOTA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	10.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	16%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$13,412
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	50%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.68
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.84

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps South Dakota can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	62,858
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	N/A
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	N/A
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$269.12



Tennessee

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Tennessee needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	515,988
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	64.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$15,814
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	28%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	17%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	52,896

HOW TENNESSEE IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	7.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	32%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,018
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	69%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.28
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.30

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Tennessee can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	378,421
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,859
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,080
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,599.48



Texas

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Texas needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	2,437,556
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	59.7%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$15,703
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	26%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	16%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	165,924

HOW TEXAS IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	10.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	58%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$16,111
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	63%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.46
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$13.10

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Texas can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	1,828,045
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,398
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$20,100
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$8,886.30



Utah

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Utah needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	299,344
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	50.5%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$18,645
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	25%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	10%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	25,393

HOW UTAH IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	9.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	6%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,296
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	50%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.55
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.78

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Utah can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	249,836
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,500
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$1,120
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,075.29



Virginia

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Virginia needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	632,520
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	66.5%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$22,360
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	27%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	20%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	52,005

HOW VIRGINIA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	8.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	24%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$12,889
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	56%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.82
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$15.59

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Virginia can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	457,795
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,599
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,170
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,536.29



Vermont

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Vermont needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	31,499
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	70.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$21,522
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	29%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	20%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	2,056

HOW VERMONT IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	37.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	84%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$18,361
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	61%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.71
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.57

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Vermont can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	28,060
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,391
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	375.0
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$112.07



Washington

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Washington needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	566,446
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	59.1%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$24,176
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	31%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	14%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	58,059

HOW WASHINGTON IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	15.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	15%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$18,642
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	60%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$12.32
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.69

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Washington can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	403,335
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$18,639
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$5,960
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$2,107.39



Wisconsin

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Wisconsin needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	425,424
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	73.3%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$21,918
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	30%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	9%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	32,951

HOW WISCONSIN IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	17.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	80%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$14,414
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	59%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$10.03
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$11.64

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Wisconsin can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	333,044
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$16,738
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$4,090
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$1,256.80



West Virginia

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. West Virginia needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	118,665
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	58.9%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$15,600
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	29%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	24%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	9,425

HOW WEST VIRGINIA IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	16.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	67%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$15,184
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	69%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$9.52
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$12.67

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps West Virginia can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	101,534
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$11,834
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	\$787.0
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$263.84



Wyoming

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Child care and preschool are necessities for working families, but the high price of care puts them out of reach for most. Parents are faced with impossible choices and are left weaving together a patchwork of care or making career sacrifices that affect their families' economic security. Wyoming needs to increase public investment in order to make affordable, high-quality child care and preschool a reality for families and providers.

Number of children under six ¹	48,020
Percent of children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce ²	64.3%
Average annual child care tuition for two children ³	\$18,720
Percent of median income the average family spends on child care for two children ⁴	26%
Percent of summer income the average family spends on summer child care ⁵	19%
Number of parents making career sacrifices due to issues with child care ⁶	3,227

HOW WYOMING IS FALLING SHORT

Existing early learning supports are inadequate. Child care subsidies do not cover the cost of high-quality care, and they fail to reach the majority of those in need. State preschool programs are underfunded and rarely provide universal access for 3- and 4-year-olds. The limited revenues available to early learning programs leave the early childhood workforce woefully underpaid and restrict access to high-quality care to only the highest-income families.

Percent of children in low-income families that receive child care subsidies ⁷	N/A
Percent of 4-year-olds served by public preschool ⁸	10%
Gap between the true cost of high-quality infant care and the current subsidy rate ⁹	\$21,655
Percent of income the median family would pay to cover the true cost of high-quality child care for two children ¹⁰	62%
Median hourly wage for child care workers ¹¹	\$11.14
Median hourly wage for preschool teachers ¹²	\$14.33

OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding the child care subsidy system to cover all low- and middle-income families and providing universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds are two critical steps Wyoming can take to support working families. Increasing public investment in the early learning system in this way would lead to substantial benefits for children, families, and the broader state economy.

Number of young children that would be served by an expanded child care subsidy system ¹³	40,653
Average annual family savings if child care costs were capped at 7 percent ¹⁴ of family income ¹⁵	\$13,603
Estimated annual state economic benefit of affordable child care (in millions) ¹⁶	N/A
Estimated annual state economic benefit of universal preschool (in millions) ¹⁷	\$144.54