



AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CHILDCARE WILL BENEFIT TENNESSEE'S FAMILIES AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Tennessee families are paying too much for childcare.

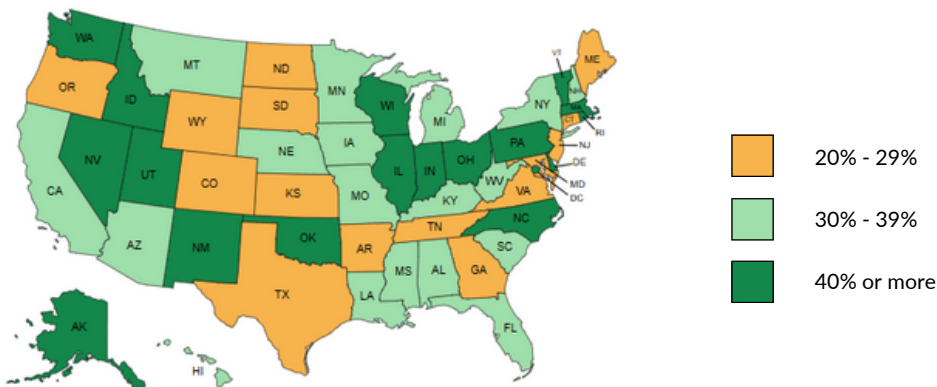
In Tennessee, **65% of children under age six have all available parents working.**^[i] The average annual cost for center-based full-time childcare is **\$11,501** for infants and **\$9,742** for 4-year-olds.^[ii] Childcare represents between 8% and 13% of the median income of a married couple and between 28% and 45% of the median income of single parents.^[iii]

A lack of affordable, quality childcare hinders Tennessee's economy.

Childcare challenges in Tennessee cause an estimated loss of **\$850 million to families, \$270 million to employers, and \$220 million to taxpayers** annually.^[iv] One in three surveyed businesses felt that childcare issues factored a great deal into loss of productivity for employees.^[v]

Tennessee has one of the lowest levels of public funding for childcare.

In the US, 37% of childcare funding comes from either state or federal funding. In Tennessee, only 27% of childcare funding comes from public sources--**ranking 41st amongst states**--leaving more of the burden of childcare costs on families.^[vi]



Source: Child Care in State Economies: 2019 Update



Quality childcare can improve lifetime educational outcomes and would be an effective use of Tennessee's educational spending.

Children who attend high-quality early learning and childcare environments enter kindergarten with higher levels of cognitive and social emotional development and are better prepared for kindergarten.^[vii] These children are less likely to be held back a grade^[viii], more likely to graduate from high school, and more likely to be employed as adults.^[ix]

The research is clear--spending on high-quality childcare is a good investment for Tennessee.^[x]

REFERENCES

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