COST OF CHILDCARE

Childcare is unaffordable for many Utah families.

- Childcare should account for 7% of a family’s income, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- In Utah, 14% is the average percentage of a family’s income needed to pay for infant care for one child.
- Only 12% of Utah families can afford infant care.
- An estimated $1.4 billion is lost annually from Utah’s economy due to childcare inadequacies.
- The average annual cost of care for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) is $17,591.
  This means a Utah family would spend 24.7% of their income on childcare.

HOW DOES UTAH STACK UP?

- Utah ranked 48th on the Childcare Index and 50th in the Work and Family category (per “Childcare—What Utahns Need to Know Now: A 2023 Update”).

COST OF CHILDCARE

- The development of an infrastructure to support Utahns with caregiving responsibilities has been neglected.
- 64% of Utah families have all available parents working.
- 68% of Utah women—aged 20 to 64 with children under age 18—are participating in the labor force.
- 49% of women said they or another parent or guardian would work more if they could find high-quality affordable childcare.
- 11,540 more Utah parents could choose to work if childcare were more accessible = the economy expanding by 0.8%, or over $1 billion in new economic activity.

The cost of childcare is even more challenging for single mothers in Utah, many of whom live in poverty.

- 14% is the average percentage of a family’s income needed to pay for infant care for one child.
Government must continue to fund and innovate.

A childcare worker would need to spend 47.6% of their earnings to enroll their own child in infant care.

53% of childcare workers use public benefits to make ends meet and are twice as likely to live in poverty than other workers’ families.

A childcare worker would need to spend 47.6% of their earnings to enroll their own child in infant care.

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<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
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<th>Capacity in 2017</th>
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<td>90</td>
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Sponsor and vote for bills that support families and make high-quality, affordable childcare a priority in Utah.

Must address childcare deserts, especially in rural areas.

Become attractive employers to families and Utah.

Recognize the essential work of all caregivers, both paid and unpaid, and their impact on Utah’s economy.