

# Child Care Facts

**Reforming New York State's child care system to ensure equitable access to quality child care for all children and working families is essential.**

## For Our Children

- High-quality early childhood experiences can improve school readiness and reduce inequalities, but due to underinvestment many families cannot access them.
- Access to high-quality early childhood programs have long-lasting, positive effects, including:
  - Greater school success/school readiness and higher graduation rates.
  - Lower juvenile crime and fewer arrests.
  - Higher future earnings.
- 85% of a child's brain development, which includes intellect and social skills, develops before age 5.
- There are an estimated 7 infant/toddlers likely to need care for every 1 licensed child care spot.

## For Our Families

- Of the 4.1 million children in NYS below 18 years, 19% live in poverty.
- The younger the child, the more likely the child is to experience poverty: 23% of infants and toddlers live in poverty.
- The average cost of child care in NYS exceeds rent & college tuition.
- Access to child care assistance allows families to better focus on job responsibilities and performance, leading to increased work hours, position advancement, and higher earnings.
- Many of the child care educators earn wages that leave them or or near poverty, leading dedicated professionals to leave the field to find economic stability. (median wage: \$12.87/hour).
- 64% of New Yorkers live in a child care desert, resulting in lower maternal employment.

## For Our Economy

- The child care industry revenue has a \$6.8 billion impact on the economy.
- To support New York's economic growth, we need more workers. Securing child care is a barrier to working for many low-income families.
- For every \$1 spent on child care, nearly \$2 of activity is generated in the community.
- Small Business: In the past 5 years, NYS had a net loss of 12,152 child care facilities. Even if a family can afford quality care, it is difficult to find an opening.

## 2020 Budget Priorities

- New York commits to achieving universal access to quality, affordable child care by 2025.
- To set New York on a path to meeting the goal of universal access, New York makes significant block investments in child care this year, including:
  - Investing at least \$40 million to create a fund to increase workforce compensation, stabilize providers, and improve child care quality.
  - Investing at least \$60 million in the state's child care subsidy program to expand access to more working families by making eligibility levels and co-pays more fair and uniform across the state.




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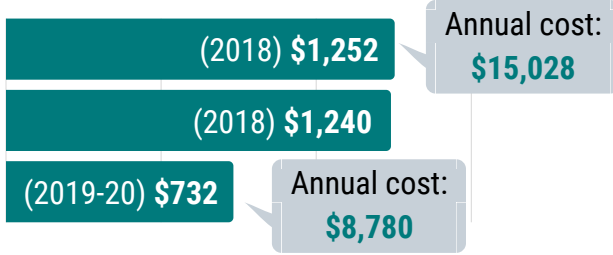
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## For Our Families

The average cost of child care in New York State **exceeds rent and college tuition**.

Average monthly cost of child care center in NYS  
Median monthly cost of rent and utilities in NYS  
SUNY's monthly in-state tuition and student fees



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