In addition to the benefits to young children, access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. Child care problems, however, adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses upward of $57 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue.15

In Connecticut

8.4% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.16

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 73.2% in 2019 to 71.1% in 2021.17

Nationwide18

The percent of families that reported difficulty finding space in a home- or center-based program increased dramatically from 22% in December 2021 to 58% in January 2022.

71% of parents report that difficulty finding child care has impacted their ability to work.
Connecticut Early Learning and Care Snapshot

High Price of Care

Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in Connecticut

Center-Based ___________ $15,808 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>47.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Home-Based ___________ $11,752 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Married Parents</th>
<th>Single Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.9%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Low Compensation for Early Educators

Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

$12.74 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$26,490 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

$15,080 Federal Minimum Wage

92% said funding helped them stay open.

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In Connecticut, 43,452 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:

- 92% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including
- 75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 63% of those in family child care homes.

Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations.