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.16

In Illinois

10.2% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.16

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 72.2% in 2019 to 74.7% 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.
Illinois Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need
- Population Under Six: 902,337
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 17.22%
- 67.54% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access
- 58% of Illinois residents live in a “child care desert”
- For Hispanics/Latinos and rural families, this percentage is even higher

Affordability
- The average price of child care is $11,146 per year
- The median household income is $107,172

Quality
- Met 8/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards

High Price of Care
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>$15,325 per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Parent</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home-Based</th>
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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.

$11.16
Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$23,220
Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

$15,080
Federal Minimum Wage

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

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In Illinois, 129,599 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:
- 92% said funding helped them stay open.
- 46% 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.

1 This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, Sec. 303 and C. In some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.