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.14

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 75.8% in 2019 to 70.8% in 2021.16

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.
New Hampshire Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need
- Population Under Six: 77,361
- Under Six Living in Poverty: 9.51%
- 71.28% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access
- 46% of New Hampshire residents live in a "child care desert"
- For rural families and families with low incomes, this percentage is even higher

Affordability
- The average price of child care is $10,957 per year
- The median household income is $119,313

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

Annual Price of Infant Care in New Hampshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percent of Median Income</th>
<th>Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based</td>
<td></td>
<td>$13,609 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>$13,609 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>$13,609 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Based</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,796 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>$9,796 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>$9,796 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Low Compensation for Early Educators
Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

- The median hourly rate for child care workers is $11.69.
- The estimated annual salary is $15,080.
- The average federal minimum wage is $11.40.

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The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In New Hampshire, 13,584 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

- 92% of providers who received stabilization grants said funding helped them stay open.
- 75% of those in family child care homes used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
- 63% of providers used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including:
  - 46% in family child care homes

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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, C, and F. In some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.
2 Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center
3 Office of Child Care (OCC)/GPD/CCDF Allotments (Based on Appropriations) (FY 2016) and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Allocations (Based on Appropriations) GY 2021
4 Ibid
5 Ibid
6 OCC CARES Act CCDBG Supplemental Funding Allocations for States and Territories
7 OCC Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021 Allocations for States and Territories
8 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
9 U.S. Department of Education (ED)
10 Ibid
11 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
12 Office of Family Assistance TANF FY 2019 Financial Data
13 Ibid
15 Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health 2019
16 Committee for Economic Development (CED) 2019
17 Rapid-EC Survey, March 2022
18 Office of Head Start Performance Indicator Report (PIR)
19 PIR and Census
20 Ibid
21 Ibid
22 OCC FY 2020 CCDF Preliminary Data Tables
23 Center for American Progress (CAP) - Early Learning in the U.S.: 2021
24 HRSA
25 ED
26 ED
27 National Institute for Early Education Research - State of Preschool 2021 (includes Head Start, Early Head Start, and state-funded Pre-K)
28 Ibid
29 Ibid
30 Ibid
31 Ibid
32 Ibid
33 Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) (average of center-based and home-based infant and 4-year-old care)
34 NIEER
35 CCAoA
36 Center for the Study of Child Care Employment - Early Childhood Workforce Issue Brief - 2020
37 Federal Housing Authority
38 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)