

# PIERCE COUNTY STATE OF THE CHILDREN ECONOMIC IMPACT



**72,558**  
CHILDREN UNDER SIX



**67%**  
HAVE ALL PARENTS  
IN THE WORKFORCE

**45%**  
DO NOT HAVE ACCESS  
TO EARLY LEARNING

**20%**  
IN LOW-INCOME  
HOUSEHOLDS

**47%**  
KINDERGARTEN  
READY

## AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE PERCENT OF INCOME PAID

Child care costs place a tremendous burden on families, impacting work time, productivity, and long-term career. The average income of a family of four in our region is \$123,820. The typical cost of child care for a family with one infant and one preschooler in center-based care is \$29,520, 24% of their income.



**A FAMILY OF FOUR WOULD PAY 24% OF  
THEIR INCOME FOR TWO CHILDREN IN  
CHILD CARE.**

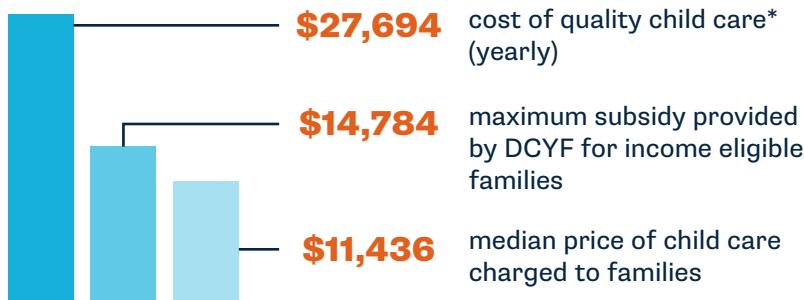
THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STATES  
CHILD CARE SHOULD COST NO MORE THAN 7% OF INCOME.

## PRICE BY AGE GROUP

<b>\$15,600</b> INFANTS: • <1 YR	<b>\$12,924</b> TODDLERS: • 1 - 2 YRS	<b>\$11,436</b> PRESCHOOLERS: • 3 - 5 YRS	<b>\$6,504</b> SCHOOL-AGE: • 6 - 12 YRS
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## CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AS SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT

Estimates show a significant difference between child care costs and the current WCCC subsidy rate, and an even greater gap with what families can pay.



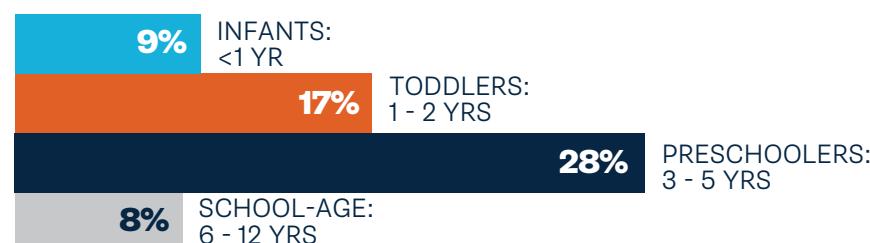
## REGIONAL IMPACT TO EMPLOYERS

**\$256.6M** Annual cost employers  
incur due to lack of child care.

**7,900** Workers with children under  
six years old quit a job due to child care  
issues.

**4,000** Workers with children under  
six years old fired from work due to child  
care issues.

## PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE\*



## GROWING THE WORKFORCE

**4,925**

MORE EARLY  
EDUCATORS  
NEEDED TO  
MEET DEMAND

\*Quality Care defined here as participation in  
the Washington Early Achievers Quality  
Rating and Improvement System.

# WHAT BUSINESSES SHOULD KNOW

**\$1  $\Rightarrow$  \$3**

## Invest & Return

Every dollar invested in early childhood development yields a 3X return to the community.



## Invest

Each low-income preschool age child in our region needs an investment of ~\$25k per year, over 3 years, in order to receive high-quality early care and education.



## Develop

By ensuring the development of the most critical skills in early childhood, children begin school ready to succeed.



## Sustain

Strong K-12 and higher education systems and jobs that pay a family wage build on our investments.



## GAIN \$220K

Per-child return on investment, students, and communities see increased wages, less need for supplemental services, and healthier, more robust local economies.



## WHAT EMPLOYERS CAN DO:

### SUPPORT EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE AND RELATED BENEFITS

- Lower cost options can include informing employees of child care subsidies; connecting employees with child care resource and referral networks; implementing “bring your infant to work;” and other family friendly policies.
- Higher cost options can include providing backup child care; contracting with nearby child care programs; and offering child care vouchers or tuition payments.
- Learn more about [Family Friendly Workplace](#) policies from the Department of Commerce.

### CHAMPION POLICIES THAT INCREASE ACCESS FOR ALL WASHINGTON FAMILIES

- Join the conversation! Local [Early Learning Coalitions](#) and [STEM Networks](#) are creating child care access plans. Join them and shape the future of child care in your community. See contact information below.
- Talk to [your legislators](#) about how the lack of affordable child care has impacted you, your employees, and business. Let them know why this issue is important to you and that you want them to act.
- Join Washington STEM as a [Child Care Champion](#). Connect with us and business leaders and employers across the state to learn more about the issues and solutions, and how to advocate for change.

## WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE?

Employers have an important opportunity to invest in their workforce by becoming family friendly workplaces. They also have a role in championing policies that increase access to child care for all Washington families. These investments will yield returns for children, families, and businesses. And they are the right thing to do!

## RESOURCES

- Email [employerta@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:employerta@commerce.wa.gov) to learn more about Department of Commerce Family Friendly Workplace Technical Assistance Program and updates.
- Visit our State of the Children data dashboard to learn more: <https://bit.ly/45SmE48>.



Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.

### For more information and to get involved contact:

- STEM Network Director: Chanel R. Hall, Graduate Tacoma, [chall@graduatetacoma.org](mailto:chall@graduatetacoma.org)
- Early Learning Coalition Lead: Muriel Herrera-Velasquez, Pierce County Early Childhood Network, [muriel@first5fundamentals.org](mailto:muriel@first5fundamentals.org)