

Child Care Costs in Appling County, Georgia

Local communities in Appling County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Appling County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Appling County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

¹ For children not in Georgia's Pre-K Lottery or federally funded Head Start.

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Child Care Costs in Atkinson County, Georgia

Local communities in Atkinson County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Atkinson County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Atkinson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%

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Child Care Costs in Bacon County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bacon County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%

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Child Care Costs in Baker County, Georgia

Local communities in Baker County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Baker County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Baker County

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Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.6%

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Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.1%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.1%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.3%

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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
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Child Care Costs in Banks County, Georgia

Local communities in Banks County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Banks County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Banks County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Child Care Costs in Barrow County, Georgia

Local communities in Barrow County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Barrow County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Barrow County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.3%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.3%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.3%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.3%	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.6%

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Bartow County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bartow County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Child Care Costs in Ben Hill County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Ben Hill County

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Berrien County, Georgia

Local communities in Berrien County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Berrien County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Berrien County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Bibb County, Georgia

Local communities in Bibb County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Bibb County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bibb County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	11.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Child Care Costs in Bleckley County, Georgia

Local communities in Bleckley County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Bleckley County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bleckley County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.2%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Brantley County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Local communities in Brooks County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Brooks County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Brooks County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
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Child Care Costs in Bryan County, Georgia

Local communities in Bryan County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Bryan County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bryan County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.3%

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Bulloch County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.3%
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Child Care Costs in Burke County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Burke County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Calhoun County, Georgia

Local communities in Calhoun County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Calhoun County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Calhoun County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

¹ For children not in Georgia's Pre-K Lottery or federally funded Head Start.

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Child Care Costs in Camden County, Georgia

Local communities in Camden County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Camden County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Camden County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	13.8%	\$7,886	\$8,783	11.5%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	13%	\$7,342	\$8,177	10.7%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	12.2%	\$7,070	\$7,875	10.3%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	10.3%	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

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Child Care Costs in Candler County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Candler County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%

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Child Care Costs in Carroll County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Carroll County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%

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Child Care Costs in Catoosa County, Georgia

Local communities in Catoosa County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Catoosa County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Catoosa County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.6%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.6%	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
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Child Care Costs in Charlton County, Georgia

Local communities in Charlton County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Charlton County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Charlton County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Chatham County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.7%

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Child Care Costs in Chattahoochee County, Georgia

Local communities in Chattahoochee County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Chattahoochee County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Chattahoochee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.3%
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Child Care Costs in Cherokee County, Georgia

Local communities in Cherokee County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Cherokee County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Cherokee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	9.3%	\$7,886	\$8,783	7.7%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	8.8%	\$7,342	\$8,177	7.2%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	8.3%	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.9%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.9%	\$6,798	\$7,572	6.7%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Clarke County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Clarke County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.2%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Clay County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.6%

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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Cobb County, Georgia

Local communities in Cobb County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Cobb County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Cobb County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	9.3%	\$7,886	\$8,783	7.7%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	8.7%	\$7,342	\$8,177	7.2%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	8.2%	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.9%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.9%	\$6,798	\$7,572	6.6%

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- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Coffee County, Georgia

Local communities in Coffee County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Coffee County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Coffee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.8%

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Child Care Costs in Colquitt County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Colquitt County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Columbia County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.1%

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Child Care Costs in Cook County, Georgia

Local communities in Cook County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Cook County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Cook County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Coweta County, Georgia

Local communities in Coweta County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Coweta County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Coweta County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.7%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.2%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
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Child Care Costs in Crawford County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Crawford County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%

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Child Care Costs in Crisp County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Crisp County

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Child Care Costs in Dade County, Georgia

Local communities in Dade County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Dade County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Dade County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Dawson County, Georgia

Local communities in Dawson County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Dawson County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Dawson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	5.9%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.3%

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- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Decatur County, Georgia

Local communities in Decatur County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Decatur County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Decatur County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%

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Child Care Costs in DeKalb County, Georgia

Local communities in DeKalb County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in DeKalb County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in DeKalb County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	10.8%	\$7,886	\$8,783	9%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	10.2%	\$7,342	\$8,177	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	9.6%	\$7,070	\$7,875	8%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	8%	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.7%

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Child Care Costs in Dodge County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Dodge County

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- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Dooly County, Georgia

Local communities in Dooly County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Dooly County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Dooly County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Child Care Costs in Dougherty County, Georgia

Local communities in Dougherty County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Dougherty County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Dougherty County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	14%	\$5,439	\$6,057	11.2%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	12.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	11.2%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	12.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	11.2%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	11.2%	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.1%

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Child Care Costs in Douglas County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Douglas County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	12.3%	\$7,886	\$8,783	10.2%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	11.6%	\$7,342	\$8,177	9.5%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	10.9%	\$7,070	\$7,875	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	9.2%	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.8%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Early County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%

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Child Care Costs in Echols County, Georgia

Local communities in Echols County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Echols County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Echols County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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⁷ Ife Finch Floyd, "Overview: 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning" (Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, February 21, 2022), <https://gbpi.org/overview-2023-fiscal-year-budget-for-the-georgia-department-of-early-care-and-learning/>.

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Effingham County, Georgia

Local communities in Effingham County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Effingham County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Effingham County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Child Care Costs in Elbert County, Georgia

Local communities in Elbert County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Elbert County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Elbert County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.3%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.3%

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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

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Child Care Costs in Emanuel County, Georgia

Local communities in Emanuel County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Emanuel County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Emanuel County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Evans County

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Child Care Costs in Fannin County, Georgia

Local communities in Fannin County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Fannin County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Fannin County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Child Care Costs in Fayette County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Fayette County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	8.7%	\$7,886	\$8,783	7.2%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	8.2%	\$7,342	\$8,177	6.7%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	7.7%	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.4%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.4%	\$6,798	\$7,572	6.2%

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Child Care Costs in Floyd County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Floyd County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
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Child Care Costs in Franklin County, Georgia

Local communities in Franklin County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Franklin County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Franklin County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Fulton County, Georgia

Local communities in Fulton County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Fulton County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Fulton County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	9.2%	\$7,886	\$8,783	7.6%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	8.7%	\$7,342	\$8,177	7.1%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	8.1%	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.8%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	6.8%	\$6,798	\$7,572	6.6%

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Child Care Costs in Gilmer County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Gilmer County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%

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Child Care Costs in Glascock County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Glascock County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Glynn County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	8.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.4%	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.7%

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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Gordon County, Georgia

Local communities in Gordon County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Gordon County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Gordon County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	11.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	9%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Child Care Costs in Grady County, Georgia

Local communities in Grady County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Grady County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Grady County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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Child Care Costs in Greene County, Georgia

Local communities in Greene County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Greene County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Greene County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.7%

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Child Care Costs in Gwinnett County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Gwinnett County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	11.2%	\$7,886	\$8,783	9.3%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	10.6%	\$7,342	\$8,177	8.7%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	9.9%	\$7,070	\$7,875	8.3%
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⁷ Ife Finch Floyd, "Overview: 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning" (Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, February 21, 2022), <https://gbpi.org/overview-2023-fiscal-year-budget-for-the-georgia-department-of-early-care-and-learning/>.

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Habersham County, Georgia

Local communities in Habersham County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Habersham County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Habersham County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Hall County, Georgia

Local communities in Hall County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Hall County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Hall County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	12.3%	\$7,886	\$8,783	10.2%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	11.6%	\$7,342	\$8,177	9.5%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	10.9%	\$7,070	\$7,875	9.1%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	9.1%	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
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Child Care Costs in Hancock County, Georgia

Local communities in Hancock County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Hancock County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Hancock County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

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Child Care Costs in Haralson County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Haralson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.6%

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Child Care Costs in Harris County, Georgia

Local communities in Harris County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Harris County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Harris County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.1%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.1%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.1%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.1%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
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Child Care Costs in Hart County, Georgia

Local communities in Hart County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Hart County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Hart County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.8%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.8%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.8%
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Child Care Costs in Heard County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Heard County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.2%

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Child Care Costs in Henry County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Henry County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	12%	\$7,886	\$8,783	9.9%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	11.3%	\$7,342	\$8,177	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	10.6%	\$7,070	\$7,875	8.9%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	8.9%	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.6%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Houston County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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³ National Women's Law Center's calculation based on the U.S. Department of Labor, 2022 May National Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) data for Georgia, available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ga.htm. Full-time, year-round is defined by the BLS as 2,080 hours per year.

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⁷ Ife Finch Floyd, "Overview: 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning" (Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, February 21, 2022), <https://gbpi.org/overview-2023-fiscal-year-budget-for-the-georgia-department-of-early-care-and-learning/>.

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Irwin County, Georgia

Local communities in Irwin County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Irwin County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Irwin County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.6%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Jackson County, Georgia

Local communities in Jackson County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Jackson County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jackson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Jasper County, Georgia

Local communities in Jasper County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Jasper County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jasper County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

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Child Care Costs in Jeff Davis County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jeff Davis County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.9%

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Child Care Costs in Jefferson County, Georgia

Local communities in Jefferson County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Jefferson County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jefferson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Jenkins County, Georgia

Local communities in Jenkins County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Jenkins County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jenkins County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	12.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.8%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Johnson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Jones County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.5%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lamar County

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Child Care Costs in Lanier County, Georgia

Local communities in Lanier County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Lanier County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lanier County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.1%

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Child Care Costs in Laurens County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Laurens County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
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Child Care Costs in Lee County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.4%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.4%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.4%
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Liberty County

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Child Care Costs in Lincoln County, Georgia

Local communities in Lincoln County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Lincoln County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lincoln County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Long County, Georgia

Local communities in Long County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Long County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Long County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
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Child Care Costs in Lowndes County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lowndes County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.4%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.6%

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Child Care Costs in Lumpkin County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Lumpkin County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in McIntosh County, Georgia

Local communities in McIntosh County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in McIntosh County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in McIntosh County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Child Care Costs in Macon County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Macon County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.8%

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Child Care Costs in Madison County, Georgia

Local communities in Madison County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Madison County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Madison County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.5%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.5%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	9.8%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.5%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.5%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.7%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Marion County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%

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⁹ Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition, "2023-24 Policies Priorities" (2023), <https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Policy-Priorities-2023-24-GA-IT-Coalition-1.pdf>.

Child Care Costs in Meriwether County, Georgia

Local communities in Meriwether County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Meriwether County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Meriwether County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	12.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.7%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	11.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.7%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	11.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.7%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.7%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Miller County, Georgia

Local communities in Miller County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Miller County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Miller County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%

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- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Mitchell County, Georgia

Local communities in Mitchell County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Mitchell County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Mitchell County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.2%

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Child Care Costs in Monroe County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Monroe County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	6.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	5.6%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Montgomery County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Morgan County, Georgia

Local communities in Morgan County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Morgan County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Morgan County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.5%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.5%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.5%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.5%	\$4,895	\$5,452	5.8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Child Care Costs in Murray County, Georgia

Local communities in Murray County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Murray County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Murray County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
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Child Care Costs in Muscogee County, Georgia

Local communities in Muscogee County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Muscogee County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Muscogee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Newton County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Child Care Costs in Oconee County, Georgia

Local communities in Oconee County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Oconee County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Oconee County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	5.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	4.6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	5.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	4.6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	5.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	4.6%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	4.6%	\$4,895	\$5,452	4.1%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Oglethorpe County, Georgia

Local communities in Oglethorpe County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Oglethorpe County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Oglethorpe County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Paulding County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Paulding County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	10.8%	\$7,886	\$8,783	9%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	10.2%	\$7,342	\$8,177	8.3%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	9.6%	\$7,070	\$7,875	8%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	8%	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.7%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Peach County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	7.6%
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Child Care Costs in Pickens County, Georgia

Local communities in Pickens County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Pickens County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Pickens County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	6.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
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- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Pierce County, Georgia

Local communities in Pierce County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Pierce County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Pierce County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%

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Child Care Costs in Pike County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Pike County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	7.5%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	6.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6%
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Child Care Costs in Polk County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Polk County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Child Care Costs in Putnam County, Georgia

Local communities in Putnam County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Putnam County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Putnam County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.4%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Quitman County, Georgia

Local communities in Quitman County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Quitman County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Quitman County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

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Child Care Costs in Rabun County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Rabun County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Randolph County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	16.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	14.8%
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Child Care Costs in Richmond County, Georgia

Local communities in Richmond County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Richmond County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Richmond County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	12.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.9%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	11.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.9%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	11.4%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.9%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.9%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Rockdale County, Georgia

Local communities in Rockdale County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Rockdale County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Rockdale County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$9,518	\$10,600	13.8%	\$7,886	\$8,783	11.4%
Toddler	\$8,974	\$9,995	13%	\$7,342	\$8,177	10.7%
Preschool ¹	\$8,430	\$9,389	12.2%	\$7,070	\$7,875	10.3%
School-age before & after care	\$7,070	\$7,875	10.3%	\$6,798	\$7,572	9.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Schley County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Schley County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Screven County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.3%

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- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Spalding County, Georgia

Local communities in Spalding County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Spalding County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Spalding County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	11%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.2%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Child Care Costs in Stephens County, Georgia

Local communities in Stephens County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Stephens County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Stephens County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%

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Child Care Costs in Stewart County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Stewart County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Sumter County

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Child Care Costs in Talbot County, Georgia

Local communities in Talbot County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Talbot County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Talbot County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.9%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Taliaferro County, Georgia

Local communities in Taliaferro County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Taliaferro County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Taliaferro County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	12.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	11.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11.2%

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Child Care Costs in Tattnall County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Tattnall County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.9%
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Child Care Costs in Taylor County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Taylor County

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Telfair County

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Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Terrell County, Georgia

Local communities in Terrell County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Terrell County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Terrell County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.6%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.6%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.6%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.6%

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
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Child Care Costs in Thomas County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Thomas County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%

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Child Care Costs in Tift County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Tift County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	11.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.7%	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	9.3%	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.4%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Toombs County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Child Care Costs in Towns County, Georgia

Local communities in Towns County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Towns County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Towns County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
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Child Care Costs in Treutlen County, Georgia

Local communities in Treutlen County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Treutlen County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Treutlen County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.1%

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Child Care Costs in Troup County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Troup County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	11%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10.1%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.8%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%

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Child Care Costs in Turner County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Turner County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%

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Child Care Costs in Twiggs County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Twiggs County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7%

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- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
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Child Care Costs in Union County, Georgia

Local communities in Union County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Union County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Union County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.5%

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Child Care Costs in Upson County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Upson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.4%

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Child Care Costs in walker county, georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Walker County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.7%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Walton County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	8.3%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	7.6%	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	6.6%	\$4,895	\$5,452	6%

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Child Care Costs in Ware County, Georgia

Local communities in Ware County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Ware County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Ware County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.3%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Warren County, Georgia

Local communities in Warren County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Warren County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Warren County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	11.4%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	10.2%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
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Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

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- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Washington County, Georgia

Local communities in Washington County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Washington County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Washington County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.7%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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Child Care Costs in Wayne County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Wayne County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%
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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8%

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Child Care Costs in Webster County, Georgia

Local communities in Webster County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Webster County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Webster County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
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Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	10%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.5%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
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Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Wheeler County, Georgia

Local communities in Wheeler County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Wheeler County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Wheeler County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	12.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	11.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	11%	\$4,623	\$5,149	11%

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Child Care Costs in White County, Georgia

Local communities in White County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in White County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in White County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	7%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.2%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.2%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	6.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.2%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	6.2%

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Child Care Costs in Whitfield County, Georgia

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Whitfield County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$6,798	\$7,572	10.9%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
Toddler	\$6,255	\$6,966	10%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
Preschool ¹	\$6,255	\$6,966	10%	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%
School-age before & after care	\$5,439	\$6,057	8.7%	\$4,895	\$5,452	7.9%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Wilcox County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	9.5%	\$4,623	\$5,149	8.5%
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Child Care Costs in Wilkes County, Georgia

Local communities in Wilkes County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Wilkes County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Wilkes County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	8.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	8.3%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%	\$4,623	\$5,149	7.8%

Notes: Child care prices are derived from Georgia's Market Rate Survey from 2016-2017. Prices are median yearly prices for one child at the market rate. Child care prices are presented in 2018 and 2022 real dollars using the CPI-U for child care (at the national level). For more details about the National Database of Childcare Prices, see <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/NationalDatabaseofChildcarePricesTechnicalGuideFinal.pdf>. Median child care prices as a share of median family income in 2022 are calculated by dividing the median child care prices (adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars) from the National Database of Childcare Prices by the median family incomes from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: Data on county-level median child care prices are from the National Database of Childcare Prices 2016-2018, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/featured-childcare>. Data on county-level median family income are from the Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19113, data.census.gov.

When parents struggle to find affordable child care, it means serious consequences for Georgia's economy:

- A 2021 survey of Georgia parents found that more than **1 in 3** respondents quit work, did not take a job, or significantly altered their job for child care reasons.⁵
- Economic activity annually in the state lost **\$1.75 billion** due to challenges resulting from underinvestment in child care.⁶

Chronic underfunding is compromising the well-being of ECE teachers, children, and families in Georgia:

- Georgia reimburses child care providers at only the **25th percentile** of the market rate for payment in the child care assistance program, well below the federal standard of what child care providers need to support their staff.²
- The median hourly wage of a typical child care worker in Georgia in 2022 was **\$11.71**, or **\$24,357** yearly for a child care worker working full-time year-round.³
- Quality Care for Children surveyed child care providers across Georgia to gauge their anticipated impact of federal stabilization grants coming to an end, finding **82%** reported they may need to increase tuition, **30%** say they may have to serve fewer children, and **36%** say they may have fewer toys and materials for children to use while learning.⁴
- The same survey finds **44%** of child care providers in Georgia may have to cut teacher wages, and **36%** anticipate they may need to lay off teachers.

Georgia's leaders can take full advantage of the substantial resources available to enact bold solutions that equitably invest in the future of our families and build a robust child care infrastructure.

Policymakers should:

- Make significant investments with state funds over the long term in Georgia's early childhood and education system, including responsibly allocating some of its historic budget surplus towards child care.^{7,8}
- Strengthen the early care workforce with compensation strategies such as higher wages, bonuses and ongoing supplements, and support systems including educational pathways, recruitment strategies, benefits, and professional development options.⁹
- Adequately fund the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program and increase reimbursement rates for providers with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve more families with low incomes, particularly families with infants and toddlers.

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Child Care Costs in Wilkinson County, Georgia

Local communities in Wilkinson County and throughout Georgia are better off when families have affordable child care that meets their needs and fosters strong child development. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers **no more than 7% of family income** to be affordable for child care. Data from the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's National Database of Childcare Prices shows that child care prices make up a substantial share of family incomes in Wilkinson County, Georgia and have increased over the past several years.

Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Wilkinson County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated	2018 (\$)	2022, estimated (\$)	Share of median family income in 2022, estimated
Infant	\$5,167	\$5,754	10.2%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
Toddler	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
Preschool ¹	\$4,895	\$5,452	9.6%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%
School-age before & after care	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%	\$4,623	\$5,149	9.1%

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Median Child Care Prices by Age and Care Setting in Worth County

	Center-based care			Home-based care		
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