

CHILD CARE AND THE COMMUNITY

Lewis & Clark County

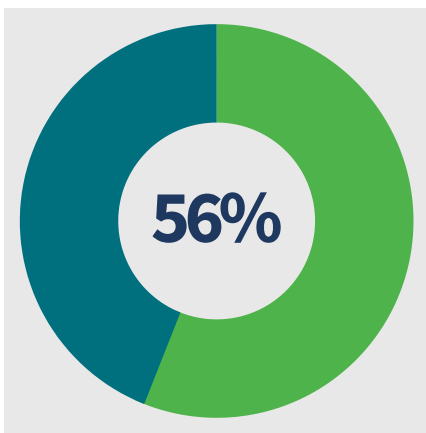


CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

WHAT IS QUALITY CHILD CARE?

Quality child care is safe, stimulating, and provides a loving environment in which children mentally and physically thrive. Long-term benefits include increased school readiness, healthy eating habits, advanced verbal and intellectual skills, social and emotional skills, and a strengthened future workforce for our community.

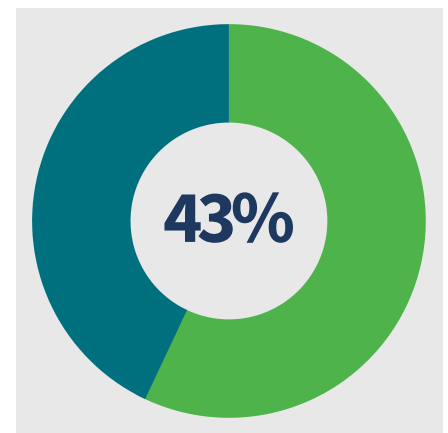
OVER 90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BETWEEN AGES 0-5.



Over 25,000 children under the age of 6 are in unregulated child care in MT. That's 56% of children who need care in our state.



Montana is 1 out of 5 states in the U.S. that fails to meet even 1/2 of the potential need for child care.

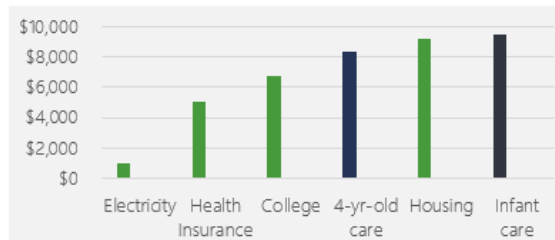


Lewis & Clark County has a shortage of 43% in licensed child care, leaving many families with illegal or unsafe options for their children.

WHAT IS THE COST OF CHILD CARE?

Child Care is considered affordable when it takes up 7% or less of a household's income. In Montana, a typical family in Lewis and Clark County spends over 29% of their income on child care for one infant and one toddler.

ANNUAL FAMILY EXPENSES



\$9,518

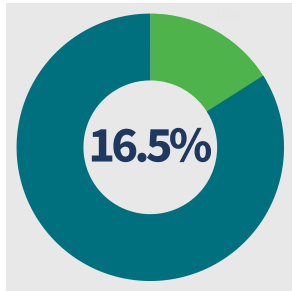
Per infant (ages 0-2) annually

\$8,365

Per child (ages 3-5) annually

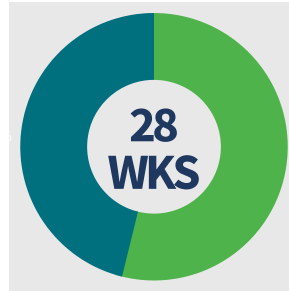
IMPACT OF HIGH COSTS ON FAMILIES

AFFORDABILITY



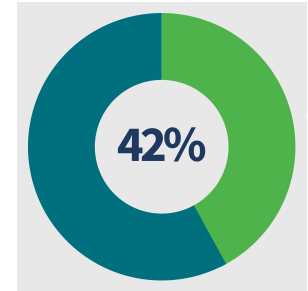
In MT, an average family pays 16.5% of their annual income for child care for one child.

MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS



Infant care for one child costs a parent making minimum wage about 28 weeks worth of wages.

SINGLE MOTHERS



An estimated 42% of single mothers with children 0-5 have an annual income of \$17,000 or less.

CHILD CARE AND THE WORKFORCE

Unmet child care demand is both a cause and effect of the state's workforce shortage. High cost, limited availability, and inconvenient program hours are all challenges that are driving parents out of the workforce.

42%

of MT's unemployed cite family responsibility as the reason they are not working.

64%

of MT's children under the age of 6 have both, or their only parent, in the workforce.

23%

of partially employed workers in MT cannot work full-time due to lack of child care.

17%

If child care capacity was met in Lewis & Clark County approximately 17% more Mothers would be in the workforce.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES!



**CHILD CARE
CONNECTIONS**

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

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Sources:

<https://childcareawarewa.org/employers/>
<https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MT>
<http://lmi.mt.gov/Portals/193/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Articles/2018/0918-ChildcareInMontana.pdf>
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