

# CHILD CARE AND THE COMMUNITY

Meagher County

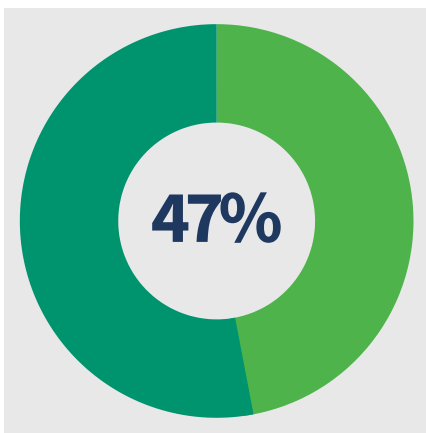


CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

## 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.

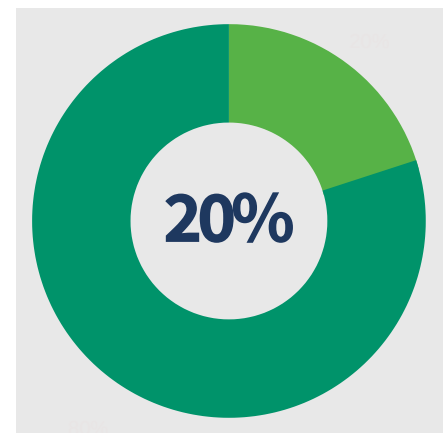
**OVER 90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BETWEEN AGES 0-5.**



Licensed child care in Montana meets only about **47 percent of demand**, leaving over 20,000 children without licensed care



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.



Meagher's licensed child care capacity only meets approximately **20 percent** of demand

## 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 Meagher County spends over **38%** of their income on child care for one infant and one toddler.

### Annual cost in Montana

College: \$6,323

Housing: \$8,382

4-year-old care: \$7,922

Infant care: \$9,062

**\$9,062**

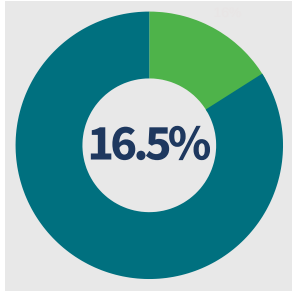
Per infant (ages 0-2) annually

**\$8,365**

Per child (ages 3-5) annually

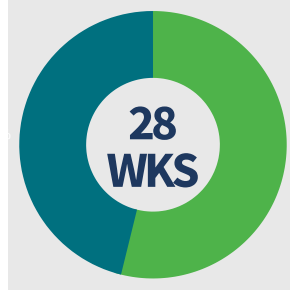
# IMPACT OF HIGH COSTS ON FAMILIES

## AFFORDABILITY



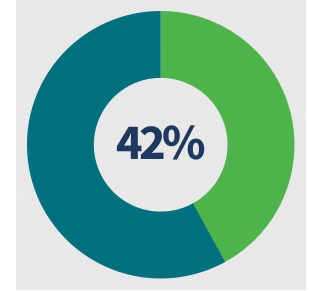
In MT, an average family pays 16.5% of their annual income for child care for one child.

## 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.

40%

of MT's businesses report difficulty recruiting or retaining qualified workers due to a lack of affordable child care in their community

67%

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

13%

of Montana employers offer paid parental leave to their employees

75%

of working moms lost job opportunities because of child care issues

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES!



**CHILD CARE  
CONNECTIONS**

### CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

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1143 STONERIDGE DRIVE, BOZEMAN MT  
(406) 587-7786 | (800) 962-0418  
CCCMONTANA.ORG

Sources:  
<https://childcareawarewa.org/employers/>  
<https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MT>  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2019/03/28/467488/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c90fe4716b640613581ddff/t/5ceed961e2c48379c66cc372/1559157090011/Family+Forward+Montana+Business+Practices\\_REVIEW+VERSION+.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c90fe4716b640613581ddff/t/5ceed961e2c48379c66cc372/1559157090011/Family+Forward+Montana+Business+Practices_REVIEW+VERSION+.pdf)  
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<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/customreports/4279/any>

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