

# THE FACTS ABOUT Child Care

One of seven Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R) in Montana, Child Care Connections serves Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties.

## Quality child care is...

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.



90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BETWEEN AGES 0 - 5

## Annual Costs in Montana

**Public College:** \$6,783  
**Housing:** \$9,232  
**4- year-old care:** \$8,365  
**Infant Care:** \$ 9,518

## Cost of child care is...

Child Care is considered affordable when it takes up 7% or less of a household's income. On average, Montana Families pay **\$9,581 annually** or **\$793 monthly** infant care. Which is **17%** of the state's median family income.

## Demand for child care is...

During the 2021 program year, CCC gave 541 child care referrals in our service area. But, the demand surpasses the available slots in safe licensed care.

25%

### Broadwater

Referrals: 2  
Licensed Child Care providers: 5  
Child Care Spots: 40

48%

### Gallatin

Referrals: 264  
Licensed Child Care providers: 96  
Child Care Spots: 2,500

51%

### Jefferson

Referrals: 7  
Licensed Child Care providers: 9  
Child Care Spots: 454

45%

### Lewis & Clark

Referrals: 211  
Licensed Child Care providers: 75  
Child Care Spots: 1,981

20%

### Meagher

Referrals: 0  
Licensed Child Care providers: 2  
Child Care Spots: 12

50%

### Park

Referrals: 18  
Licensed Child Care providers: 10  
Child Care Spots: 269

\*CCC received a total of 55 child care referral requests that fell outside our service area. These included requests from Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas, Tennessee, and other counties across Montana.

# Child care and the workforce

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



## 67%

OF MT'S CHILDREN, AGE SIX AND UNDER, HAVE BOTH OR THEIR ONLY PARENT IN THE WORKFORCE

## 32,000

WORKFORCE PARTICIPANTS DEPEND ON CHILD CARE TO WORK.



TWO OF FIVE EMPLOYERS SAY A LACK OF CHILD CARE IMPARES THEIR ABILITY TO FIND OR KEEP EMPLOYEES

## 71%

ISSUES FINDING CHILD CARE IMPACTS NEARLY 3/4 OF MT PARENTS ABILITY TO WORK

## What businesses are doing

Only 13% of MT employers offer paid parental leave. However, nearly three-quarters offer some type flexible work arrangements that can help meet employees child care needs.

★ 59%

**Flexible Scheduling:**  
Work hours outside of the traditional 8am - 5pm.

41%

**Temporarily Reduce Hours:**  
Reduced work hours, with or without pay, when child care is unavailable.

27%

**Advanced Scheduling:**  
Work schedules are set at least 14 days in advance.

★ 22%

**Bringing Child To Work:**  
Allowing employees to bring their young child to work temporarily or indefinitely.

★ 15%

**Dependent Care Assistance Plan (DCAP):**  
A stipend for child care costs.

2.6%

**Onsite Child Care:**  
Employer providing child care on work premises.

★ Supported Employment options that Child Care Connections offer their staff

\*Less than one percent of businesses offered subsidies, participated in a child care co-op, or reserved spaces at a local child care facility for their employees.

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES!



CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

A Montana nonprofit promoting quality child care from Yellowstone to the Capitol.

[cccmontana.org](http://cccmontana.org)  
(406) 587-7786  
(800) 962-0418



Let's connect!



SOURCES: [https://lmi.mt.gov/\\_docs/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Special-Reports-and-Studies/ChildcareReport2020.pdf](https://lmi.mt.gov/_docs/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Special-Reports-and-Studies/ChildcareReport2020.pdf); <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/30031>; <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MT/2/0/char/0>; <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MT>

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