

# CHILD CARE AND THE COMMUNITY

Jefferson County

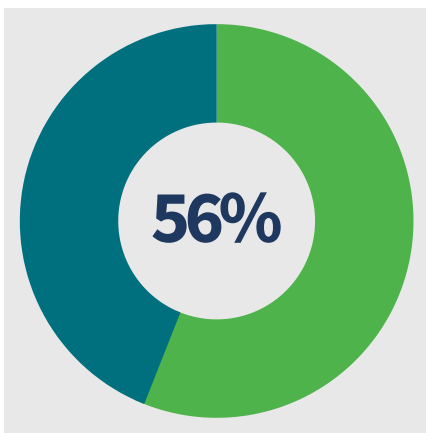


CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

## 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.

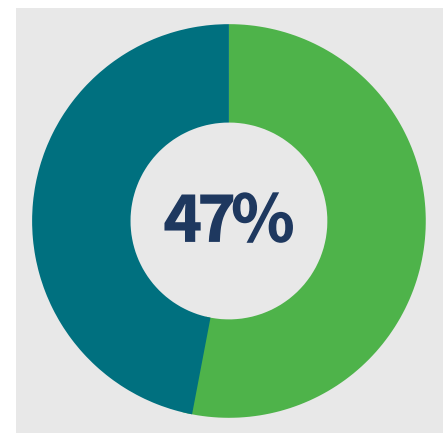
**OVER 90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BETWEEN AGES 0-5.**



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.

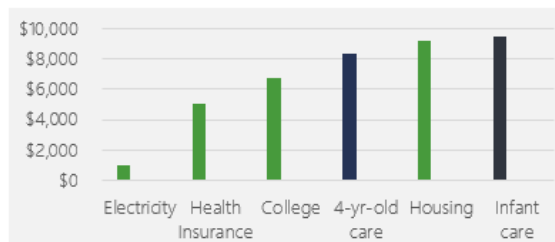


Jefferson County has a shortage of 47% in licensed child care, leaving many families with illegal or unsafe options for their children.

## 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 Jefferson County spends over 27% of their income on child care for one infant and one toddler.

### ANNUAL FAMILY EXPENSES



**\$9,518**

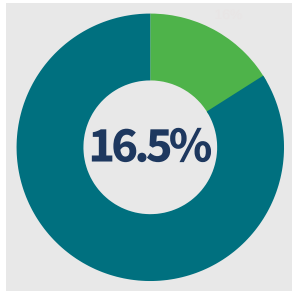
Per infant (ages 0-2) annually

**\$8,365**

Per child (ages 3-5) annually

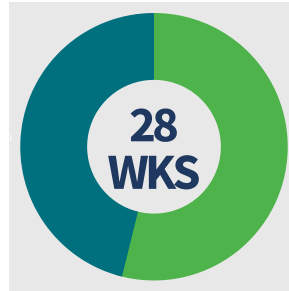
# IMPACT OF HIGH COSTS ON FAMILIES

## AFFORDABILITY



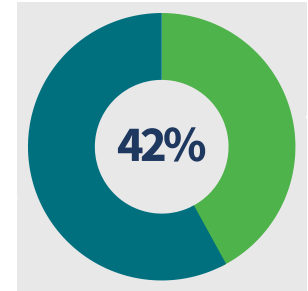
In MT, an average family pays 16.5% of their annual income for child care for one child.

## 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.

18%

If child care capacity was met in Jefferson County approximately 18% more Mothers would be in the workforce.

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES!



CHILD CARE  
CONNECTIONS

## CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

901 NORTH BENTON AVENUE, HELENA MT  
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>  
<http://lmi.mt.gov/Portals/193/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Articles/2018/0918-ChildcareInMontana.pdf>  
<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)

This project is funded (in part) under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. (Document Updated by CCC 1/13/19)