

# PARENTS AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE



2012 REPORT





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## **About Child Care Aware® of America**

Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRA) is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research and advocate for child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. To learn more about Child Care Aware® of America and how you can join us in ensuring access to quality child care for all families, visit [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org).

## **Acknowledgements**

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# Executive Summary

*Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2012 Report* presents 2011 data reflecting what parents pay for full-time child care in America. It includes average fees for both child care centers and family child care homes. Information was collected through a survey conducted in January 2012 that asked for the average costs charged for child care for infants, 4-year-old children and school-age children in child care centers and in family child care homes in every state. The information was provided by State Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network offices and local agencies that maintain data about child care programs in the communities they serve, or it was drawn from the most recent state market rate surveys.

## **Child Care Costs are High**

- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of full-time child care for an infant in a center ranged from about \$4,600 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$15,000 in *Massachusetts*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of full-time child care for a 4-year-old in a center ranged from about \$3,900 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$11,700 in *Massachusetts*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of before- and/or after-school center-based care for a school-age child ranged from about \$1,950 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$11,000 in *New York*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of care for an infant in a family child care home ranged from about \$4,500 in *South Carolina* to nearly \$10,400 in *New York*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old in a family child care home ranged from about \$4,100 in *South Carolina* to about \$9,600 in *New York*.
- ▶ The average annual cost for before-and/or after-school care in a family child care home for a school-age child in 2011 ranged from about \$1,800 in *Mississippi* to just over \$9,500 in *New York*.

## **Costs are High Compared to Family Income**

- ▶ In 40 states and the *District of Columbia*, the average annual cost of center-based infant care exceeded 10 percent of the state's median income for a two-parent family.

## **Costs are High Compared to Household Expenses**

- ▶ Center-based child care fees for an infant exceeded annual median rent payments in 22 states and the *District of Columbia*.
- ▶ Center-based child care fees for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) exceeded annual median rent payments in all 50 states and the *District of Columbia*.
- ▶ Center-based child care fees for two children exceeded housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage in 20 states and the *District of Columbia*.

## **Child Care Costs are High Compared to College Costs**

- ▶ In 35 states and the *District of Columbia*, the average annual cost for center-based care for an infant was higher than a year's in-state tuition and related fees at a four-year public college.
- ▶ Even for 4-year-olds, the average annual cost of center-based care was higher than public college tuition and fees in 19 states and the *District of Columbia*.

## Least-Affordable States for Child Care

The report ranks the 10 least-affordable states for care in a center, based on the cost of child care as a percentage of the state median income for a two-parent family.

The 10 least-affordable states for full-time infant care in a center in 2011 were *New York, Minnesota, Oregon, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Indiana* and *Wisconsin*.

The least-affordable states for full-time care for a 4-year-old in a center in 2011 were *New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oregon, Vermont, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Indiana, Maine* and *Rhode Island*.

## Children Need Quality Child Care, Especially in Tough Economic Times

Even though experts say the recession is officially over, families are still feeling the lingering effects. The slow recovery makes paying for child care difficult for parents.

CCR&R agencies report that some parents are removing their children from licensed programs to informal child care settings to better make ends meet. These options may be less expensive, but they are of unknown quality. There is no check for basic health and safety standards and other practices that promote healthy child development in child care settings that are not licensed.

Child Care Aware® of America is concerned about whether children will be safe and whether children will be in a setting to promote their healthy development.

The high cost of child care forces parents to make difficult decisions. Parents want quality child care for their children. Unfortunately, safety, health and school readiness comes at a cost that many parents cannot afford.

## Child Care Financing Challenges

The cost of child care is largely borne by parents. Unlike the cost of higher education, there is no system of public financing to help make child care more affordable for families. The federal government provides grants to states through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). States use these funds to subsidize the monthly cost of child care for low-income families. About 1.7 million children receive assistance,<sup>1</sup> about one out of every six eligible children.<sup>2</sup>

About one-fifth of the children receiving assistance through CCDBG each month are in unregulated settings.<sup>3</sup> In 10 states, the most recent data<sup>4</sup> shows that 30 percent or more of the children who receive CCDBG assistance are in unlicensed care. In three states (*Hawaii, Michigan and Oregon*), *more than half* of the children receiving assistance are in unlicensed care.<sup>5</sup>

The CCDBG law does not require the use of licensed care for families who receive assistance. The reality is that the quality of unlicensed care is unknown because unlicensed care is not required to meet licensing standards (e.g., basic health and safety standards, minimum training requirements for providers or background checks). Some states have minimum requirements for providers who receive taxpayer dollars to care for children, but those requirements are usually below licensing standards. Also, unlicensed care is not subject to regular inspections.

**This means that public funds are being used to pay for low- or unknown quality child care settings for children.**

States conduct market rate surveys to assess the cost of care within communities. Although states are required by law to conduct a market rate survey every other year, they are not required to use the survey to establish subsidy payment rates. This means that state-determined subsidy rates often do not reflect the current cost of child care in communities.

At the same time that parents struggle to afford child care, studies show that the quality of care (despite the high cost) is mediocre in many communities. Most states have weak training requirements even though research shows that training is one of the most important indicators of quality.

Child Care Aware® of America is calling on Congress to review state child care policies to ensure that federal dollars for child care are only spent in safe, quality settings. CCDBG was last authorized in 1996. At that time, the priority goal was to support parents in the workforce. The quality of care was a distant second.



Today we know much more about the impact of quality care on children's long-term development and success in school. The current approach to child care is not sufficient with today's goals to:

- Ensure that children in low-income families, especially those receiving public funding, are in quality care.
- Ensure all children start school ready to learn.

States should have quality standards to ensure that children are safe and in a setting that promotes their healthy development. States should have an effective enforcement system to ensure compliance with program standards. Subsidies for children from the lowest income families should be sufficient to offer parents a real choice among quality settings.

It is time for Congress and the states to design a system so all families, not just wealthy ones, can afford quality child care.

## **Child Care Aware® of America's Recommendations**

- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to define minimally acceptable quality child care for families.
- Require the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to study the real cost of quality care and to offer recommendations to Congress for financing to support quality options for parents.
- Reauthorize CCDBG and add requirements to improve the quality of care:
  - » Require background checks, including fingerprint checks, for child care providers to ensure that children are in the care of someone without a history of violent offenses.
  - » Require 40 hours of initial training and 24 hours of annual training in key areas such as CPR, first aid, early childhood development, child behavior/discipline, and child abuse detection and prevention.
  - » Require regular, frequent inspections to ensure effective oversight.

» Invest in Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) to:

- Assist providers in becoming licensed and in maintaining compliance with licensing standards.
- Help parents to identify quality settings.

» Increase the quality set-aside to 12 percent, increasing over several years to 25 percent (on par with Head Start).

- Provide resources to expand the availability of quality child care, particularly in low-income neighborhoods where there is a shortage of licensed care.
- Reduce barriers that prevent families from easily accessing child care assistance.

Parent choice in child care is a national policy objective. But, when the only choice parents have is among poor quality settings, that is not a real choice.

From the research, it is clear that quality care makes a difference. Now is the time for policymakers to promote quality choices for all parents.



# Introduction

**Child care in too many communities today is hard to find, difficult to afford and of dubious quality.** From community to community, the high cost of child care is a struggle for most families, not just families with low incomes.

**Yet, access to affordable child care is essential for a strong economy.** Safe, affordable, quality child care allows parents to work. It also helps children learn the social, emotional, intellectual and physical skills needed to develop in a healthy manner and ultimately to start school ready to succeed.

Working parents must have safe, reliable child care in order to obtain and retain a job. Nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting for an average of 35 hours each week.<sup>6</sup>

Child care is a way of life for most American families, but the cost can be daunting. Even for families fortunate enough to have jobs, wages have decreased while everyday costs continue to rise. “Real earnings” declined in 2011 by about 1 percent,<sup>7</sup> but the cost of living rose by nearly 3.2 percent during that time.<sup>8</sup>

**Working parents are caught in a bind - they need child care to continue to work and support their families, but costs keep going up, stretching family budgets to the limit.**

- The cost of infant care in a center increased 2 percent, while the cost of infant care in a family child care home increased 1.9 percent.
- The cost of care for a 4-year-old in a center increased 4.2 percent while the cost of care for a 4-year-old in a family child care home increased 4.8 percent.

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) throughout the country report that with the high cost of care, some families make the difficult choice to remove their children from licensed programs to informal child care settings. These options may be less expensive, but they

are of unknown quality. There is no oversight of unlicensed care for basic health and safety standards, no required training or other practices that promote healthy child development.

**Parents pay a significant portion of their income for child care.** With the cost of child care today, both low- and middle-income parents have limited access to affordable, quality care.

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommends that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their family income on child care.**<sup>9</sup> Yet, as this report shows, nationally the cost of full-time care for one infant in a center ranges from about 7 to 16 percent of the median income for married-couple families with children.

- In 40 states plus the *District of Columbia*, the cost of center-based care for an infant exceeds 10 percent of state median income for a married couple
- For single parents, the cost of center-based infant care exceeds 10 percent of median income in every state.

**Child care costs are even more of a strain on the budget for parents with more than one child in care.** When comparing child care to other major household expenses, the cost of two children in center care is similar to or higher than housing costs and can be higher than other major expenses such as transportation, utilities, food and health care (see Figure 3, major household expenses by region).

Most government money for child care is allocated to the states through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Funds are used to provide subsidies to low-income families to better afford child care. But only a fraction of eligible children receive help. HHS estimates that only 17 percent of eligible children receive fee assistance.<sup>10</sup>

**The high cost of care forces many families to make difficult choices.** Some parents are forced to sacrifice quality for affordable care. Others create informal, makeshift arrangements for child care. Nearly 30 percent

of children under age 5 today are in multiple child care settings every week.<sup>11</sup>

A 2010 report released by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) found that quality child care has a long-lasting impact on a child's development, behavior and cognitive abilities. Even 10 years after children have left child care, quality child care is still related to higher academic achievement. One of the most important findings from the study is that quality child care has a lasting impact on middle-income and affluent children, not just low-income children.<sup>12</sup>

**Methodology:** In January 2012, Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) surveyed CCR&R State Network offices and local CCR&Rs about 2011 cost data related to the price of child care for infants, 4-year-old children and school-age children in child care centers and family child care homes. For some states, the cost of care was derived from the latest market rate survey available (2011, 2010 or 2009). Rates collected prior to 2011 were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index; i.e., reported in 2011 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator.<sup>13</sup>





FRISBEE  
DOG  
Champion

# Key Points from the Data

## Child Care Is a Major Expense for Families

### Quick facts:

- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of full-time child care for an infant in a center ranged from nearly \$4,600 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$15,000 in *Massachusetts*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average cost for center-based infant care exceeded \$10,000 a year in 19 states and the *District of Columbia*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of full-time child care for a 4-year-old in a center ranged from about \$3,900 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$11,700 in *Massachusetts*.
- ▶ In 2011, the average annual cost of before- and/or after-school center-based care for a school-age child ranged from about \$1,950 in *Mississippi* to nearly \$11,000 in *New York*.

## A Closer Look at Child Care Affordability

Child care programs are doing what they can to keep costs affordable for families. But it is difficult to maintain a program (cover salaries and other operational costs) while also keeping the weekly rates at a level parents can afford.

Some child care programs are adapting to the economy by expanding the number of hours they are open or offering parents part-time hours. They may control costs by increasing child-to-staff-ratios and group sizes, cutting back on workforce training, closing classrooms and delaying improvements such as ground cover for playgrounds.<sup>14</sup>

Like many service industries, about 80 percent of the cost in a child care program is for payroll and related expenses. The major way to control the budget is to control salaries. However, despite the tremendous responsibilities child care providers assume, child care remains one of the lowest paying professional fields. The federal minimum wage for covered nonexempt employees has been \$7.25 per hour since 2009.<sup>15</sup> The average wage for full-time child care

workers was \$10.25 per hour in 2011.<sup>16</sup> That translates to \$21,320 annually – below the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four, and barely above the poverty guidelines for a family of three.<sup>17</sup>

Family child care home providers earn even less. Studies show most have very low earnings, between \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year, with long hours and no benefits such as health care and retirement plans.<sup>18</sup>

The average annual cost for infant care is higher than the cost for a 4-year-old because infants require more personal care. States recognize this difference by setting standards that require a smaller child-to-staff ratio and a smaller group size for infants compared to 4-year-old children. While fewer infants per caregiver is better for infant safety and development, it means the cost for parents is higher.

The average annual cost for care for a school-age child is lower than the cost of infant care and care for a 4-year-old because school-age children spend fewer hours in care, and state licensing standards permit a higher child-to-staff ratio and a larger group size for school-age children.

Appendix 1 shows the 2011 average annual cost of full-time care in a child care center and a family child care home for infants, 4-year-old children and school-age children by state.

## Child Care Costs are High Compared to Household Income

### Quick facts:

- ▶ In 2011, in 40 states and the *District of Columbia*, the average annual cost of infant care in a center exceeded 10 percent of the median household income for a two-parent family.
- ▶ In 2011, in 22 states and the *District of Columbia*, the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old in a center exceeded 10 percent of the median household income for a two-parent family.

## Child Care Costs Exceed College Costs

- In 2011, in 35 states plus *D.C.*, the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care was higher than a year's tuition and fees at a four-year public college.
- Even the annual cost of care for a 4-year-old, which is less expensive than care for an infant, was higher than public college costs in 19 states and *D.C.*

Appendix 6 shows the 2011 average annual costs of full-time child care in a center for an infant, a 4-year-old child and a school-age child compared to public college tuition and fees by state.

## The Most- and Least-Affordable States for Child Care

To better understand the impact of child care fees on a family's budget, Child Care Aware® of America compared the cost of care to family income. Affordability was calculated by dividing the average cost of care as a percentage of state median income.<sup>19</sup> The states were ranked from least affordable to most affordable.

The least-affordable state had the highest child care cost compared to family income. (This does not mean that the

least-affordable state had the most expensive child care, only that the cost of care as a percentage of income was highest when compared to all states.)

- In 2011, *New York* was the least-affordable state for center-based infant care. The cost was nearly 16 percent of state median income for two-parent families.
- In 2011, the dollar cost of center-based care was actually highest in *Massachusetts*, nearly \$15,000 per year, compared to just over \$14,000 per year in *New York*; however, as a percentage of median income for two-parent families, care was least affordable in *New York*.
- *New York* was the most unaffordable state for single mothers, with full-time center-based infant care costing more than 54 percent of state median income for single mothers.

## Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Center-based Infant Care

Table 1 shows the top 10 least-affordable states in 2011 for center-based infant care. The cost of care is compared to state median income for single mothers and for a two-parent family. The ranking of affordability is based on cost of care compared to state median income for a two-parent family.

Table 1

**Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Center-Based Infant Care in 2011**  
(Ranked by Child Care Cost as Percentage of Two-Parent Family Income)

State	Average Annual Cost of Infant Care	State Median Income for Single Mother Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
<b>New York</b>	\$14,009	\$25,852	54.2%	\$88,189	15.9%	1
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$13,579	\$26,123	52.0%	\$87,271	15.6%	2
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$11,079	\$22,250	49.8%	\$72,166	15.4%	3
<b>Colorado</b>	\$12,621	\$26,366	47.9%	\$83,063	15.2%	4
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$12,876	\$29,466	43.7%	\$87,430	14.7%	5
<b>Kansas</b>	\$11,023	\$23,446	47.0%	\$75,086	14.7%	5
<b>California<sup>^^</sup></b>	\$11,823	\$27,534	42.9%	\$80,796	14.6%	7
<b>Illinois</b>	\$12,199	\$24,833	49.1%	\$84,779	14.4%	8
<b>Massachusetts</b>	\$14,980	\$27,922	53.6%	\$105,537	14.2%	9
<b>Indiana</b>	\$9,880	\$22,178	44.5%	\$73,270	13.5%	10
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$10,775	\$23,568	45.7%	\$79,589	13.5%	10

Note: Affordability is a comparison of cost against state median income. State rankings do not include the *District of Columbia*.

\*State median income of families with children, from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation.

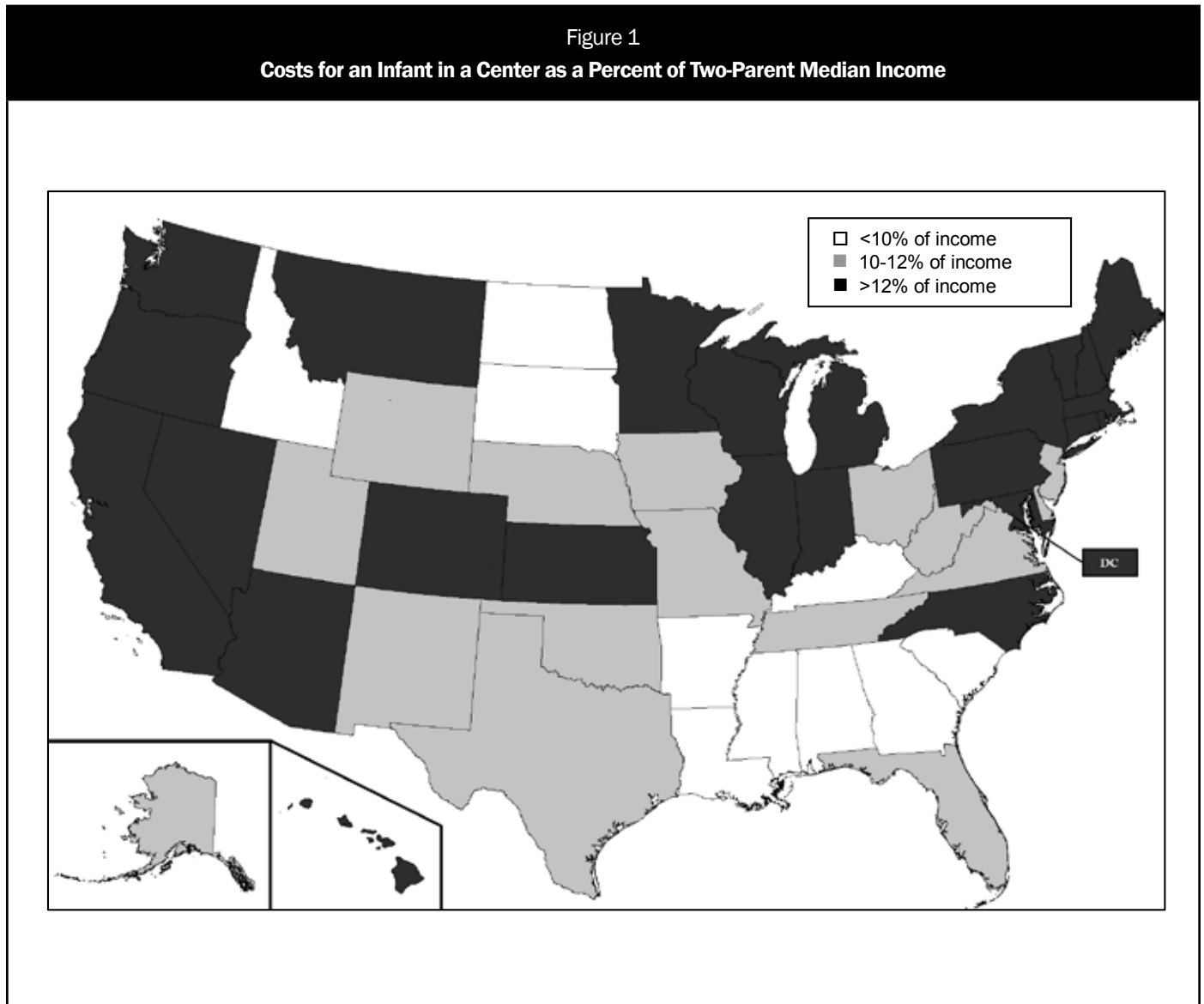
<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation.



See Appendix 2 for a complete listing of 2011 rankings of affordability for child care for an infant in a center.

Figure 1 shows the most- and least-expensive states for center-based infant care in 2011 as a percentage of state median income for a two-parent family. States are separated into three categories:

- States where child care costs for infants in a center are **less than 10 percent** of the state median income for a two-parent family (shown in white).
- States where child care cost for infants in a center are **between 10 and 12 percent** (shown in gray).
- States where child care costs for infants in a center are **more than 12 percent** (shown in black).



## Center-based Infant Care Cost Compared to Quality of Care

States where the cost for child care is least expensive/most affordable also have some of the lowest scores in Child Care Aware® of America’s most recent reviews of the strength of state child care licensing regulations and oversight.

Table 2 shows that 10 of the 12 states where the cost of care is considered more “affordable” — that is, the cost for an infant falls below 10 percent of the median income for a two-parent family — have regulations for child care licensing and oversight of these regulations that are weak compared to other states. In these states, parents may not be paying as large a portion of their income for child care compared to what parents are paying in other states, but their children are more likely to be in care that is of low quality. In these states, “affordable” care is no bargain.

Table 2  
Strength of Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight in More “Affordable” States

State	“Affordability” Ranking*	Strength of Regulations and Oversight		
		Total Score for Regulation and Oversight (out of 150)	Individual Score as a Percent of Total Score	Quality Score Ranking (out of 52)
Wyoming	37	78	52%	38
Nebraska	39	61	41%	49
Ohio	39	80	53%	35
Kentucky	42	75	50%	40
Georgia	43	79	53%	36
Idaho	43	17	11%	52
Arkansas	45	66	44%	47
South Carolina	46	78	52%	38
South Dakota	46	90	60%	27
Louisiana	48	44	29%	51
Alabama	49	71	47%	45
Mississippi	50	75	50%	40

Notes: The source for the strength of regulations: State policies for regulation of child care centers (*We Can Do Better: 2011 Update*).<sup>20</sup> Rankings for strength of regulations out of 50 states, the *District of Columbia* and the Department of Defense.

\*Affordability ranking: For full-time care for an infant in a center as a percentage of state median income for two-parent families. A higher number indicates that the cost of care is lower compared to state median income. For example, *Mississippi* is ranked 50th, which means that the cost of care in *Mississippi* is least expensive when compared against median income in the state. Affordability rankings do not include the *District of Columbia* and the Department of Defense. Full listing of states and affordability rankings in shown in Appendix 2.

## Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Center-based 4-Year-Old Care

Table 3 shows the 10 least-affordable states in 2011 for center-based care for a 4-year-old child. The cost of care is compared to state median income for single mothers and

for a two-parent family. The ranking of affordability is based on the cost of care compared to state median income for a two-parent family. See Appendix 3 for a complete listing of 2011 rankings of affordability for child care for a 4-year-old in a center.

Table 3

### Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Center-Based Care for a 4-Year-Old in 2011 (Ranked by Child Care Cost as Percentage of Two-Parent Family Income)

State	Average Annual Cost of Care for 4-Year-Old Child	State Median Income for Single Mother Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
<b>New York</b>	\$11,585	\$25,852	44.8%	\$88,189	13.1%	1
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$10,470	\$26,123	40.1%	\$87,271	12.0%	2
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$9,588	\$23,568	40.7%	\$79,589	12.0%	2
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$8,542	\$22,250	38.4%	\$72,166	11.8%	4
<b>Vermont<sup>^</sup></b>	\$8,758	\$25,336	34.6%	\$76,965	11.4%	5
<b>Colorado</b>	\$9,239	\$26,366	35.0%	\$83,063	11.1%	6
<b>Kansas</b>	\$8,305	\$23,446	35.4%	\$75,086	11.1%	6
<b>Massachusetts</b>	\$11,669	\$27,922	41.8%	\$105,537	11.1%	6
<b>Indiana</b>	\$7,975	\$22,178	36.0%	\$73,270	10.9%	9
<b>Maine</b>	\$7,904	\$21,940	36.0%	\$72,196	10.9%	9
<b>Rhode Island</b>	\$9,932	\$25,607	38.8%	\$91,065	10.9%	9

Note: Affordability is a comparison of cost against state median income. State rankings do not include the *District of Columbia*.

\*State median income of families with children, from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

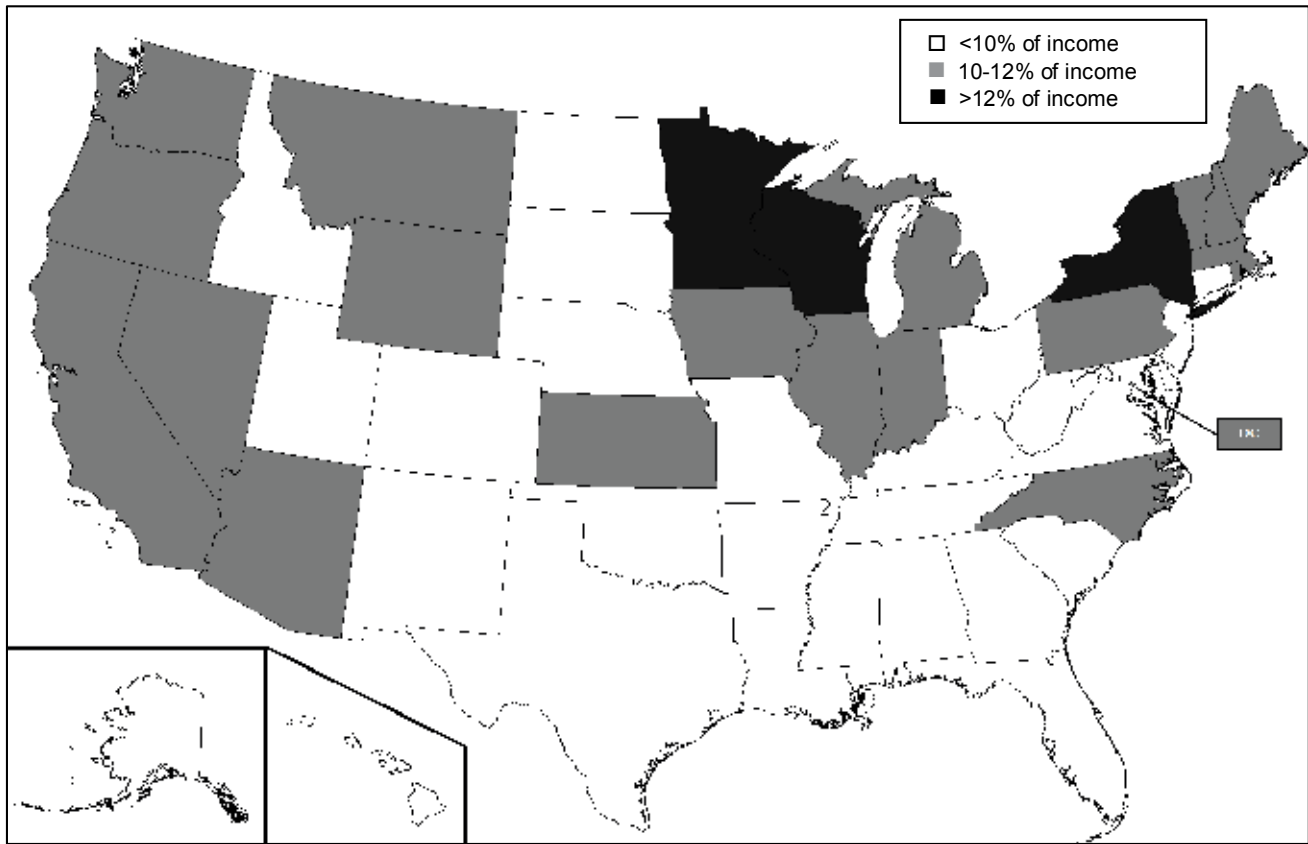
Figure 2 shows the most-expensive and least-expensive states for 4-year-old care in a center in 2011 as a percentage of state median income for a two-parent family. States are separated into three categories:

- States where child care costs for 4-year-olds in a center are **less than 10 percent** of the state median income for a two-parent family (shown in white).

- States where child care costs for 4-year-olds in a center are **between 10 and 12 percent** of state median income for a two-parent family (shown in gray).

- States where child care costs for 4-year-olds in a center are **more than 12 percent** of state median income for a two-parent family (shown in black).

**Figure 2**  
**Costs for a 4-Year-Old in a Center as a Percent of Two-Parent Median Income**



## Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Center-based School-age Care

Table 4 shows the 10 least-affordable states in 2011 for school-age care in a center. The cost of care is compared to

state median income for single mothers and a two-parent family. The ranking of affordability is based on the cost of care compared to state median income for a two-parent family. See Appendix 4 for a complete listing of 2011 rankings of affordability for center-based school-age care.

Table 4  
**Top 10 Least-Affordable States for Before-/After-School Care for a School-age Child in a Center in 2011**

State	Average Annual Cost of School-Age Care	State Median Income for Single Mother Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family*	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
New York	\$10,962	\$25,852	42.4%	\$88,189	12.4%	1
Wisconsin	\$8,187	\$23,568	34.7%	\$79,589	10.3%	2
Arkansas	\$6,259	\$18,683	33.5%	\$62,035	10.1%	3
Montana	\$6,679	\$20,333	32.8%	\$68,574	9.7%	4
Arizona	\$6,191	\$25,682	24.1%	\$70,563	8.8%	5
Rhode Island	\$7,800	\$25,607	30.5%	\$91,065	8.6%	6
Kansas	\$6,131	\$23,446	26.1%	\$75,086	8.2%	7
Hawaii	\$6,909	\$29,466	23.4%	\$87,430	7.9%	8
Iowa <sup>^</sup>	\$5,987	\$22,809	26.3%	\$75,581	7.9%	8
Nebraska	\$5,769	\$23,601	24.4%	\$74,787	7.7%	10

Note: Affordability is a comparison of cost against state median income. State rankings do not include the *District of Columbia*.

\*State median income of families with children from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

## **Family Child Care Homes Are Less Expensive; However, the Quality of Care is Unknown in Unlicensed Programs**

Family child care homes provide child care in a home-like setting, usually the provider's own residence. Although the cost of care in a family child care home is less expensive than care in a center, the quality of care that children receive in many child care homes may be unknown if the home is unlicensed.

Licensing requirements vary greatly by state with 27 states not requiring a license for home providers until five or more children are cared for in the home.<sup>21</sup>

South Dakota allows the largest number of children per family child care home without any health and safety standards or oversight, setting the licensing threshold at 13 children. Providers in South Dakota may care for up to 12 children without a license.<sup>22</sup>

Unlicensed care is not subject to basic health and safety requirements, minimum training requirements or background checks for providers. Unlicensed care is not inspected. Therefore, the health and safety of children in this type of care is unknown. Appendix 11 shows the licensing thresholds for children in family child care homes.

### **Quick facts:**

- In 2011, the average annual cost of care for an infant in a family child care home ranged from just over \$4,500 in *South Carolina* to nearly \$10,400 in *New York*.
- In 2011, the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old in a family child care home ranged from about \$4,100 in *South Carolina* to just over \$9,600 in *New York*.
- In 2011, the average annual cost for **two children** (an infant and a 4-year-old) in a family child care home ranged from nearly \$8,600 in *South Carolina* to nearly \$20,000 in *New York*.
- The gap in cost between centers and family child care homes can be large: In 2011, the cost difference between care in a family child care home and center-based care for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) was over \$9,400 in *Minnesota*.

## Range of Child Care Costs

Table 5 shows a comparison of highest and lowest annual child care costs of a family child care home and a child care center for families with either an infant or a 4-year-old in

child care; families with both an infant and a 4-year-old child in care; and families with two preschool-age children in care (for example, a 3-year-old and a 4½-year-old).

Table 5  
Range of Annual Child Care Costs for 2011

Type of Care	One Child in Care				Two Children in Care			
	Infant		4-Year-Old Child		One Infant and One 4-Year-Old-Child		Two Preschool-Age Children (Using 4-Year-Old Cost)	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Family Child Care Home	\$4,544	\$10,358	\$4,095	\$9,620	\$8,639	\$19,978	\$8,190	\$19,240
	South Carolina	New York	South Carolina	New York	South Carolina	New York	South Carolina	New York
Child Care Center	\$4,591	\$14,980	\$3,911	\$11,669	\$8,502	\$26,649	\$7,822	\$23,338
	Mississippi	Massachusetts	Mississippi	Massachusetts	Mississippi	Massachusetts	Mississippi	Massachusetts

Note: Ranges do not include the *District of Columbia*. Family child care home costs are not reported for *Mississippi* due to the small number of reported.

## Child Care Costs are High Compared to Other Household Expenses

Child care costs are among the major household expenses for most families and can be the highest or second highest expense in a family's budget, especially for families with two young children in care.

- In 2011, center-based child care fees for an infant exceeded annual median rent payments in 22 states plus the *District of Columbia*.
- In 2011, child care fees for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) in a child care center exceeded annual median rent payments in every state.
- In 2011, the cost of child care fees for two children exceeded housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage in 20 states and the *District of Columbia*.

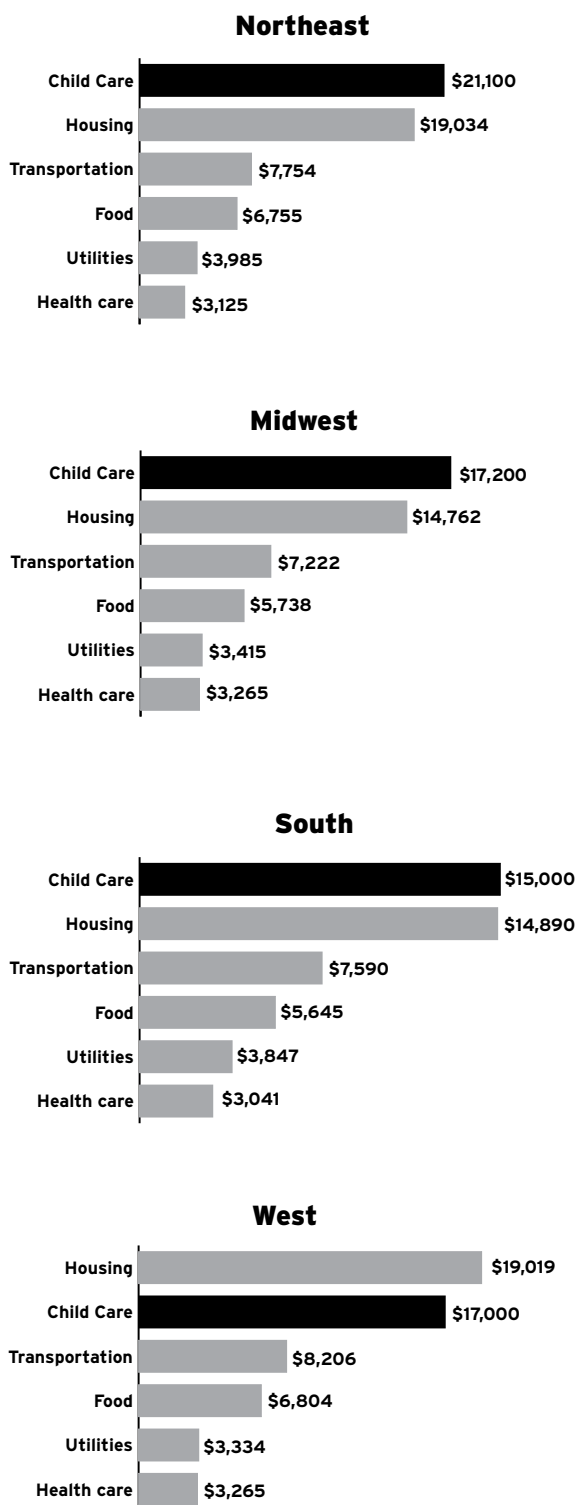
Appendix 5 shows the 2011 average annual child care center costs for an infant, a 4-year-old, a school-age child and for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old). It also shows annualized mortgage payments and annualized rent payments by state.

For families with two young children in care at the same time, costs can be overwhelming and can dwarf most other items in the family budget. Figure 3 shows how the average total cost of full-time care for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) in a center stacks up against other typical household costs by region for housing, utilities, transportation, food and health care.

The cost of full-time center-based care for two children is the highest single household expense in the Northeast, Midwest and South. In the West, it is surpassed only by the cost of housing.

Figure 3

**Center Care Costs for Two Children Compared With Other Major Household Expenses by Region**



Sources: Child care costs per region based on unweighted averages across states per region, 2011 costs for an infant and 4-year-old in full-time care in a center, Appendix 1. Other household expenses reported by U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey 2010. <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csregion.htm>

**Urban Child Care Is More Expensive Than Rural Care**

Parents in urban areas paid dramatically more for child care than parents in rural areas. An urban area is defined as a population cluster of 50,000 or more people.<sup>23</sup>

Parents in rural areas typically have fewer child care options (fewer child care centers and licensed-care providers) and therefore rely more often on informal, and often unlicensed, child care from neighbors and friends than urban parents.<sup>24</sup> Appendices 10a and 10b show the 2011 average annual cost for infants and 4-year-old children in urban and rural child care centers and family child care homes for those states that reported this data.

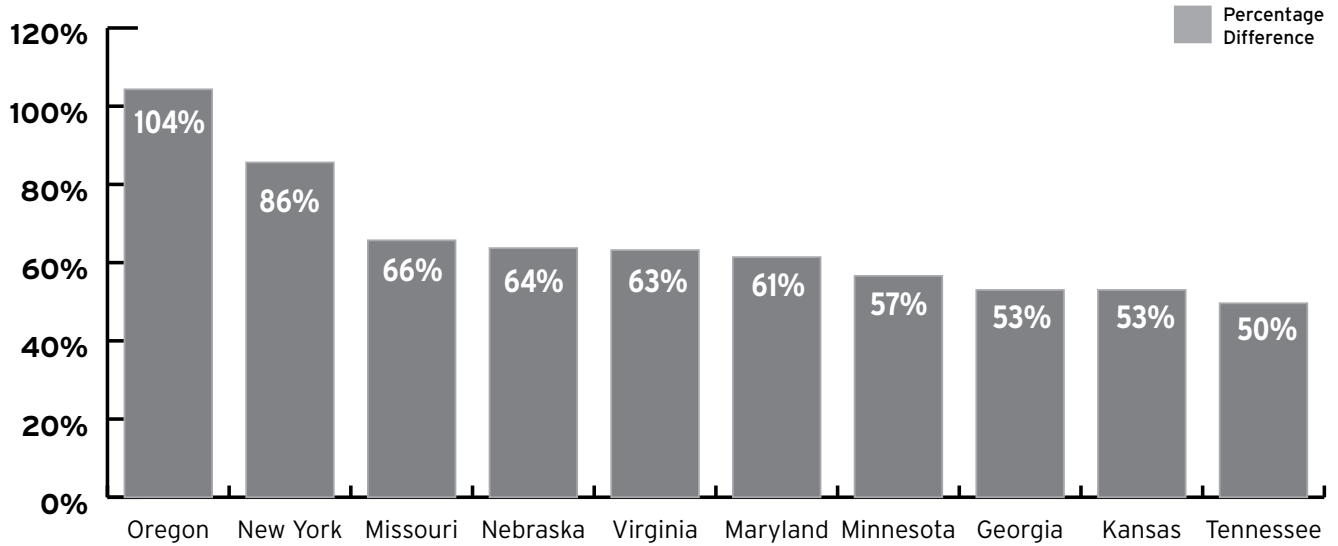
**Quick facts:**

- In 2011, the average annual cost in urban areas for center-based infant care was about one third (33 percent) more than the average annual cost for rural care in the same state.
- In 2011, parents with 4-year-olds in a center in an urban area paid an average of about 28 percent more annually than parents in rural areas of the same state.
- *Oregon* reported the widest cost disparity between urban and rural costs for an infant in a center. Parents in an urban area in *Oregon* paid about twice as much annually for infant care as parents in rural *Oregon*.
- *Oregon* also reported the widest cost disparity between urban and rural costs for a 4-year-old in a center. Parents in an urban area in *Oregon* paid about 86 percent more annually for care for a 4-year-old than parents in rural *Oregon*.



Figure 4

Urban-Rural Cost Differences: States with Highest Percentage Gap in Costs (Infants in a Center)



\* "Urban area" is defined as a population cluster of 50,000 or more people, based on the U.S. Census definition of "Urban Area or Urban Cluster." A "rural" area is defined as having a population of less than 50,000 people.

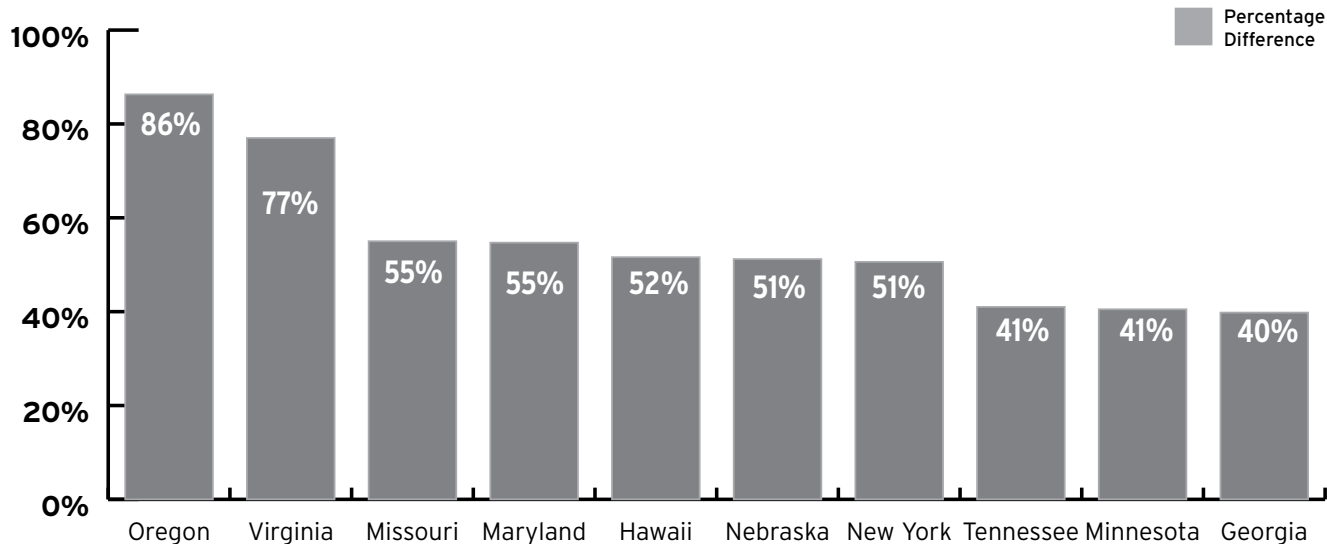
Figure 4 shows the difference between the average annual cost of care for an infant in a rural and urban child care

center, for the states with the largest percentage differences (among those states that reported this data).

Figure 5 shows the difference between the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old in a rural and urban child care

center, for the states with the largest percentage differences (among those states that reported this data).

Figure 5  
**Urban-Rural Cost Differences: States with Highest Percentage Gap in Costs (4-Year-Olds in a Center)**



\* "Urban area" is defined as a population cluster of 50,000 or more people, based on the U.S. Census definition of "Urban Area or Urban Cluster." A "rural" area is defined as having a population of less than 50,000 people.

Child care is especially expensive in the *District of Columbia*. In fact, the cost of care is much higher than in any of the 50 states.

- » For 2011, the average annual cost of full-time care for an infant in a center was more than \$20,000.
- » For 2011, the average annual cost of full-time care for a 4-year-old in a center was nearly \$15,500.
- » For 2011, the average annual cost of full-time care for an infant in a family child care home was about \$12,300.
- » The cost of care for a 4-year-old in a family child care home is not reported because of the small number of providers reporting this information in the latest market rate survey.
- » The cost of care for school-age children was not available for 2011.

The *District of Columbia* is an unusual case when it comes to the cost of child care, making it difficult to draw comparisons with the 50 states. First, the *District of Columbia* is an exclusively urban area, with a large income disparity between single-parent and two-parent family incomes. The *District of Columbia* has very high median income for two-parent families, higher than any of the 50 states, and a very low median income for single-parent families (see Appendix 2) – in fact, median income for single-parent households is just 18 percent of that for two-parent households.

Second, the *District of Columbia* has a universal public prekindergarten program that is designed to enroll all 3- and 4-year-old children living in the District, meaning that most center-based programs are striving to reach high-quality standards, and nearly all of the District's 4-year-olds, and almost 60 percent of 3-year-olds, were served by this program in 2010.\*

Because of the unique nature of costs for child care in the *District of Columbia*, costs are shown in Appendices, but not included in rankings of affordability and tables of cost ranges.

\*National Institute for Early Education Research (2012). *The State of Preschool 2011*.

## Single Parents and Parents Living at the Poverty Level Struggle with Child Care Costs

Single parents struggle to pay for child care. In many cases, the average cost of child care is far out of reach for a single parent, especially for those with two or more children.

Mothers earning below the poverty level set by the federal government (\$18,530 in 2011 for a family of three for most states)<sup>25</sup> struggle to pay for child care. Although these parents would qualify for publically funded child care subsidy payments, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that only 17 percent of eligible children receive child care subsidies.<sup>26</sup>

### Quick facts:

- Among the 50 states, the annual cost of center-based infant care averaged 38 percent of the state median income for a single mother.
- The annual cost of center-based care for a 4-year-old child averaged 31 percent of the state median income for a single mother.
- The average annual cost of center-based care for an infant is more than half (51 percent) of the income of a family of three living at the poverty level (\$18,530).
- Families in Massachusetts living at the poverty level would have to pay more than 81 percent of their income for full-time center-based care for an infant.
- The annual cost of center-based care for an infant averaged more than 51 percent of the income of a family of three living at the poverty level.
- The annual cost of center-based care for a 4-year-old averaged 41 percent of the income of a family of three living at the poverty level.
- The range for the cost of center-based infant care compared to the poverty level is 25 percent of income in *Mississippi*, rising to 81 percent in *Massachusetts*. The range for center-based infant care compared to 200 percent of the poverty level is 12.4 percent of income in *Mississippi* rising to 40.4 percent of income in *Massachusetts*.

- The range for the cost of center-based care for a 4-year-old compared to the poverty level is from 21 percent of income in *Mississippi*, rising to 63 percent in *Massachusetts*. The range for center-based care for a 4-year-old compared to 200 percent of the poverty level is 10.6 percent of income in *Mississippi*, rising to nearly 31.5 percent in *Massachusetts*.

This means it is unlikely these families can choose to use center-based care unless they receive financial assistance. The cost as a percentage of their income (taking into consideration other costs like rent or mortgage, food, car payments and insurance, etc.) is just too high.

Appendix 7 shows the ranking of affordability of center-based care for single mothers with an infant, a 4-year-old, a school-age child, or with two children (an infant and a 4-year-old child) in care in 2011.

## Families Living in Poverty Are Not the Only Families Who Struggle with Child Care Costs

Even families making twice the poverty level (200 percent of the poverty threshold, or about \$37,060 for a family of three in 2011) would struggle to pay for the annual cost of child care.

### Quick facts:

- The average annual cost of center-based care for an infant is more than one-quarter (about 26 percent) of the income of a family of three living at 200 percent of the poverty level (\$37,060).
- The average annual cost of center-based care for a 4-year-old is one-fifth (about 21 percent) of the income of a family of three living at 200 percent of the poverty level (\$37,060).
- Families in *Massachusetts* living at 200 percent of the poverty level (\$37,060) would pay about 40 percent of their income for center-based infant care.
- The average annual cost of center-based care for two children (an infant and a 4-year-old) is almost half (46 percent) of the income of a family of three living at 200 percent of the poverty level (\$37,060).

In most states, it is simply not realistic for parents with incomes at 200 percent of the poverty level (\$37,060) to pay for center-based care without child care assistance to help make the cost more affordable. As mentioned previously, HHS estimates that only 17 percent of eligible families receive child care assistance.

Appendices 8 (centers) and 9 (family child care homes) show the average annual cost of child care in every state as a percentage of the federal poverty level, at 150 percent of the federal poverty level and at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

## Child Care Costs for Low Wage Earning Families

Table 6 shows the average percent of income required for child care costs for an infant and a 4-year-old for a family of three with income at the federal poverty level and at 200 percent of the federal poverty level. It also includes information about the state with the lowest percent of income paid and the state with the highest percent of income paid for each age category.

Type of Care	Percent of Income for a Family of Three Earning at the Federal Poverty Level (\$18,350)*		Percent of Income for a Family of Three Earning at 200 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$37,060)*	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
<b>Full-time Care for One Infant in a Center</b>	51.0%	24.8% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 80.8% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )	25.5%	12.4% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 40.4% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )
<b>Full-time Care for One 4-Year-Old in a Center</b>	41.3%	21.1% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 63% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )	20.6%	10.6% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 31.5% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )
<b>Full-time Care for Two Children (an Infant AND a 4-Year-Old) in a Center</b>	92.3%	45.9% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 143.8% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )	46.1%	22.9% ( <i>Mississippi</i> ) to 71.9% ( <i>Massachusetts</i> )

Note: Based on State average costs compared to federal poverty thresholds. The poverty thresholds are based on a family of three.<sup>27</sup>  
 \*Source: 2010/2011 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Poverty Guidelines; Poverty for a family of three in 48 states is \$18,530. In *Alaska* it is \$23,160, and in *Hawaii* it is \$21,320. Ranges do not include the *District of Columbia*.

## Child Care Financing Challenges

The cost of child care in America is largely borne by parents. Unlike the cost of higher education, there is no system of public financing to help make child care more affordable for families.

The federal government provides grants to states through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). States use these funds to provide monthly subsidies or vouchers to low-income families to help them afford the cost of child care. About 1.7 million children receive assistance,<sup>28</sup> about one out of every six eligible children.<sup>29</sup>

Nearly one in five children (19 percent) who receive CCDBG assistance are in unlicensed care. In 10 states, the most recent data shows that 30 percent or more of the children who receive CCDBG assistance are in unlicensed settings.<sup>30</sup>

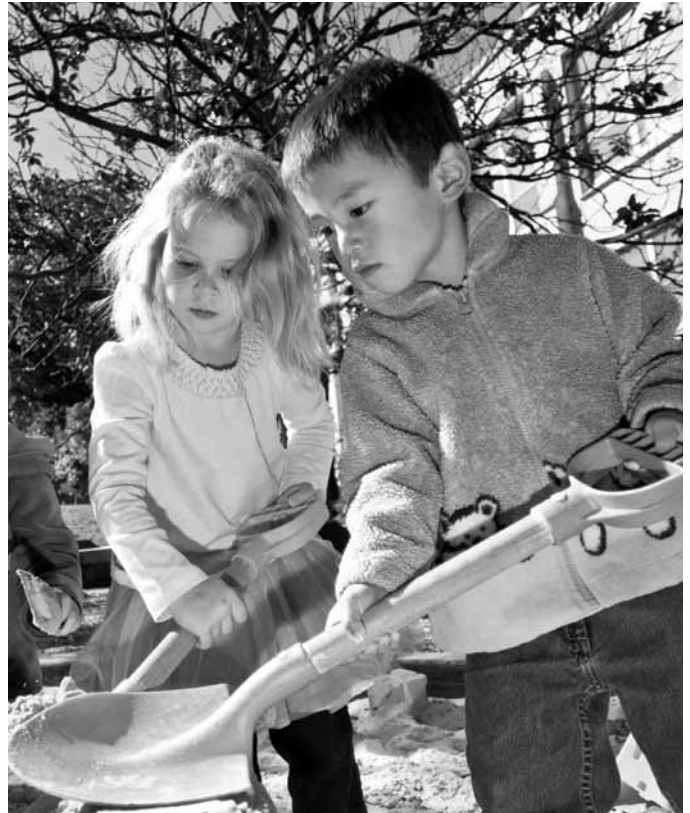
CCDBG does not require the use of licensed care. The reality is that the quality of unlicensed care is unknown because unlicensed care is not required to meet licensing standards (e.g., basic health and safety standards, minimum training requirements for providers, or background checks to ensure that providers do not have a violent history). Also, unlicensed care is not subject to regular inspections.

### This means that public funds are paying for low or unknown quality.

At the same time that parents struggle to afford the cost of child care, studies show that the quality of care (despite the high cost) is mediocre at best in many communities. Most states have weak training requirements, even though the research shows that training is one of the most important indicators of quality.

It is time for Congress to review child care policy. The CCDBG was last authorized in 1996. At that time, the goal was to support parents in the workforce, but not necessarily focus on the quality of care that parents access – whether they receive a subsidy or not.

States are required to conduct a market rate survey so that they are better informed about the current cost of child care in communities across the state. The law does not require that the survey actually be used to set rates. While HHS makes recommendations about the level of assistance to be offered, there is no requirement for states to set subsidies at a specific level of a market rate survey.



According to the information contained in the 2012-2013 child care state plans required to be submitted to HHS under CCDBG,<sup>31</sup> only five states (*Maine, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts and New York*) are using a market rate survey conducted within the last two years. In fact, 19 states are using a market rate survey that is five or more years out of date – and six of these states are basing rates on surveys that are at least a decade old (*Arizona and Kansas, 2000; Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Idaho and New Mexico, 2001*). In addition, states may use other factors to set rates unrelated to their market rate surveys.

The result is that state policies for payment rates vary greatly, and in many states, assistance is too low to offer parents a real choice among licensed providers.

The reality in too many states is that subsidy rates are so low that they prevent access to higher quality child care settings for low-income children.

In dollar terms, what does the subsidy rate have to do with the cost of child care? According to the most recent HHS data, the average annual subsidy payment covers \$6,120 per year for an infant in center-based care. This report shows that the average annual cost of center-based care for infants is much higher – about \$9,520 per year.

The average annual subsidy for center-based care for a 4-year-old is \$5,604. This report shows that the average annual cost of center-based care for a 4-year-old is about \$7,705 per year.<sup>32</sup>

The reality is that most low-income families cannot make up the difference between the monthly subsidy they receive and the cost of child care in their community. This restricts their access to quality settings and undermines the policy goal of increasing school readiness of all children, particularly low-income children because they are shut out from accessing higher quality care.

**States make their own policies about child care subsidy rates and do not necessarily rely solely on market rate surveys (MRS).**

- » **Colorado:** “The state used the current MRS (June 2011) to set State recommended guidelines for use by counties. The State does not set payment rates.”
- » **Michigan:** “In Michigan the legislature determines provider rates through the budget appropriation process. Current rates are not based on MRS data.”
- » **New Jersey:** “New Jersey utilizes the information from the Market Rate Survey as one consideration used to establish the rates that providers will be reimbursed for child care costs and any potential cost of living adjustments.”
- » **Texas:** “TWC does not establish statewide reimbursement rates. TWC rules require Boards to establish maximum reimbursement rates based on local factors, including, but not limited to, the data in the Market Rate Survey provided by TWC.”

Source: CCDF State Plans, 2012-2013.

Table 7 shows average child care subsidies compared to the cost of care for infants and 4-year-olds in a center and in a family child care home.

Child Care Centers				Family Child Care Homes*			
Infants		4-Year-Olds		Infants		4-Year-Olds	
Avg. Subsidy	Avg. Cost	Avg. Subsidy	Avg. Cost	Avg. Subsidy	Avg. Cost	Avg. Subsidy	Avg. Cost
\$6,120	\$9,520	\$5,604	\$7,705	\$4,836	\$7,065	\$4,536	\$6,380

Source: Child Care Development Fund Program Data, 2010. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf\\_data/10acf800\\_preliminary/table15.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf_data/10acf800_preliminary/table15.htm)\*Subsidy payments are based on payments for care in “small family child care homes.”

At a minimum, federal policy should require that a current market rate survey be used to set monthly subsidy rates for families. Monthly assistance for families should be at a level to provide access to quality child care.

What is clear, however, is that state subsidy policy for families earning low incomes is just one challenge. **The reality is that meeting the cost of child care is a struggle for most families.**

Another challenge is that what parents are paying is not the *real cost* of quality child care. What does that mean? It means that the current cost of child care pays for care that largely compensates providers at levels among the lowest in service professions (about \$10.25 an hour) with little training or education required. The rates that are currently charged are based on what the market will bear with little investment in the quality of care.

This is an important distinction because so much of the care available today is not quality care, and yet, it is already unaffordable for too many families.

How can America as a nation work to ensure that quality child care settings are available for parents to choose among in every community while also ensuring that child care remains affordable for families?

First, HHS must define quality care. What is minimally acceptable quality to ensure that children are safe and enter school ready to learn?

Second, we recommend that Congress commission the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review the true cost of quality care and make recommendations for a more effective financing structure.

The current piecemeal approach to child care is not sufficient to:

- Ensure that low-income children, especially those receiving public funding, are in higher quality care.
- Ensure all children start school ready to learn.





# Conclusion and Recommendations

Child care is unaffordable, not just for low-income families, but also for most families. The struggle to pay for the cost of care is further exacerbated for families with more than one child.

The high cost forces many parents to make difficult decisions when selecting child care. Parents want quality child care for their children. They also know the importance of safe, stable, stimulating environments to support their children's development.<sup>33</sup> Unfortunately, safety, health and school readiness come at a cost that many parents cannot afford.

*Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2012 Report* details the economic challenge working American families face in paying for child care. It offers recommendations for states and the federal government to improve the affordability of child care.

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) throughout the country report that some parents have responded to the current economic climate by moving their children from licensed child care centers or family child care homes to informal, unlicensed settings. Unfortunately, the lingering recession has had a ripple effect on the supply of quality child care. For example:

- ▶ In *Georgia*, a study was recently released showing that for the fourth year in a row, the quality of care has declined as center directors have cut back on staff training and put off making other much-needed investments in their programs due to low enrollment. Programs are also closing as parents lose subsidies while business expenses continue to rise.<sup>34</sup>
- ▶ In *Maryland*, a study recently concluded that the supply of family child care providers in the state has dropped in the last several years and will continue to decline, while the cost of care rises and takes up an increasing share of family income.<sup>35</sup>

Child Care Aware® of America is concerned that this may mean that a growing number of children are in settings that may not be safe or that may jeopardize their healthy development.

**The reality is that parents need a safe, quality setting for their children while they work.**

It is essential that the federal and state governments help families access and afford quality child care so that children's safety and healthy development are not jeopardized.

Recent research by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) shows that even 10 years after children have left child care, quality care is still related to higher academic achievement for families of all income levels.<sup>36</sup>

State child care assistance policies under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) are at times inconsistent with and serve to undermine the goal of achieving school readiness for all children and increasing access to higher quality child care settings for children in low-income families.

The law requires a market rate survey, but does not require a specific level at which subsidy rates should be set. As a result, even though families receive assistance, they still may not access quality child care.

It is time for Congress and the states to design a system so that all families, not just wealthy ones, can afford quality child care. In the absence of a more effective way to finance a child care system in this country, children's school readiness (and safety) will be left to chance.

It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to significantly increase the number of children from low-income families in higher quality child care settings without some minimum quality requirements in CCDBG. Public funds should not be used to pay for low-quality, unsafe care.

States and the federal government can help make child care more affordable for working parents.

## **Child Care Aware® of America recommendations**

- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to define minimally acceptable quality child care for children in low-income families.
- Require the National Academy of Sciences to study the true cost of quality care and to offer recommendations to Congress for financing to support quality options for parents.
- Reauthorize CCDBG and add requirements to improve the quality of care:
  - » Require background checks, including fingerprint checks, for child care providers to ensure that children are safe in the care of someone without a history of violent offenses.
  - » Require 40 hours of initial training and 24 hours of annual training in key areas such as CPR, first aid, early childhood development, child behavior/discipline and child abuse detection and prevention.
  - » Require regular, frequent inspections to ensure effective oversight.
- » Invest in Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to:
  - Assist providers in becoming licensed and in maintaining compliance with licensing standards.
  - Help parents identify quality settings.
- » Increase the quality set-aside to 12 percent, increasing over several years to 25 percent (on par with Head Start).
- » Provide resources to expand the availability of quality child care, particularly in low-income neighborhoods where there is a shortage of licensed care.
- Reduce barriers that prevent families from easily accessing child care fee assistance.

Parent choice in child care is a national policy objective. But, when parents can only choose among poor quality settings, that is not a real choice.

Too many working parents are faced with an impossible choice every day – between what they can afford and the quality care they know is best for their children. From the research, it is clear that quality care makes a difference. Now is the time for policymakers to promote quality choices for parents by helping make quality child care more affordable.

# **Appendices**

## Appendix 1

## 2011 Average Annual Cost of Full-Time Care by State

State	Child Care Center			Family Child Care		
	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age
Alabama	\$5,356	\$5,668	\$5,044	\$4,628	\$4,758	\$4,524
Alaska	\$9,336	\$8,856	\$4,404	\$8,376	\$7,800	\$3,684
Arizona	\$8,946	\$7,263	\$6,191	\$6,567	\$6,220	\$6,186
Arkansas	\$5,437	\$4,695	\$6,259	\$4,551	\$4,131	\$5,968
California^^	\$11,823	\$8,237	\$2,736	\$7,187	\$6,916	\$3,015
Colorado	\$12,621	\$9,239	\$4,877	\$8,518	\$7,889	\$4,206
Connecticut	\$12,844	\$10,530	\$5,399	\$9,576	\$9,123	\$4,339
Delaware	\$9,620	\$7,592	\$6,406	\$6,760	\$6,240	\$5,148
District of Columbia^	\$20,178	\$15,437	NR	\$12,329	NR	NR
Florida	\$8,009	\$6,368	\$3,677	\$7,138	\$6,058	\$3,883
Georgia	\$7,030	\$6,062	\$3,286	\$5,564	\$5,033	\$2,646
Hawaii	\$12,876	\$7,752	\$6,909	\$7,404	\$7,380	\$7,284
Idaho	\$5,834	\$5,059	NR	\$5,354	\$4,889	NR
Illinois	\$12,199	\$8,996	\$5,782	\$7,336	\$6,794	\$4,272
Indiana	\$9,880	\$7,975	\$5,167	\$5,772	\$5,172	\$4,621
Iowa^	\$8,859	\$7,551	\$5,987	\$6,701	\$6,423	\$5,495
Kansas	\$11,023	\$8,305	\$6,131	\$6,772	\$6,105	\$4,133
Kentucky	\$6,594	\$5,766	\$5,151	\$5,656	\$5,185	\$4,913
Louisiana^	\$5,901	\$5,364	\$2,950	\$4,828	\$4,291	\$3,219
Maine	\$9,256	\$7,904	\$4,768	\$6,760	\$6,136	\$3,896
Maryland	\$12,878	\$9,278	\$5,236	\$9,161	\$7,722	\$4,577
Massachusetts	\$14,980	\$11,669	\$5,688	\$9,346	\$9,496	\$6,206
Michigan	\$10,114	\$7,930	\$4,576	\$7,020	\$6,292	\$3,536
Minnesota	\$13,579	\$10,470	NR	\$7,686	\$6,947	NR
Mississippi	\$4,591	\$3,911	\$1,954	NR	NR	\$1,788
Missouri	\$8,580	\$5,928	\$4,784	\$5,564	\$4,836	\$4,004
Montana	\$8,307	\$7,285	\$6,679	\$6,907	\$6,445	\$6,314
Nebraska	\$7,639	\$6,386	\$5,769	\$5,881	\$5,522	\$5,249
Nevada	\$9,413	\$7,532	\$4,879	\$7,953	\$7,342	\$3,269
New Hampshire^^	\$11,995	\$9,541	\$4,198	\$8,942	\$8,178	\$3,953
New Jersey	\$11,135	\$9,098	\$5,636	\$8,331	\$7,626	\$5,573
New Mexico	\$6,843	\$6,145	\$3,877	\$6,047	\$5,797	\$3,635
New York	\$14,009	\$11,585	\$10,962	\$10,358	\$9,620	\$9,506
North Carolina^	\$9,185	\$7,774	NR	\$7,106	\$6,227	NR
North Dakota	\$7,705	\$6,807	NR	\$6,246	\$5,955	NR
Ohio	\$7,889	\$6,376	\$4,732	\$6,574	\$5,814	\$4,791

## Appendix 1

**2011 Average Annual Cost of Full-Time Care by State**

State	Child Care Center			Family Child Care		
	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age
<b>Oklahoma</b>	\$7,288	\$5,397	\$4,496	\$5,870	\$5,047	\$4,441
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$11,079	\$8,542	\$4,147	\$6,190	\$5,571	\$4,642
<b>Pennsylvania<sup>^</sup></b>	\$10,504	\$8,588	\$5,783	\$8,079	\$7,266	\$5,560
<b>Rhode Island</b>	\$11,830	\$9,932	\$7,800	\$9,360	\$9,100	\$7,280
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$5,855	\$5,455	\$2,995	\$4,544	\$4,095	\$2,321
<b>South Dakota<sup>^</sup></b>	\$5,947	\$5,665	\$3,667	\$5,223	\$5,077	\$3,362
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$7,748	\$6,578	\$3,374	\$5,472	\$5,095	\$3,153
<b>Texas</b>	\$8,323	\$6,414	NR	\$6,396	\$5,013	NR
<b>Utah</b>	\$7,848	\$5,988	\$3,168	\$5,724	\$5,076	\$3,006
<b>Vermont<sup>^</sup></b>	\$9,612	\$8,758	\$4,818	\$7,426	\$6,921	\$4,008
<b>Virginia</b>	\$10,670	\$8,296	\$6,382	\$8,622	\$7,447	\$5,152
<b>Washington</b>	\$10,920	\$8,320	\$4,680	\$8,424	\$7,020	\$3,661
<b>West Virginia</b>	\$6,932	\$5,806	NR	\$6,269	\$5,730	NR
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$10,775	\$9,588	\$8,187	\$7,849	\$7,060	\$7,222
<b>Wyoming</b>	\$7,727	\$7,316	\$4,685	\$6,919	\$6,737	\$4,524

Source: NACCRRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

NR: States did not report cost data for some categories of care, or number of programs reporting rates was too small to be valid for reporting.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 2

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for an Infant in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of Infant Care*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
New York	\$14,009	\$25,852	54.2%	\$88,189	15.9%	1
Minnesota	\$13,579	\$26,123	52.0%	\$87,271	15.6%	2
Oregon^	\$11,079	\$22,250	49.8%	\$72,166	15.4%	3
Colorado	\$12,621	\$26,366	47.9%	\$83,063	15.2%	4
Hawaii	\$12,876	\$29,466	43.7%	\$87,430	14.7%	5
Kansas	\$11,023	\$23,446	47.0%	\$75,086	14.7%	5
California^^	\$11,823	\$27,534	42.9%	\$80,796	14.6%	7
Illinois	\$12,199	\$24,833	49.1%	\$84,779	14.4%	8
Massachusetts	\$14,980	\$27,922	53.6%	\$105,537	14.2%	9
Indiana	\$9,880	\$22,178	44.5%	\$73,270	13.5%	10
Wisconsin	\$10,775	\$23,568	45.7%	\$79,589	13.5%	10
Michigan	\$10,114	\$21,385	47.3%	\$76,712	13.2%	12
Washington	\$10,920	\$25,731	42.4%	\$82,870	13.2%	12
Rhode Island	\$11,830	\$25,607	46.2%	\$91,065	13.0%	14
New Hampshire^^	\$11,995	\$28,756	41.7%	\$92,823	12.9%	15
Maine	\$9,256	\$21,940	42.2%	\$72,196	12.8%	16
Nevada	\$9,413	\$29,245	32.2%	\$73,563	12.8%	16
North Carolina^	\$9,185	\$21,344	43.0%	\$72,022	12.8%	16
Pennsylvania^	\$10,504	\$23,472	44.8%	\$82,141	12.8%	16
Arizona	\$8,946	\$25,682	34.8%	\$70,563	12.7%	20
Vermont^	\$9,612	\$25,336	37.9%	\$76,965	12.5%	21
Montana	\$8,307	\$20,333	40.9%	\$68,574	12.1%	22
Connecticut	\$12,844	\$30,795	41.7%	\$106,847	12.0%	23
Maryland	\$12,878	\$36,580	35.2%	\$107,756	12.0%	23
Iowa^	\$8,859	\$22,809	38.8%	\$75,581	11.7%	25
Texas	\$8,323	\$22,705	36.7%	\$71,308	11.7%	25
Missouri	\$8,580	\$21,748	39.5%	\$73,880	11.6%	27
Virginia	\$10,670	\$28,965	36.8%	\$92,212	11.6%	27
Tennessee	\$7,748	\$20,254	38.3%	\$68,223	11.4%	29
Florida	\$8,009	\$25,286	31.7%	\$71,051	11.3%	30
Utah	\$7,848	\$27,626	28.4%	\$69,638	11.3%	30
Oklahoma	\$7,288	\$20,272	36.0%	\$65,458	11.1%	32

## Appendix 2

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for an Infant in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of Infant Care*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
West Virginia	\$6,932	\$16,921	41.0%	\$62,854	11.0%	33
Delaware	\$9,620	\$30,675	31.4%	\$88,825	10.8%	34
New Mexico	\$6,843	\$21,742	31.5%	\$64,842	10.6%	35
Alaska	\$9,336	\$31,134	30.0%	\$89,794	10.4%	36
New Jersey	\$11,135	\$30,732	36.2%	\$107,663	10.3%	37
Wyoming	\$7,727	\$25,824	29.9%	\$75,169	10.3%	37
Nebraska	\$7,639	\$23,601	32.4%	\$74,787	10.2%	39
Ohio	\$7,889	\$20,765	38.0%	\$77,032	10.2%	39
North Dakota	\$7,705	\$21,545	35.8%	\$77,544	9.9%	41
Kentucky	\$6,594	\$18,735	35.2%	\$67,998	9.7%	42
Georgia	\$7,030	\$23,602	29.8%	\$74,939	9.4%	43
Idaho	\$5,834	\$22,486	25.9%	\$62,051	9.4%	43
Arkansas	\$5,437	\$18,683	29.1%	\$62,035	8.8%	45
South Carolina	\$5,855	\$20,769	28.2%	\$71,480	8.2%	46
South Dakota <sup>^</sup>	\$5,947	\$22,989	25.9%	\$72,264	8.2%	46
Louisiana <sup>^</sup>	\$5,901	\$19,853	29.7%	\$77,089	7.7%	48
Alabama	\$5,356	\$19,492	27.5%	\$70,657	7.6%	49
Mississippi	\$4,591	\$17,796	25.8%	\$65,668	7.0%	50
District of Columbia <sup>^</sup>	\$20,178	\$25,325	79.7%	\$141,074	14.3%	NA

\*Source: NACCRRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 3

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for a 4-Year-Old Child in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of Care for 4-Year-Old Child*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
New York	\$11,585	\$25,852	44.8%	\$88,189	13.1%	1
Minnesota	\$10,470	\$26,123	40.1%	\$87,271	12.0%	2
Wisconsin	\$9,588	\$23,568	40.7%	\$79,589	12.0%	2
Oregon^	\$8,542	\$22,250	38.4%	\$72,166	11.8%	4
Vermont^	\$8,758	\$25,336	34.6%	\$76,965	11.4%	5
Colorado	\$9,239	\$26,366	35.0%	\$83,063	11.1%	6
Kansas	\$8,305	\$23,446	35.4%	\$75,086	11.1%	6
Massachusetts	\$11,669	\$27,922	41.8%	\$105,537	11.1%	6
Indiana	\$7,975	\$22,178	36.0%	\$73,270	10.9%	9
Maine	\$7,904	\$21,940	36.0%	\$72,196	10.9%	9
Rhode Island	\$9,932	\$25,607	38.8%	\$91,065	10.9%	9
North Carolina^	\$7,774	\$21,344	36.4%	\$72,022	10.8%	12
Illinois	\$8,996	\$24,833	36.2%	\$84,779	10.6%	13
Montana	\$7,285	\$20,333	35.8%	\$68,574	10.6%	13
Pennsylvania^	\$8,588	\$23,472	36.6%	\$82,141	10.5%	15
Arizona	\$7,263	\$25,682	28.3%	\$70,563	10.3%	16
Michigan	\$7,930	\$21,385	37.1%	\$76,712	10.3%	16
New Hampshire^^	\$9,541	\$28,756	33.2%	\$92,823	10.3%	16
California^^	\$8,237	\$27,534	29.9%	\$80,796	10.2%	19
Nevada	\$7,532	\$29,245	25.8%	\$73,563	10.2%	19
Iowa^	\$7,551	\$22,809	33.1%	\$75,581	10.0%	21
Washington	\$8,320	\$25,731	32.3%	\$82,870	10.0%	21
Alaska	\$8,856	\$31,134	28.4%	\$89,794	9.9%	23
Connecticut	\$10,530	\$30,795	34.2%	\$106,847	9.9%	23
Wyoming	\$7,316	\$25,824	28.3%	\$75,169	9.7%	25
Tennessee	\$6,578	\$20,254	32.5%	\$68,223	9.6%	26
New Mexico	\$6,145	\$21,742	28.3%	\$64,842	9.5%	27
West Virginia	\$5,806	\$16,921	34.3%	\$62,854	9.2%	28
Florida	\$6,368	\$25,286	25.2%	\$71,051	9.0%	29
Texas	\$6,414	\$22,705	28.2%	\$71,308	9.0%	29
Virginia	\$8,296	\$28,965	28.6%	\$92,212	9.0%	29
Hawaii	\$7,752	\$29,466	26.3%	\$87,430	8.9%	32



## Appendix 3

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for a 4-Year-Old Child in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of Care for 4-Year-Old Child*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
North Dakota	\$6,807	\$21,545	31.6%	\$77,544	8.8%	33
Maryland	\$9,278	\$36,580	25.4%	\$107,756	8.6%	34
Utah	\$5,988	\$27,626	21.7%	\$69,638	8.6%	34
Delaware	\$7,592	\$30,675	24.7%	\$88,825	8.5%	36
Kentucky	\$5,766	\$18,735	30.8%	\$67,998	8.5%	36
Nebraska	\$6,386	\$23,601	27.1%	\$74,787	8.5%	36
New Jersey	\$9,098	\$30,732	29.6%	\$107,663	8.5%	36
Ohio	\$6,376	\$20,765	30.7%	\$77,032	8.3%	40
Idaho	\$5,059	\$22,486	22.5%	\$62,051	8.2%	41
Oklahoma	\$5,397	\$20,272	26.6%	\$65,458	8.2%	41
Georgia	\$6,062	\$23,602	25.7%	\$74,939	8.1%	43
Alabama	\$5,668	\$19,492	29.1%	\$70,657	8.0%	44
Missouri	\$5,928	\$21,748	27.3%	\$73,880	8.0%	44
South Dakota^	\$5,665	\$22,989	24.6%	\$72,264	7.8%	46
Arkansas	\$4,695	\$18,683	25.1%	\$62,035	7.6%	47
South Carolina	\$5,455	\$20,769	26.3%	\$71,480	7.6%	47
Louisiana^	\$5,364	\$19,853	27.0%	\$77,089	7.0%	49
Mississippi	\$3,911	\$17,796	22.0%	\$65,668	6.0%	50
District of Columbia^	\$15,437	\$25,325	61.0%	\$141,074	10.9%	NA

\*Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

^ 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

^^ 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 4

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for a School-Aged Child in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of School-Aged Care*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
New York	\$10,962	\$25,852	42.4%	\$88,189	12.4%	1
Wisconsin	\$8,187	\$23,568	34.7%	\$79,589	10.3%	2
Arkansas	\$6,259	\$18,683	33.5%	\$62,035	10.1%	3
Montana	\$6,679	\$20,333	32.8%	\$68,574	9.7%	4
Arizona	\$6,191	\$25,682	24.1%	\$70,563	8.8%	5
Rhode Island	\$7,800	\$25,607	30.5%	\$91,065	8.6%	6
Kansas	\$6,131	\$23,446	26.1%	\$75,086	8.2%	7
Hawaii	\$6,909	\$29,466	23.4%	\$87,430	7.9%	8
Iowa <sup>^</sup>	\$5,987	\$22,809	26.3%	\$75,581	7.9%	8
Nebraska	\$5,769	\$23,601	24.4%	\$74,787	7.7%	10
Kentucky	\$5,151	\$18,735	27.5%	\$67,998	7.6%	11
Delaware	\$6,406	\$30,675	20.9%	\$88,825	7.2%	12
Alabama	\$5,044	\$19,492	25.9%	\$70,657	7.1%	13
Indiana	\$5,167	\$22,178	23.3%	\$73,270	7.1%	13
Pennsylvania <sup>^</sup>	\$5,783	\$23,472	24.6%	\$82,141	7.0%	15
Oklahoma	\$4,496	\$20,272	22.2%	\$65,458	6.9%	16
Virginia	\$6,382	\$28,965	22.0%	\$92,212	6.9%	16
Illinois	\$5,782	\$24,833	23.3%	\$84,779	6.8%	18
Maine	\$4,768	\$21,940	21.7%	\$72,196	6.6%	19
Nevada	\$4,879	\$29,245	16.7%	\$73,563	6.6%	19
Missouri	\$4,784	\$21,748	22.0%	\$73,880	6.5%	21
Vermont <sup>^</sup>	\$4,818	\$25,336	19.0%	\$76,965	6.3%	22
Wyoming	\$4,685	\$25,824	18.1%	\$75,169	6.2%	23
Ohio	\$4,732	\$20,765	22.8%	\$77,032	6.1%	24
Michigan	\$4,576	\$21,385	21.4%	\$76,712	6.0%	25
New Mexico	\$3,877	\$21,742	17.8%	\$64,842	6.0%	25
Colorado	\$4,877	\$26,366	18.5%	\$83,063	5.9%	27
Oregon	\$4,147	\$22,250	18.6%	\$72,166	5.7%	28
Washington	\$4,680	\$25,731	18.2%	\$82,870	5.6%	29
Massachusetts	\$5,688	\$27,922	20.4%	\$105,537	5.4%	30
Florida	\$3,677	\$25,286	14.5%	\$71,051	5.2%	31
New Jersey	\$5,636	\$30,732	18.3%	\$107,663	5.2%	31

## Appendix 4

**2011 Ranking of Least-Affordable Child Care for a School-Aged Child in a Center  
(1 = Highest; 51 = Lowest)**

State	Average Annual Cost of School-Aged Care*	State Median Income for Single Mother Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Single Mother Family	State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family**	Cost of Care as a Percentage of State Median Income for a Two-Parent Family	Rank (Based on Percentage of State Median Income for Two-Parent Family)
<b>Connecticut</b>	\$5,399	\$30,795	17.5%	\$106,847	5.1%	33
<b>South Dakota<sup>^</sup></b>	\$3,667	\$22,989	16.0%	\$72,264	5.1%	33
<b>Alaska</b>	\$4,404	\$31,134	14.1%	\$89,794	4.9%	35
<b>Maryland</b>	\$5,236	\$36,580	14.3%	\$107,756	4.9%	35
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$3,374	\$20,254	16.7%	\$68,223	4.9%	35
<b>New Hampshire<sup>^^</sup></b>	\$4,198	\$28,756	14.6%	\$92,823	4.5%	38
<b>Utah</b>	\$3,168	\$27,626	11.5%	\$69,638	4.5%	38
<b>Georgia</b>	\$3,286	\$23,602	13.9%	\$74,939	4.4%	40
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$2,995	\$20,769	14.4%	\$71,480	4.2%	41
<b>Louisiana<sup>^</sup></b>	\$2,950	\$19,853	14.9%	\$77,089	3.8%	42
<b>California<sup>^^</sup></b>	\$2,736	\$27,534	9.9%	\$80,796	3.4%	43
<b>Mississippi</b>	\$1,954	\$17,796	11.0%	\$65,668	3.0%	44
<b>Minnesota</b>	NR	\$26,123	NA	\$87,271	NA	NA
<b>North Carolina</b>	NR	\$21,344	NA	\$72,022	NA	NA
<b>Texas</b>	NR	\$22,705	NA	\$71,308	NA	NA
<b>West Virginia</b>	NR	\$16,921	NA	\$62,854	NA	NA
<b>North Dakota</b>	NR	\$21,545	NA	\$77,544	NA	NA
<b>Idaho</b>	NR	\$22,486	NA	\$62,051	NA	NA
<b>District of Columbia</b>	NR	\$25,325	NA	\$141,074	NA	NA

\*Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

NR: States did not report cost data for some categories of care, or number of programs reporting rates was too small to be valid for reporting.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 5

## 2011 Average Child Care Center Costs and Median Housing Costs by State

State	Average Annual Child Care Center Costs*				Annual Rental Costs Compared with Two Children in Care		Annual Mortgage Costs Compared with Two Children in Care	
	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age	Two Children ***	Annual Rent Payments**	Difference Between Cost of Care for Two Children and Rent Payments	Annual Mortgage Payments**	Difference Between Cost of Care for Two Children and Mortgage Payments
Alabama	\$5,356	\$5,668	\$5,044	\$11,024	\$7,896	39.6%	\$13,476	-18.2%
Alaska	\$9,336	\$8,856	\$4,404	\$18,192	\$11,772	54.5%	\$21,240	-14.4%
Arizona	\$8,946	\$7,263	\$6,191	\$16,209	\$10,356	56.5%	\$17,988	-9.9%
Arkansas	\$5,437	\$4,695	\$6,259	\$10,132	\$7,464	35.7%	\$11,724	-13.6%
California^^	\$11,823	\$8,237	\$2,736	\$20,060	\$13,956	43.7%	\$27,996	-28.3%
Colorado	\$12,621	\$9,239	\$4,877	\$21,860	\$10,344	111.3%	\$19,464	12.3%
Connecticut	\$12,844	\$10,530	\$5,399	\$23,374	\$11,928	96.0%	\$25,224	-7.3%
Delaware	\$9,620	\$7,592	\$6,406	\$17,212	\$11,424	50.7%	\$19,056	-9.7%
District of Columbia^	\$20,178	\$15,437	NR	\$35,615	\$13,344	166.9%	\$27,180	31%
Florida	\$8,009	\$6,368	\$3,677	\$14,377	\$11,484	25.2%	\$18,876	-23.8%
Georgia	\$7,030	\$6,062	\$3,286	\$13,092	\$9,744	34.4%	\$16,776	-22%
Hawaii	\$12,876	\$7,752	\$6,909	\$20,628	\$15,432	33.7%	\$27,276	-24.4%
Idaho	\$5,834	\$5,059	NR	\$10,893	\$8,364	30.2%	\$14,520	-25%
Illinois	\$12,199	\$8,996	\$5,782	\$21,195	\$10,068	110.5%	\$20,256	4.6%
Indiana	\$9,880	\$7,975	\$5,167	\$17,855	\$8,232	116.9%	\$13,584	31.4%
Iowa^	\$8,859	\$7,551	\$5,987	\$16,410	\$7,476	119.5%	\$13,728	19.5%
Kansas	\$11,023	\$8,305	\$6,131	\$19,328	\$8,136	137.6%	\$14,796	30.6%
Kentucky	\$6,594	\$5,766	\$5,151	\$12,360	\$7,296	69.4%	\$12,936	-4.5%
Louisiana^	\$5,901	\$5,364	\$2,950	\$11,265	\$8,760	28.6%	\$13,872	-18.8%
Maine	\$9,256	\$7,904	\$4,768	\$17,160	\$8,616	99.2%	\$15,768	8.8%
Maryland	\$12,878	\$9,278	\$5,236	\$22,156	\$13,404	65.3%	\$24,420	-9.3%
Massachusetts	\$14,980	\$11,669	\$5,688	\$26,649	\$12,096	120.3%	\$25,152	6%
Michigan	\$10,114	\$7,930	\$4,576	\$18,044	\$8,688	107.7%	\$16,044	12.5%
Minnesota	\$13,579	\$10,470	NR	\$24,049	\$9,144	163%	\$18,456	30.3%
Mississippi	\$4,591	\$3,911	\$1,954	\$8,502	\$7,884	7.8%	\$12,456	-31.7%
Missouri	\$8,580	\$5,928	\$4,784	\$14,508	\$8,124	78.6%	\$14,292	1.5%
Montana	\$8,307	\$7,285	\$6,679	\$15,592	\$7,668	103.3%	\$14,760	5.6%
Nebraska	\$7,639	\$6,386	\$5,769	\$14,025	\$7,812	79.5%	\$14,916	-6%
Nevada	\$9,413	\$7,532	\$4,879	\$16,945	\$11,892	42.5%	\$20,940	-19.1%
New Hampshire^^	\$11,995	\$9,541	\$4,198	\$21,536	\$11,256	91.3%	\$22,668	-5%
New Jersey	\$11,135	\$9,098	\$5,636	\$20,233	\$13,296	52.2%	\$28,776	-29.7%

## Appendix 5

## 2011 Average Child Care Center Costs and Median Housing Costs by State

State	Average Annual Child Care Center Costs*				Annual Rental Costs Compared with Two Children in Care		Annual Mortgage Costs Compared with Two Children in Care	
	Infant	4-Year-Old	School-Age	Two Children ***	Annual Rent Payments**	Difference Between Cost of Care for Two Children and Rent Payments	Annual Mortgage Payments**	Difference Between Cost of Care for Two Children and Mortgage Payments
<b>New Mexico</b>	\$6,843	\$6,145	\$3,877	\$12,988	\$8,292	56.6%	\$14,424	-10%
<b>New York</b>	\$14,009	\$11,585	\$10,962	\$25,594	\$11,952	114.1%	\$23,580	8.5%
<b>North Carolina<sup>^</sup></b>	\$9,185	\$7,774	NR	\$16,959	\$8,676	95.5%	\$14,952	13.4%
<b>North Dakota</b>	\$7,705	\$6,807	NR	\$14,512	\$6,804	113.3%	\$13,728	5.7%
<b>Ohio</b>	\$7,889	\$6,376	\$4,732	\$14,265	\$8,160	74.8%	\$15,264	-6.5%
<b>Oklahoma</b>	\$7,288	\$5,397	\$4,496	\$12,685	\$7,680	65.2%	\$12,972	-2.2%
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$11,079	\$8,542	\$4,147	\$19,621	\$9,732	101.6%	\$19,188	2.3%
<b>Pennsylvania<sup>^</sup></b>	\$10,504	\$8,588	\$5,783	\$19,092	\$9,012	111.9%	\$16,824	13.5%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	\$11,830	\$9,932	\$7,800	\$21,762	\$10,512	107%	\$22,596	-3.7%
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$5,855	\$5,455	\$2,995	\$11,310	\$8,520	32.7%	\$14,040	-19.4%
<b>South Dakota<sup>^</sup></b>	\$5,947	\$5,665	\$3,667	\$11,612	\$6,924	67.7%	\$14,040	-17.3%
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$7,748	\$6,578	\$3,374	\$14,326	\$8,244	73.8%	\$14,004	2.3%
<b>Texas</b>	\$8,323	\$6,414	NR	\$14,737	\$9,540	54.5%	\$16,848	-12.5%
<b>Utah</b>	\$7,848	\$5,988	\$3,168	\$13,836	\$9,564	44.7%	\$17,400	-20.5%
<b>Vermont<sup>^</sup></b>	\$9,612	\$8,758	\$4,818	\$18,370	\$9,888	85.8%	\$17,784	3.3%
<b>Virginia</b>	\$10,670	\$8,296	\$6,382	\$18,966	\$11,976	58.4%	\$20,928	-9.4%
<b>Washington</b>	\$10,920	\$8,320	\$4,680	\$19,240	\$10,848	77.4%	\$21,240	-9.4%
<b>West Virginia</b>	\$6,932	\$5,806	NR	\$12,738	\$6,672	90.9%	\$10,884	17%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$10,775	\$9,588	\$8,187	\$20,363	\$8,580	137.3%	\$17,112	19%
<b>Wyoming</b>	\$7,727	\$7,316	\$4,685	\$15,043	\$8,304	81.2%	\$15,552	-3.3%

\*Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2010 three-year estimates. Annualized median rent payments, and annualized median housing costs for mortgage-holders.

NR: States did not report cost data for some categories of care, or number of programs reporting rates was too small to be valid for reporting.

\*\*\*Cost of care for an infant and a 4-year-old.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 6

## 2011 Average Annual Costs of Full-Time Child Care in a Center and Public College Tuition and Fees by State

State	Average Child Care Center Costs*			Average Tuition and Fees at a Public College**	Percentage Difference Between Cost of College and Cost for Infant Center Care
	Infant	4-Year-Old-Child	School-Age Child		
Alabama	\$5,356	\$5,668	\$5,044	\$7,993	-33%
Alaska	\$9,336	\$8,856	\$4,404	\$5,456	71.1%
Arizona	\$8,946	\$7,263	\$6,191	\$9,428	-5.1%
Arkansas	\$5,437	\$4,695	\$6,259	\$6,646	-18.2%
California^^	\$11,823	\$8,237	\$2,736	\$9,022	31%
Colorado	\$12,621	\$9,239	\$4,877	\$7,849	60.8%
Connecticut	\$12,844	\$10,530	\$5,399	\$9,197	39.7%
Delaware	\$9,620	\$7,592	\$6,406	\$10,496	-8.3%
District of Columbia^	\$20,178	\$15,437	NR	\$7,000	188.3%
Florida	\$8,009	\$6,368	\$3,677	\$5,626	42.4%
Georgia	\$7,030	\$6,062	\$3,286	\$6,808	3.3%
Hawaii	\$12,876	\$7,752	\$6,909	\$8,352	54.2%
Idaho	\$5,834	\$5,059	NR	\$5,681	2.7%
Illinois	\$12,199	\$8,996	\$5,782	\$11,600	5.2%
Indiana	\$9,880	\$7,975	\$5,167	\$8,334	18.6%
Iowa^	\$8,859	\$7,551	\$5,987	\$7,562	17.2%
Kansas	\$11,023	\$8,305	\$6,131	\$6,960	58.4%
Kentucky	\$6,594	\$5,766	\$5,151	\$7,963	-17.2%
Louisiana^	\$5,901	\$5,364	\$2,950	\$5,123	15.2%
Maine	\$9,256	\$7,904	\$4,768	\$9,354	-1%
Maryland	\$12,878	\$9,278	\$5,236	\$7,993	61.1%
Massachusetts	\$14,980	\$11,669	\$5,688	\$10,173	47.3%
Michigan	\$10,114	\$7,930	\$4,576	\$10,837	-6.7%
Minnesota	\$13,579	\$10,470	NR	\$9,966	36.3%
Mississippi	\$4,591	\$3,911	\$1,954	\$5,668	-19%
Missouri	\$8,580	\$5,928	\$4,784	\$7,668	11.9%
Montana	\$8,307	\$7,285	\$6,679	\$5,874	41.4%
Nebraska	\$7,639	\$6,386	\$5,769	\$6,934	10.2%
Nevada	\$9,413	\$7,532	\$4,879	\$6,044	55.7%
New Hampshire^^	\$11,995	\$9,541	\$4,198	\$13,507	-11.2%
New Jersey	\$11,135	\$9,098	\$5,636	\$12,041	-7.5%
New Mexico	\$6,843	\$6,145	\$3,877	\$5,457	25.4%
New York	\$14,009	\$11,585	\$10,962	\$6,213	125.5%
North Carolina^	\$9,185	\$7,774	NR	\$5,685	61.6%

Appendix 6

2011 Average Annual Costs of Full-Time Child Care in a Center and Public College Tuition and Fees by State

State	Average Child Care Center Costs*			Average Tuition and Fees at a Public College**	Percentage Difference Between Cost of College and Cost for Infant Center Care
	Infant	4-Year-Old-Child	School-Age Child		
North Dakota	\$7,705	\$6,807	NR	\$6,847	12.5%
Ohio	\$7,889	\$6,376	\$4,732	\$8,904	-11.4%
Oklahoma	\$7,288	\$5,397	\$4,496	\$6,059	20.3%
Oregon^	\$11,079	\$8,542	\$4,147	\$7,988	38.7%
Pennsylvania^	\$10,504	\$8,588	\$5,783	\$12,079	-13%
Rhode Island	\$11,830	\$9,932	\$7,800	\$10,007	18.2%
South Carolina	\$5,855	\$5,455	\$2,995	\$10,300	-43.2%
South Dakota^	\$5,947	\$5,665	\$3,667	\$6,873	-13.5%
Tennessee	\$7,748	\$6,578	\$3,374	\$7,209	7.5%
Texas	\$8,323	\$6,414	NR	\$8,078	3%
Utah	\$7,848	\$5,988	\$3,168	\$5,292	48.3%
Vermont^	\$9,612	\$8,758	\$4,818	\$13,078	-26.5%
Virginia	\$10,670	\$8,296	\$6,382	\$9,618	10.9%
Washington	\$10,920	\$8,320	\$4,680	\$9,484	15.1%
West Virginia	\$6,932	\$5,806	NR	\$5,532	25.3%
Wisconsin	\$10,775	\$9,588	\$8,187	\$8,193	31.5%
Wyoming	\$7,727	\$7,316	\$4,685	\$4,125	87.3%

\*Source: NACCRRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey. All cost data is rounded to the nearest \$50 increment.

\*\*Source: College Board. (2011). Trends in College Pricing, 2011. [http://trends.collegeboard.org/college\\_pricing](http://trends.collegeboard.org/college_pricing)

NR: States did not report cost data for some categories of care, or number of programs reporting rates was too small to be valid for reporting.

^ 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

^^ 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 7

## 2011 Ranking of Affordability of Center Care for Single Mothers

State	State Median Income for Single Mother Family*	Infant Care		4-Year-Old Care		School-Age Care		Two Children in Care***		Rank (Based on Single-Mother Family Income)
		Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	
New York	\$25,852	\$14,009	54.2%	\$11,585	44.8%	\$10,962	42.4%	\$25,594	99%	1
Massachusetts	\$27,922	\$14,980	53.6%	\$11,669	41.8%	\$5,688	20.4%	\$26,649	95.4%	2
Minnesota	\$26,123	\$13,579	52%	\$10,470	40.1%	NR	NA	\$24,049	92.1%	3
Oregon^	\$22,250	\$11,079	49.8%	\$8,542	38.4%	4147	18.6%	\$19,621	88.2%	4
Wisconsin	\$23,568	\$10,775	45.7%	\$9,588	40.7%	\$8,187	34.7%	\$20,363	86.4%	5
Illinois	\$24,833	\$12,199	49.1%	\$8,996	36.2%	\$5,782	23.3%	\$21,195	85.4%	6
Rhode Island	\$25,607	\$11,830	46.2%	\$9,932	38.8%	\$7,800	30.5%	\$21,762	85%	7
Michigan	\$21,385	\$10,114	47.3%	\$7,930	37.1%	\$4,576	21.4%	\$18,044	84.4%	8
Colorado	\$26,366	\$12,621	47.9%	\$9,239	35%	\$4,877	18.5%	\$21,860	82.9%	9
Kansas	\$23,446	\$11,023	47%	\$8,305	35.4%	\$6,131	26.1%	\$19,328	82.4%	10
Pennsylvania^	\$23,472	\$10,504	44.8%	\$8,588	36.6%	\$5,783	24.6%	\$19,092	81.3%	11
Indiana	\$22,178	\$9,880	44.5%	\$7,975	36.0%	\$5,167	23.3%	\$17,855	80.5%	12
North Carolina^	\$21,344	\$9,185	43%	\$7,774	36.4%	NR	NA	\$16,960	79.5%	13
Maine	\$21,940	\$9,256	42.2%	\$7,904	36%	\$4,768	21.7%	\$17,160	78.2%	14
Montana	\$20,333	\$8,307	40.9%	\$7,285	35.8%	\$6,679	32.8%	\$15,592	76.7%	15
Connecticut	\$30,795	\$12,844	41.7%	\$10,530	34.2%	\$5,399	17.5%	\$23,374	75.9%	16
West Virginia	\$16,921	\$6,932	41%	\$5,806	34.3%	NR	NA	\$12,738	75.3%	17
New Hampshire^^	\$28,756	\$11,995	41.7%	\$9,541	33.2%	\$4,198	14.6%	\$21,536	74.9%	18
Washington	\$25,731	\$10,920	42.4%	\$8,320	32.3%	\$4,680	18.2%	\$19,240	74.8%	19
California^^	\$27,534	\$11,823	42.9%	\$8,237	29.9%	\$2,736	9.9%	\$20,060	72.9%	20
Vermont^	\$25,336	\$9,612	37.9%	\$8,758	34.6%	\$4,818	19%	\$18,371	72.5%	21
Iowa^	\$22,809	\$8,859	38.8%	\$7,551	33.1%	\$5,987	26.2%	\$16,411	71.9%	22
Tennessee	\$20,254	\$7,748	38.3%	\$6,578	32.5%	\$3,374	16.7%	\$14,326	70.7%	23
Hawaii	\$29,466	\$12,876	43.7%	\$7,752	26.3%	\$6,909	23.4%	\$20,628	70%	24
Ohio	\$20,765	\$7,889	38%	\$6,376	30.7%	\$4,732	22.8%	\$14,265	68.7%	25
North Dakota	\$21,545	\$7,705	35.8%	\$6,807	31.6%	NR	NA	\$14,512	67.4%	26
Missouri	\$21,748	\$8,580	39.5%	\$5,928	27.3%	\$4,784	22%	\$14,508	66.7%	27
Kentucky	\$18,735	\$6,594	35.2%	\$5,766	30.8%	\$5,151	27.5%	\$12,360	66%	28
New Jersey	\$30,732	\$11,135	36.2%	\$9,098	29.6%	\$5,636	18.3%	\$20,233	65.8%	29
Virginia	\$28,965	\$10,670	36.8%	\$8,296	28.6%	\$6,382	22.0%	\$18,966	65.5%	30
Texas	\$22,705	\$8,323	36.7%	\$6,414	28.2%	NR	NA	\$14,737	64.9%	31
Arizona	\$25,682	\$8,946	34.8%	\$7,263	28.3%	6191	24.1%	\$16,209	63.1%	32



## Appendix 7

## 2011 Ranking of Affordability of Center Care for Single Mothers

State	State Median Income for Single Mother Family*	Infant Care		4-Year-Old Care		School-Age Care		Two Children in Care***		Rank (Based on Single-Mother Family Income)
		Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	Average Annual Cost**	Percent of State Median Income for Single Mother Family	
Oklahoma	\$20,272	\$7,288	36%	\$5,397	26.6%	\$4,496	22.2%	\$12,685	62.6%	33
Maryland	\$36,580	\$12,878	35.2%	\$9,278	25.4%	\$5,236	14.3%	\$22,156	60.6%	34
New Mexico	\$21,742	\$6,843	31.5%	\$6,145	28.3%	\$3,877	17.8%	\$12,988	59.7%	35
Nebraska	\$23,601	\$7,639	32.4%	\$6,386	27.1%	\$5,769	24.4%	\$14,025	59.4%	36
Alaska	\$31,134	\$9,336	30%	\$8,856	28.4%	\$4,404	14.1%	\$18,192	58.4%	37
Wyoming	\$25,824	\$7,727	29.9%	\$7,316	28.3%	\$4,685	18.1%	\$15,043	58.3%	38
Nevada	\$29,245	\$9,413	32.2%	\$7,532	25.8%	\$4,879	16.7%	\$16,945	57.9%	39
Florida	\$25,286	\$8,009	31.7%	\$6,368	25.2%	\$3,677	14.5%	\$14,377	56.9%	40
Louisiana <sup>^</sup>	\$19,853	\$5,901	29.7%	\$5,364	27%	\$2,950	14.9%	\$11,265	56.7%	41
Alabama	\$19,492	\$5,356	27.5%	\$5,668	29.1%	\$5,044	25.9%	\$11,024	56.6%	42
Delaware	\$30,675	\$9,620	31.4%	\$7,592	24.7%	\$6,406	20.9%	\$17,212	56.1%	43
Georgia	\$23,602	\$7,030	29.8%	\$6,062	25.7%	\$3,286	13.9%	\$13,092	55.5%	44
South Carolina	\$20,769	\$5,855	28.2%	\$5,455	26.3%	\$2,995	14.4%	\$11,310	54.5%	45
Arkansas	\$18,683	\$5,437	29.1%	\$4,695	25.1%	\$6,259	33.5%	\$10,132	54.2%	46
South Dakota <sup>^</sup>	\$22,989	\$5,947	25.9%	\$5,665	24.6%	\$3,667	16%	\$11,612	50.5%	47
Utah	\$27,626	\$7,848	28.4%	\$5,988	21.7%	\$3,168	11.5%	\$13,836	50.1%	48
Idaho	\$22,486	\$5,834	25.9%	\$5,059	22.5%	NR	NA	\$10,893	48.4%	49
Mississippi	\$17,796	\$4,591	25.8%	\$3,911	22.0%	\$1,954	11.0%	\$8,502	47.8%	50
District of Columbia <sup>^</sup>	\$25,325	\$20,178	79.7%	\$15,437	61%	NR	NA	\$35,615	140.6%	NA

\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2010 three-year estimates.

\*\*Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks. Some states used the latest state market rate survey. All cost data is rounded to the nearest \$50 increment.

NR: States did not report cost data for some categories of care, or number of programs reporting rates was too small to be valid for reporting.

\*\*\* One infant and one 4-year old child.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 8

## 2011 Average Costs for Center-Based Care for an Infant Compared to Varying Poverty Levels

State	Average Annual Cost of Infant Care*	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at the Poverty Level (\$18,530)**	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of Poverty (\$27,795)	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 200 Percent of Poverty (\$37,060)
Alabama	\$5,356	28.9%	19.3%	14.5%
Alaska**	\$9,336	40.3%	26.9%	20.2%
Arizona	\$8,946	48.3%	32.2%	24.1%
Arkansas	\$5,437	29.3%	19.6%	14.7%
California^^	\$11,823	63.8%	44.6%	33.4%
Colorado	\$12,621	68.1%	45.4%	34.1%
Connecticut	\$12,844	69.3%	46.2%	34.7%
Delaware	\$9,620	51.9%	34.6%	26.0%
District of Columbia^	\$20,178	108.9%	74.9%	56.2%
Florida	\$8,009	43.2%	28.8%	21.6%
Georgia	\$7,030	37.9%	25.3%	19.0%
Hawaii**	\$12,876	60.4%	40.3%	30.2%
Idaho	\$5,834	31.5%	21.0%	15.7%
Illinois	\$12,199	65.8%	43.9%	32.9%
Indiana	\$9,880	53.3%	35.5%	26.7%
Iowa^	\$8,859	47.8%	32.9%	24.7%
Kansas	\$11,023	59.5%	39.7%	29.7%
Kentucky	\$6,594	35.6%	23.7%	17.8%
Louisiana^	\$5,901	31.8%	21.9%	16.4%
Maine	\$9,256	50%	33.3%	25%
Maryland	\$12,878	69.5%	46.3%	34.7%
Massachusetts	\$14,980	80.8%	53.9%	40.4%
Michigan	\$10,114	54.6%	36.4%	27.3%
Minnesota	\$13,579	73.3%	48.9%	36.6%
Mississippi	\$4,591	24.8%	16.5%	12.4%
Missouri	\$8,580	46.3%	30.9%	23.2%
Montana	\$8,307	44.8%	29.9%	22.4%
Nebraska	\$7,639	41.2%	27.5%	20.6%
Nevada	\$9,413	50.8%	33.9%	25.4%
New Hampshire^^	\$11,995	64.7%	45.2%	33.9%
New Jersey	\$11,135	60.1%	40.1%	30.0%
New Mexico	\$6,843	36.9%	24.6%	18.5%
New York	\$14,009	75.6%	50.4%	37.8%
North Carolina^	\$9,185	49.6%	34.1%	25.6%

## Appendix 8

## 2011 Average Costs for Center-Based Care for an Infant Compared to Varying Poverty Levels

State	Average Annual Cost of Infant Care*	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at the Poverty Level (\$18,530)**	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of Poverty (\$27,795)	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 200 Percent of Poverty (\$37,060)
North Dakota	\$7,705	41.6%	27.7%	20.8%
Ohio	\$7,889	42.6%	28.4%	21.3%
Oklahoma	\$7,288	39.3%	26.2%	19.7%
Oregon <sup>^</sup>	\$11,079	59.8%	41.1%	30.8%
Pennsylvania <sup>^</sup>	\$10,504	56.7%	39.0%	29.2%
Rhode Island	\$11,830	63.8%	42.6%	31.9%
South Carolina	\$5,855	31.6%	21.1%	15.8%
South Dakota <sup>^</sup>	\$5,947	32.1%	22.1%	16.6%
Tennessee	\$7,748	41.8%	27.9%	20.9%
Texas	\$8,323	44.9%	29.9%	22.5%
Utah	\$7,848	42.4%	28.2%	21.2%
Vermont <sup>^</sup>	\$9,612	51.9%	35.7%	26.8%
Virginia	\$10,670	57.6%	38.4%	28.8%
Washington	\$10,920	58.9%	39.3%	29.5%
West Virginia	\$6,932	37.4%	24.9%	18.7%
Wisconsin	\$10,775	58.1%	38.8%	29.1%
Wyoming	\$7,727	41.7%	27.8%	20.8%

\* Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks and local CCR&Rs. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: 2011 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Poverty Guidelines; Poverty for a family of three in 2011 for 48 states was \$18,530. In Alaska it was \$23,160, and in Hawaii it was \$21,320.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 9

## 2011 Average Costs for Center-Based Care for a 4-Year-Old Compared to Varying Poverty Levels

State	Average Annual Cost of Care for a 4-Year-Old-Child*	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at the Poverty Level (\$18,530)**	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of Poverty (\$27,795)	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 200 Percent of Poverty (\$37,060)
Alabama	\$5,668	30.6%	20.4%	15.3%
Alaska**	\$8,856	38.2%	25.5%	19.1%
Arizona	\$7,263	39.2%	26.1%	19.6%
Arkansas	\$4,695	25.3%	16.9%	12.7%
California^^	\$8,237	44.5%	29.6%	22.2%
Colorado	\$9,239	49.9%	33.2%	24.9%
Connecticut	\$10,530	56.8%	37.9%	28.4%
Delaware	\$7,592	41%	27.3%	20.5%
District of Columbia^	\$15,437	83.3%	55.5%	41.7%
Florida	\$6,368	34.4%	22.9%	17.2%
Georgia	\$6,062	32.7%	21.8%	16.4%
Hawaii**	\$7,752	36.4%	24.2%	18.2%
Idaho	\$5,059	27.3%	18.2%	13.7%
Illinois	\$8,996	48.5%	32.4%	24.3%
Indiana	\$7,975	43%	28.7%	21.5%
Iowa^	\$7,551	40.8%	27.2%	20.4%
Kansas	\$8,305	44.8%	29.9%	22.4%
Kentucky	\$5,766	31.1%	20.7%	15.6%
Louisiana^	\$5,364	28.9%	19.3%	14.5%
Maine	\$7,904	42.7%	28.4%	21.3%
Maryland	\$9,278	50.1%	33.4%	25.0%
Massachusetts	\$11,669	63%	42.0%	31.5%
Michigan	\$7,930	42.8%	28.5%	21.4%
Minnesota	\$10,470	56.5%	37.7%	28.3%
Mississippi	\$3,911	21.1%	14.1%	10.6%
Missouri	\$5,928	32%	21.3%	16%
Montana	\$7,285	39.3%	26.2%	19.7%
Nebraska	\$6,386	34.5%	23.0%	17.2%
Nevada	\$7,532	40.6%	27.1%	20.3%
New Hampshire^^	\$9,541	51.5%	34.3%	25.7%
New Jersey	\$9,098	49.1%	32.7%	24.5%
New Mexico	\$6,145	33.2%	22.1%	16.6%
New York	\$11,585	62.5%	41.7%	31.3%

## Appendix 9

**2011 Average Costs for Center-Based Care for a 4-Year-Old Compared to Varying Poverty Levels**

State	Average Annual Cost of Care for a 4-Year-Old-Child*	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at the Poverty Level (\$18,530)**	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of Poverty (\$27,795)	Percent of Income for a Family of Three at 200 Percent of Poverty (\$37,060)
North Carolina^	\$7,774	42%	28.0%	21%
North Dakota	\$6,807	36.7%	24.5%	18.4%
Ohio	\$6,376	34.4%	22.9%	17.2%
Oklahoma	\$5,397	29.1%	19.4%	14.6%
Oregon^	\$8,542	46.1%	30.7%	23.0%
Pennsylvania^	\$8,588	46.3%	30.9%	23.2%
Rhode Island	\$9,932	53.6%	35.7%	26.8%
South Carolina	\$5,455	29.4%	19.6%	14.7%
South Dakota^	\$5,665	30.6%	20.4%	15.3%
Tennessee	\$6,578	35.5%	23.7%	17.7%
Texas	\$6,414	34.6%	23.1%	17.3%
Utah	\$5,988	32.3%	21.5%	16.2%
Vermont^	\$8,758	47.3%	31.5%	23.6%
Virginia	\$8,296	44.8%	29.8%	22.4%
Washington	\$8,320	44.9%	29.9%	22.5%
West Virginia	\$5,806	31.3%	20.9%	15.7%
Wisconsin	\$9,588	51.7%	34.5%	25.9%
Wyoming	\$7,316	39.5%	26.3%	19.7%

\* Source: NACCRRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks and local CCR&Rs. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

\*\*Source: 2011 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Poverty Guidelines; Poverty for a family of three in 2011 for 48 states was \$18,530. In Alaska it was \$23,160, and in Hawaii it was \$21,320.

^ 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

^^ 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

Appendix 10a  
2011 Urban–Rural Cost Difference for Center Care, by State

State	Infants			4-Year-Old		
	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference
Alabama	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Alaska	\$10,044	\$9,132	10.0%	\$9,756	\$8,484	15.0%
Arizona	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Arkansas	\$5,935	\$4,703	26.2%	\$5,131	\$4,084	25.6%
California^^	\$12,038	\$11,207	7.4%	\$8,429	\$7,689	9.6%
Colorado	\$13,099	\$10,696	22.5%	\$9,568	\$8,526	12.2%
Connecticut	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Delaware	\$9,256	NR	NR	\$7,361	NR	NR
District of Columbia^	\$20,178	NA	NA	\$15,437	NA	NA
Florida	\$8,130	\$6,452	26.0%	\$6,437	\$5,417	18.8%
Georgia	\$7,614	\$4,975	53.0%	\$6,471	\$4,630	39.8%
Hawaii	\$13,440	\$10,920	23.1%	\$8,496	\$5,604	51.6%
Idaho	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Illinois	\$12,418	\$11,845	4.8%	\$9,267	\$8,655	7.1%
Indiana	\$10,673	\$9,087	17.5%	\$8,368	\$7,583	10.4%
Iowa^	\$9,693	\$7,572	28.0%	\$8,007	\$6,715	19.3%
Kansas	\$9,159	\$5,987	53.0%	\$7,705	\$5,708	35.0%
Kentucky	\$7,011	\$5,540	26.6%	\$6,129	\$4,915	24.7%
Louisiana^	\$6,169	\$5,096	21.1%	\$5,633	\$4,828	16.7%
Maine	\$11,336	\$9,152	23.9%	\$9,464	\$7,800	21.3%
Maryland	\$13,275	\$8,224	61.4%	\$9,190	\$5,940	54.7%
Massachusetts	\$15,923	\$14,037	13.4%	\$11,937	\$11,401	4.7%
Michigan	\$12,012	\$8,216	46.2%	\$9,152	\$6,708	36.4%
Minnesota	\$15,378	\$9,822	56.6%	\$11,500	\$8,185	40.5%
Mississippi	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Missouri	\$9,308	\$5,616	65.7%	\$6,448	\$4,160	55.0%
Montana	\$8,840	\$8,307	6.4%	\$7,521	\$7,285	3.2%
Nebraska	\$9,846	\$6,014	63.7%	\$8,226	\$5,442	51.2%
Nevada	\$9,772	\$6,881	42.0%	\$7,757	\$5,993	29.4%
New Hampshire^^	\$12,213	\$11,831	3.2%	\$9,650	\$9,432	2.3%
New Jersey	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
New Mexico	\$7,720	\$5,965	29.4%	\$6,758	\$5,532	22.2%
New York	\$17,368	\$9,360	85.6%	\$12,532	\$8,320	50.6%
North Carolina^	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Dakota	\$8,309	\$6,567	26.5%	\$7,173	\$6,061	18.3%
Ohio	\$8,414	\$7,061	19.2%	\$6,805	\$5,804	17.2%
Oklahoma	\$8,110	\$6,479	25.2%	\$5,832	\$4,884	19.4%

## Appendix 10a

**2011 Urban–Rural Cost Difference for Center Care, by State**

State	Infants			4-Year-Old		
	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$11,636	\$5,694	104.3%	\$11,141	\$5,979	86.3%
<b>Pennsylvania<sup>^</sup></b>	\$11,142	\$8,494	31.2%	\$9,023	\$7,218	25.0%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$6,594	\$5,177	27.4%	\$6,063	\$4,846	25.1%
<b>South Dakota<sup>^</sup></b>	\$8,071	\$5,830	38.5%	\$7,246	\$5,570	30.1%
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$8,224	\$5,499	49.6%	\$6,947	\$4,927	41.0%
<b>Texas</b>	\$7,522	\$6,042	24.5%	\$6,859	\$5,070	35.3%
<b>Utah</b>	\$7,932	\$7,212	10.0%	\$6,036	\$5,580	8.2%
<b>Vermont<sup>^</sup></b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Virginia</b>	\$15,288	\$9,367	63.2%	\$12,558	\$7,093	77.0%
<b>Washington</b>	\$11,180	\$8,317	34.4%	\$8,424	\$6,760	24.6%
<b>West Virginia</b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$10,951	\$8,320	31.6%	\$9,686	\$7,007	38.2%
<b>Wyoming</b>	\$6,936	\$7,769	-10.7%	\$6,108	\$7,413	-17.6%

Source: NACCRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks and local CCR&Rs. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

NR: Not reported. Data not reported or not available for some categories of care.

NA: Not applicable. The District of Columbia encompasses an urban area only.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 10b

## 2011 Urban-Rural Cost Difference for Family Child Care, by State

State	Infants			4-Year-Old		
	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference
Alabama	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Alaska	\$9,936	\$8,088	22.8%	\$7,596	\$7,860	-3.4%
Arizona	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Arkansas	\$5,094	\$4,132	23.3%	\$4,514	\$3,842	17.5%
California^^	\$7,510	\$6,263	19.9%	\$7,170	\$6,190	15.8%
Colorado	\$8,715	\$7,516	16.0%	\$8,029	\$7,233	11.0%
Connecticut	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Delaware	\$7,228	NR	NR	\$6,032	NR	NR
District of Columbia^	\$12,329	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Florida	\$7,294	\$5,913	23.4%	\$6,196	\$5,142	20.5%
Georgia	\$6,084	\$4,289	41.9%	\$5,436	\$4,076	33.4%
Hawaii	\$7,776	\$6,876	13.1%	\$7,896	\$6,540	20.7%
Idaho	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Illinois	\$7,707	\$6,832	12.8%	\$7,125	\$6,339	12.4%
Indiana	\$5,824	\$5,720	1.8%	\$5,122	\$5,222	-1.9%
Iowa^	\$6,943	\$6,371	9.0%	\$6,605	\$6,164	7.2%
Kansas	\$8,632	\$5,895	46.4%	\$7,462	\$5,503	35.6%
Kentucky	\$5,970	\$4,820	23.9%	\$5,397	\$4,653	16.0%
Louisiana^	\$5,364	\$4,291	25.0%	\$4,828	\$4,023	20.0%
Maine	\$8,788	\$6,708	31.0%	\$8,320	\$6,084	36.8%
Maryland	\$9,430	\$6,853	37.6%	\$7,690	\$5,562	38.3%
Massachusetts	\$10,285	\$8,407	22.3%	\$9,530	\$9,461	0.7%
Michigan	\$8,060	\$5,980	34.8%	\$7,072	\$5,512	28.3%
Minnesota	\$8,741	\$6,715	30.2%	\$7,794	\$6,159	26.5%
Mississippi	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Missouri	\$6,240	\$4,160	50.0%	\$5,304	\$3,848	37.8%
Montana	\$7,076	\$6,907	2.4%	\$6,514	\$6,445	1.1%
Nebraska	\$6,908	\$5,299	30.4%	\$6,432	\$5,073	26.8%
Nevada	\$7,997	\$6,964	14.8%	\$7,402	\$6,126	20.8%
New Hampshire^^	\$8,996	\$8,887	1.2%	\$8,233	\$8,069	2.0%
New Jersey	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
New Mexico	\$6,541	\$5,554	17.8%	\$6,776	\$5,418	25.1%
New York	\$11,180	\$7,280	53.6%	\$10,400	\$7,020	48.1%
North Carolina^	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Dakota	\$6,478	\$5,922	9.4%	\$6,117	\$5,728	6.8%
Ohio	\$6,767	\$6,182	9.5%	\$6,064	\$5,461	11.0%
Oklahoma	\$6,403	\$5,263	21.7%	\$5,354	\$4,710	13.7%



## Appendix 10b

**2011 Urban-Rural Cost Difference for Family Child Care, by State**

State	Infants			4-Year-Old		
	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference	Urban	Rural	Cost Difference
<b>Oregon<sup>^</sup></b>	\$6,932	\$5,261	31.8%	\$6,190	\$4,952	25.0%
<b>Pennsylvania<sup>^</sup></b>	\$8,940	\$6,539	36.7%	\$7,915	\$6,156	28.6%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$4,966	\$4,121	20.5%	\$4,550	\$3,640	25.0%
<b>South Dakota<sup>^</sup></b>	\$6,419	\$5,150	24.6%	\$6,151	\$5,028	22.3%
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$5,939	\$4,232	40.3%	\$5,492	\$4,123	33.2%
<b>Texas</b>	\$7,158	\$5,309	34.8%	\$6,289	\$4,612	36.4%
<b>Utah</b>	\$5,892	\$5,340	10.3%	\$5,172	\$4,836	6.9%
<b>Vermont<sup>^</sup></b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Virginia</b>	\$10,660	\$7,020	51.9%	\$9,490	\$5,841	62.5%
<b>Washington</b>	\$8,840	\$6,500	36.0%	\$7,280	\$5,876	23.9%
<b>West Virginia</b>	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$9,253	\$6,582	40.6%	\$6,125	\$6,314	-3.0%
<b>Wyoming</b>	\$6,937	\$7,025	-1.3%	\$6,319	\$6,869	-8.0%

Source: NACCRRRA's January 2012 survey of Child Care Resource and Referral State Networks and local CCR&Rs. Some states used the latest state market rate survey.

NR: Not reported. Data not reported or not available for some categories of care.

NA: Not applicable. The District of Columbia encompasses an urban area only.

<sup>^</sup> 2010 Data, adjusted for inflation

<sup>^^</sup> 2009 Data, adjusted for inflation

## Appendix 11

## Licensing Threshold for Family Child Care Home Caring for Unrelated Children

State	Number of children in care when regulation begins, e.g., when a family child care home is required to be licensed	Are the provider's own children under school age (5 years or under) included in the threshold for regulation?	Is care for the first paid family (NOT the provider's family) exempt from the licensing threshold?	Adjusted total (accounting for provider's children and exempted first family)
Alabama	1	NA	No	1
Alaska	5	No	No	6
Arizona	5	No	No	6
Arkansas	6	Yes	No	6
California	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Colorado	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Connecticut	1	NA	No	1
Delaware	1	NA	No	1
District Of Columbia	1	NA	No	1
Florida	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Georgia	3	No	No	4
Hawaii	3	No	No	4
Idaho	7	Yes	No	7
Illinois	4	Yes	Yes	5
Indiana	6	No	No	7
Iowa	6	Yes	No	6
Kansas	1	NA	No	1
Kentucky	4	No	No	5
Louisiana	7	No	No	8
Maine	3	No	No	4
Maryland	1	NA	No	1
Massachusetts	1	NA	No	1
Michigan	1	NA	No	1
Minnesota	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Mississippi	6	No	No	7
Missouri	5	No	No	6
Montana	3	No	No	4
Nebraska	4	No	No	5
Nevada	5	No	No	6
New Hampshire	4	No	No	5
New Jersey	6	No	No	7
New Mexico	5	No	No	6
New York	3	No	No	4

## Appendix 11

## Licensing Threshold for Family Child Care Home Caring for Unrelated Children

State	Number of children in care when regulation begins, e.g., when a family child care home is required to be licensed	Are the provider's own children under school age (5 years or under) included in the threshold for regulation?	Is care for the first paid family (NOT the provider's family) exempt from the licensing threshold?	Adjusted total (accounting for provider's children and exempted first family)
North Carolina	3	No	No	4
North Dakota	6	Yes	No	6
Ohio	7	Yes	No	7
Oklahoma	1	NA	No	1
Oregon	4	No	Yes	6
Pennsylvania	4	No	No	5
Rhode Island	4	No	No	5
South Carolina	Second Family	No	Yes	3
South Dakota	13	Yes	No	13
Tennessee	5	No	No	6
Texas	1	NA	No	1
Utah	5	No	No	6
Vermont	Third Family	No	Yes	4
Virginia	6	No	No	7
Washington	1	NA	No	1
West Virginia	4	Yes	No	4
Wisconsin	4	No	No	5
Wyoming	3	No	Yes	5

Source: *Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight for Small Family Child Care Homes: 2012 Update*

NA: Not Applicable, as licensing begins with the first unrelated child.

Adjusted total adds one child when provider's children under school age are not included in the threshold and when the first family is exempted.



# Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2012). *Child Care Development Fund 2010 Program Data*, Retrieved May 17, 2012, from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/data/ccdf\\_data/10ac800\\_preliminary/table1.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/data/ccdf_data/10ac800_preliminary/table1.htm)
- 2 U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2010). *Child care: Multiple factors could have contributed to the recent decline in the number of children whose families receive subsidies*. Retrieved June 13, 2012, from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10344.pdf>
- 3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2012).
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). *Who's minding the kids? Child care arrangements: Spring 2010 – Detailed tables*. Retrieved April May 17, 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/childcare/data/sipp/2010/tables.html>
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