



Utah Child Care Cooperative

White Paper

Child Care and Housing Stability

November 2019

The cost of child care in Utah is so high it often incentivizes a parent to leave the workforce. That means families are losing an income that could help them better afford the rising cost of housing.

Both child care and housing assistance are crucial supports that can improve the economic viability and housing stability of Utah families, while also promoting children's healthy development and long-term success.

Of the more than one million households in Utah, 1 in 3 face a housing cost burden of at least 30%. A household with income below the median has a 1 in 5 chance of a severe housing cost burden, paying at least 50% of their income toward housing.¹

Utahns with children face additional costs:

- Child care for two children—an infant and a 4-year-old—costs \$17,591 in Utah. That's 34% more than the average Utah rent.²
- 63% of Utahns can't afford child care with infant care being 53% more expensive than college tuition.³
- Single parents in Utah pay 34% of their income for infant care, and 60% for two children.
- Married parents pay 12% of their income on child care.
 - This is significant since child care that costs more than 7% of a family's income is unaffordable.⁴
- Utah is the #1 child care desert in the nation. For every 4 children that need a spot, 1 is available.⁵

However, Utah parents want to work:

- 44% of Utah parents surveyed said that they would utilize child care to work more, or continue their education.⁶
- 30% of Utah parents have had to cut back on work hours because of unmet child care needs.⁷

When working parents are unable to access child care, their ability to remain stably employed and housing-secure are dramatically impacted.⁸ Solutions to stabilize families in their homes must take child care into account. Child care is indispensable and a critically large expense for families with children.⁹



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End Notes

¹ <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/May2018HousingReport.pdf>

² <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/UT>

³ <https://www.uvu.edu/uwlp/docs/childcareinfographic.pdf>

⁴ http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CCA_High_Cost_Report_01-17-17_final.pdf.

⁵ <https://www.uvu.edu/uwlp/docs/childcareinfographic.pdf>

⁶ <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/EarlyChildhoodServicesStudy.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.uvu.edu/uwlp/docs/childcareinfographic.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.tbf.org/-/media/tbf/reports-and-covers/2019/pathways-to-stable-homes-20190516.pdf?la=en&la=en>

⁹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/child-care-and-housing-big-expenses-with-too-little-help-available>