



Agenda for CHILDREN

...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

It's Time for Pandemic Pay for Louisiana's Child Care Workers

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the reality that child care is the foundation of our economic prosperity. Without stable, quality child care, parents are unable to work outside the home. The child care industry is in a crisis due to widespread temporary closures and lower enrollment as a result of the pandemic, and maintaining a stable workforce has become a major challenge for child care centers.

Child care staff are essential frontline workers whose work makes them uniquely vulnerable to the pandemic. Caring for young children properly makes social distancing impossible, and most private child care centers are unable to offer health insurance to their workers. **Providing child care workers with a temporary wage supplement of \$5 per hour would help centers maintain staffing, which in turn, would help more parents return to the workforce, putting Louisiana on a strong path to recovery.**

A \$5 per hour wage supplement for child care workers at Type III centers would have a positive impact on workers, centers and employers.



up to
7,700

staff could benefit from more livable wages



728

centers would benefit from more stable staffing

A wage supplement for child care workers would help stabilize a backbone industry and cost less than \$27 million to operate for 17 weeks.

The average child care worker earns just half of what a parent with an infant needs to make ends meet in Louisiana.



\$20,320

Average Annual Wage of Child Care Workers in Louisiana (2019)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

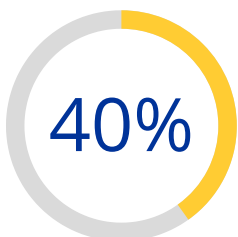


\$40,420

Average Survival Budget for a Parent with an Infant in Louisiana

Source: LA Association of United Way's ALICE in Louisiana

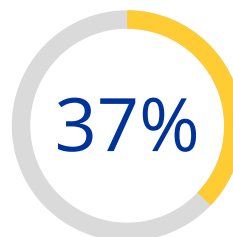
Low wages contribute to high turnover rates.



average turnover at child care centers in Louisiana

Source: Louisiana Department of Education

Over a third of centers reported labor challenges in June.



of centers reported that employees unwilling to return to work was a challenge

Source: Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, "The Growing Adverse Impacts of COVID-19 on Louisiana Child Care Providers"