



Child Care Strengthens Our Communities, Economy



weca Wisconsin Early
Childhood Association



Working Parents Face Significant Strains

85% say child care problems hurt their work efforts or time commitment

25% have been fired from their job

91% had to make at least one major change to work/life or finances to afford care

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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Soteria, Care.com

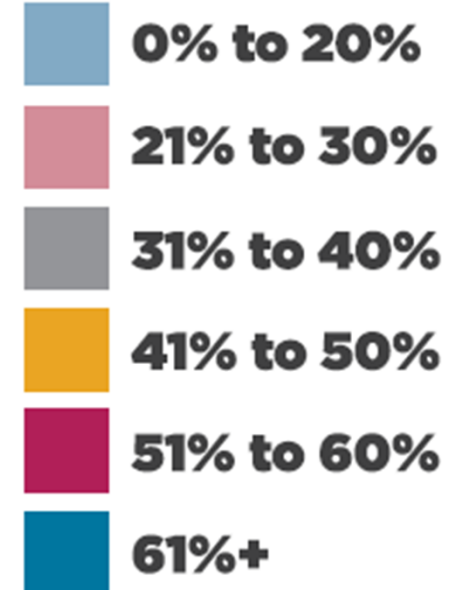
“How as a state can we fail working families so much? And this is not just a family issue. If you rely on working parents in any way – whether they are working with you, for you, providing goods and services to you – you WILL be impacted.”

-Wisconsin Parent

Decline in Regulated Child Care Programs Over the Past Decade



PERCENT DECLINE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



Loss of Programs in Dodge County

County	Number of Programs (Feb. 2013)	Number of Programs (Aug. 2024)	Change in Number of Programs	% Change (+/-)
Dodge	57	35	-22	-39%
FCC	27	9	-18	-67%
Group	30	26	-4	-13%



1,585

children on
waitlists

3,398

available seats
of care

481

vacant seats due to
understaffing

60

teachers needed to
cover vacant seats

Fond du Lac

4,636

KIDS NEED CARE

Dodge

3,635

KIDS NEED CARE

33,000

vacant seats statewide
due to lack of staff

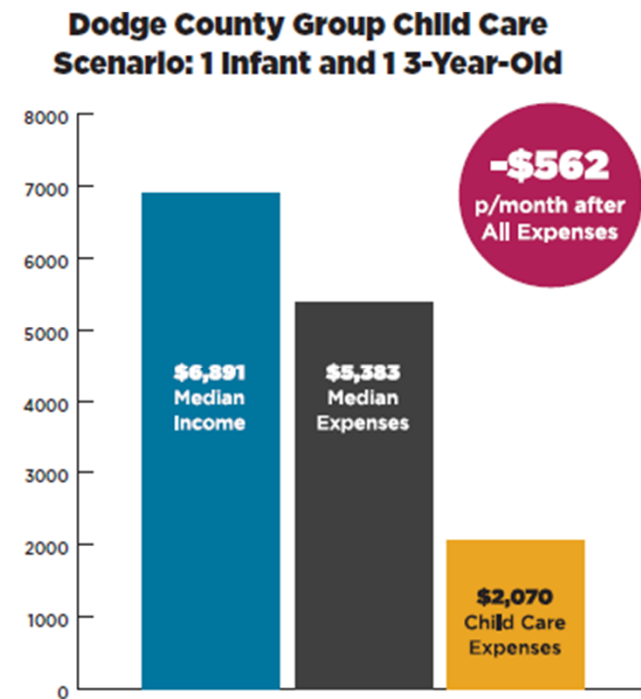
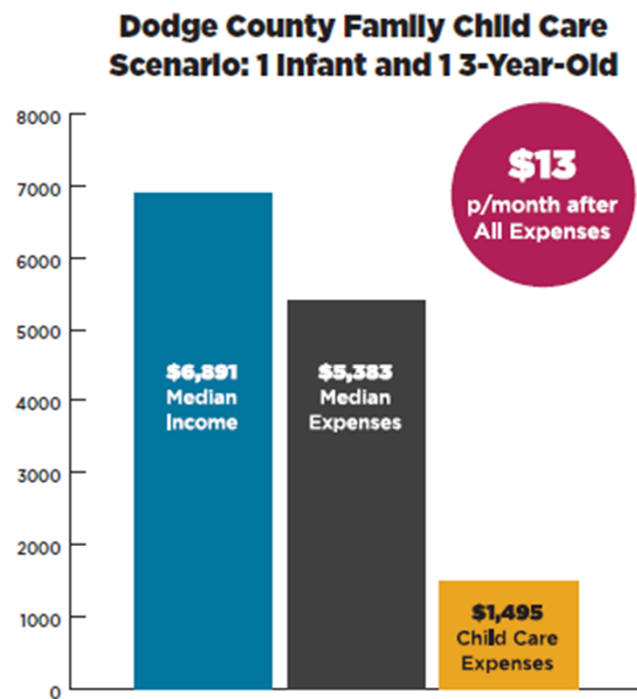
4,135

early educators
needed in Wisconsin

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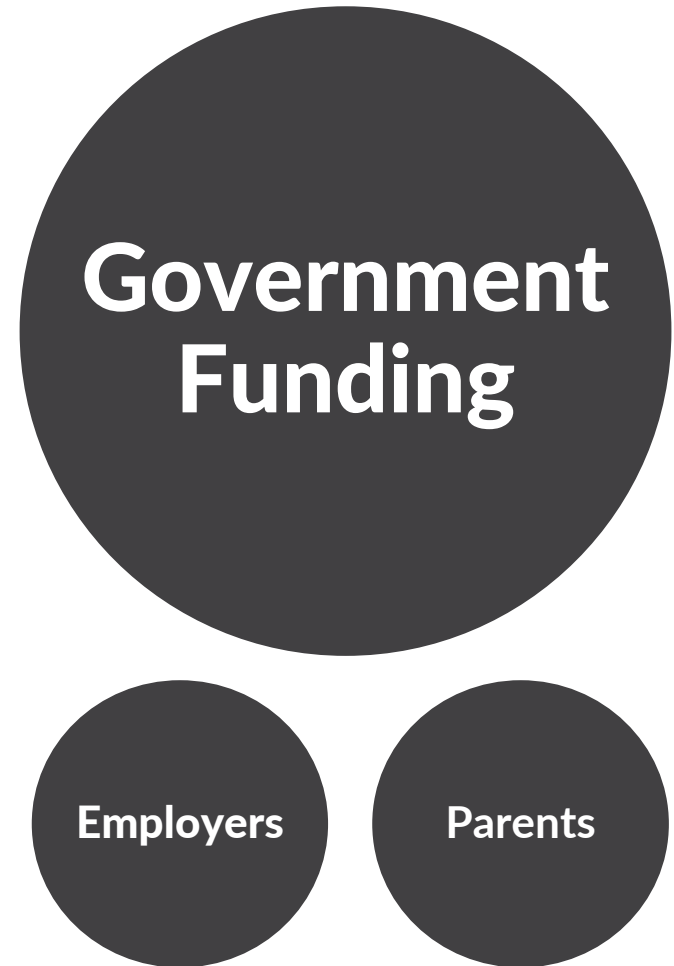
AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES

Child care costs have increased 14% in one year from 2022 to 2023 and are unaffordable for working families. Approximately 86% of Wisconsin counties have child care costs that push families into the red each month. The majority of families in these counties do not qualify for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program, which has an eligibility cap of \$5,200/month for a family of four. The below data is pulled from a real-life simulation that includes standard, basic living expenses.





**What Is The
Solution?**



Per-Child State Revenue Dedication

\$60

Infant – 3yrs old

\$7,000

4 and 5 yrs old

\$16,909

6+ yrs old

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How to Leverage Your Influence



- **Sign on to a business/economic development sign-on letter calling for state investment**
- **Meet with your legislators and members of the Joint Committee on Finance, attend upcoming JFC public hearings**
- **Engage your employees and leadership teams in advocacy discussions, action**
- **Use your networks of influence**



Thank you. Questions?

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