MAKING CHILDCARE AFFORDABLE

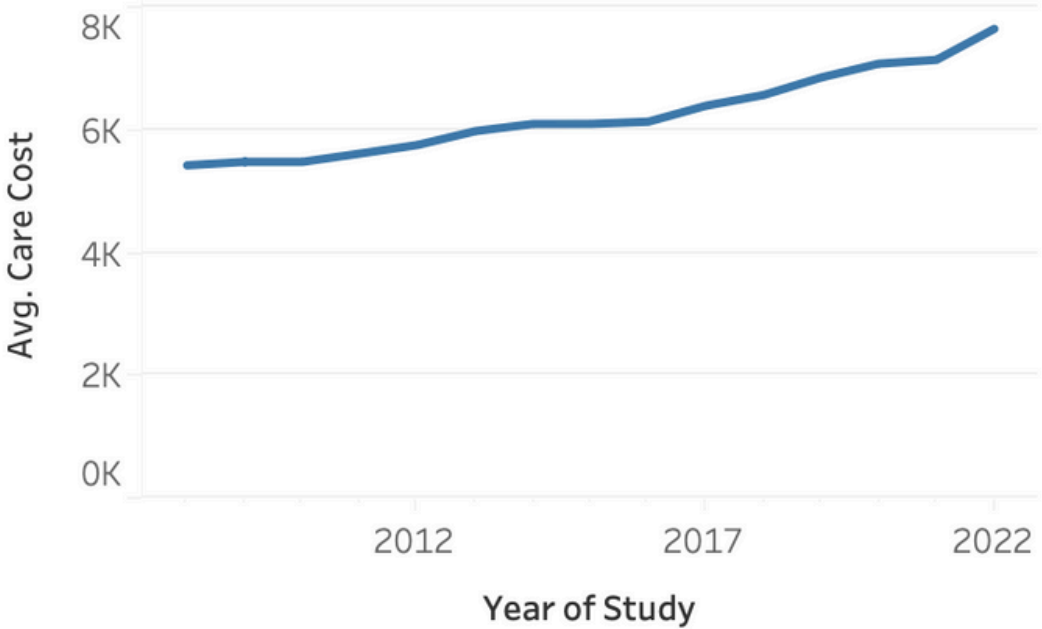## WHY WE NEED AN EXPANDED CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT

$8.3K

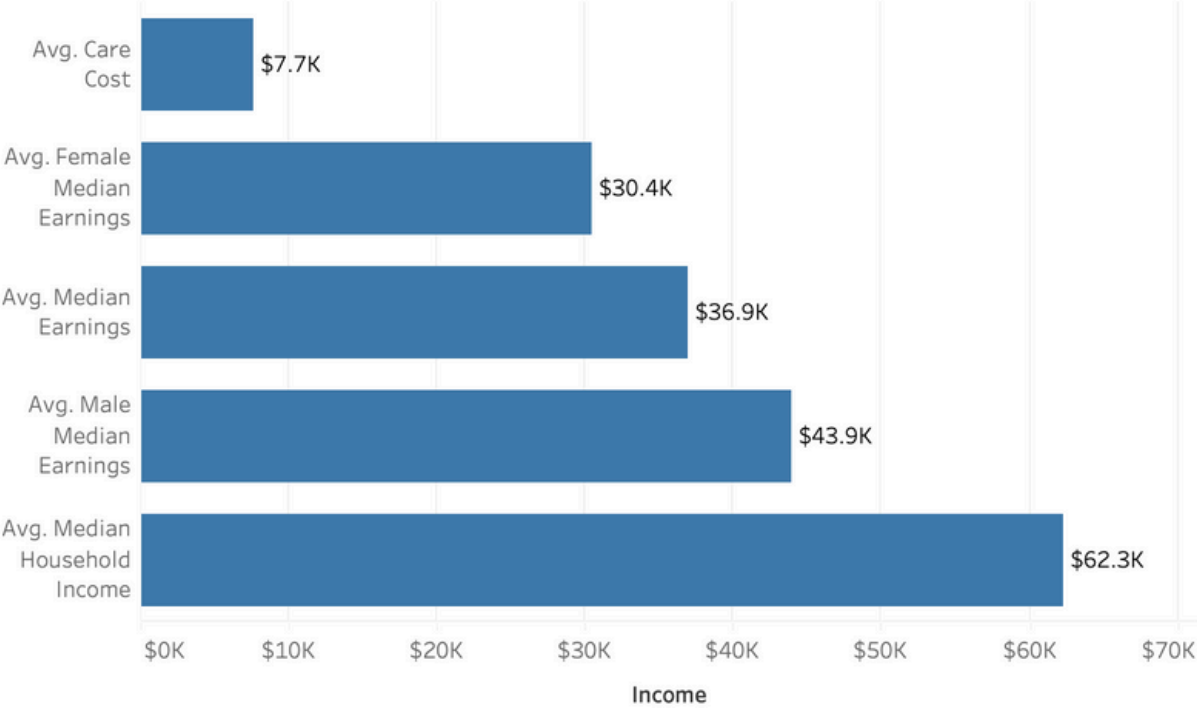Average annual cost of childcare in the US (2025).

Children are generally ready to be left home alone around the age of 12. Before then, they require childcare - which often comes with a cost. In the US, there are 46.6 million children aged 0-11 years old who require childcare.

Yearly Childcare Cost

CHILDCARE COSTS HAVE RISEN BY 40% OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS.

Avg. Care Cost vs. Year of Study

Comparing Care Costs and Income (2022)

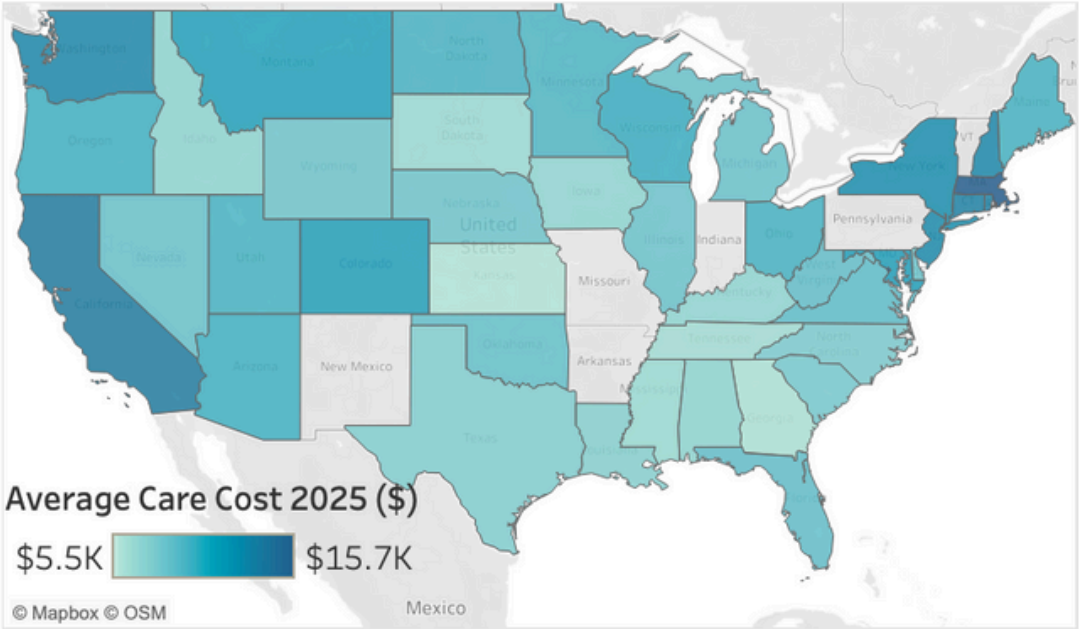| Category	Value
Avg. Care Cost	$7.7K
Avg. Female Median Earnings	$30.4K
Avg. Median Earnings	$36.9K
Avg. Male Median Earnings	$43.9K
Avg. Median Household Income	$62.3K

Childcare prices make up 12.4% of median household income. For households with only 1 working mother, that percentage goes up to 25.3%.

Childcare Costs Across the U.S. by State

ACROSS THE U.S., CHILDCARE COSTS CAN RANGE FROM $5.5K TO $15.7K PER YEAR.

Average Care Cost 2025 ($)

$5.5K — $15.7K

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Labor Force Participation Rates

Female (20-64) with Children 6-17 only	78.8%
Male (20-64)	77.4%
Female (20-64) with Children Under 6 only	71.3%
Female (20-64)	70.1%
Female (20-64) with Children Under 6 and 6-17	67.3%

WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION IS REDUCED AMONG MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 AND 6-17.

EXPAND THE CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT

Increase federal support for working families by reducing out-of-pocket childcare costs for millions of parents and encouraging higher labor force participation - especially among women.

KEY BENEFITS

- **Higher Caps:** Up expense limits to $12,000 (one child) / $ 24,000 (two+).
- **Bigger Credit:** Cover up to 70% of costs for low-/middle-income families.
- **Wider Eligibility:** Include grandparents, extended family & elder/disabled care.
- **Easy Claim:** Single sliding-scale formula; fully refundable for all.
- **Built-in Inflation Guard:** Index caps to CPI and make changes permanent.

HELP EVERY FAMILY AFFORD QUALITY CARE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THEIR PAYCHECK.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT EXPANDS THE CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT.

202-225-3121, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

202-224-3121, SENATE