

COLORADO CHILD CARE FACTS



CHILD CARE NOW
SEPTEMBER 2017

\$14,950

Average annual cost of center-based infant care in Colorado¹

\$33,264

Colorado's lowest income eligibility limit for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance (13 counties have this eligibility limit)²

\$46,368

Colorado's highest income eligibility limit for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance (Huerfano County)³

\$12.82

Average hourly wage for child care teachers in Colorado – on par with parking lot attendants and doggy day care⁴

13.2%

Percent of children eligible for child care subsidies (CCCAP) in Colorado currently that receive them at some level throughout a year⁵

\$44.37 million

Potential increase in state's economy if child care costs did not exceed more than 10 percent of family income⁶

405,000

Number of Colorado children under the age of six⁷

\$578

Monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in El Paso, more than \$450 below the federally recommended rate for this type of care⁸

\$738

Monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in El Paso, a full \$430 below the federally recommended rate⁹

- 1 *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: Appendices* (Arlington, VA: Child Care Aware of America, 2016), 4, available at <http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/reports-and-research/costofcare/>.
- 2 In Colorado, counties set their income limits within state guidelines. Also note that counties may allow families already receiving assistance to continue doing so up to an exit eligibility limit that is higher than the county's initial eligibility limit. Counties can set their entrance and/or exit eligibility limits as high as 85 percent of state median income (\$62,781 a year for a family of three). Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Family Income Guidelines, available at http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC_Families?p=family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program&lang=en.
- 3 Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Family Income Guidelines.
- 4 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *May 2016 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: Colorado*, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_co.htm#39-0000 (last visited Aug. 31, 2017).
- 5 *FY 2015-16 Annual Report on Colorado Child Care Assistance Program* (Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, Division of Early Care and Learning, 2016), 11.
- 6 Josh Bivens et al., *It's Time for an Ambitious National Investment in America's Children* (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2016), available at <http://www.epi.org/publication/its-time-for-an-ambitious-national-investment-in-americas-children/>.
- 7 National Women's Law Center calculations based on Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Kids Count Data Center*, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/100-child-population-by-single-age?loc=7&loct=2#detailed/2/7/false/870,573,869,36,868/42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61/418> (last visited Aug. 29, 2017).
- 8 Data as of February 2016. *State Child Care Assistance Policies: Colorado*, (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2017), 1, available at <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/colorado-childcare-subsidy2016.pdf>.
- 9 *Id.*