

California Cannot Work Without Affordable Child Care

California families shared that affordable child care makes work, school, and raising a family possible. Oftentimes child care is unavailable for families. The cost of child care is more than rent or a mortgage payment in many communities. And in some communities, there is not enough child care available for families who need it because the supply of care is so low. The stories below outline the real impact affordable child care has on families. Further investment is needed, so that all families who need child care can find safe, affordable care for their children.



"As a single mother of 2 little ones, child care assistance has helped me tremendously. I was able to keep my job. It helped me reduce financial burden and emotional stress because child care is very costly. The cost of living has gone up so much that it would be difficult for me to be able to cover child care without any assistance."

- **Single mother of 2 children, Rialto, CA**



"As someone trying to survive in lower middle-class America and overpriced living in California, child care has been a life saver. As much as I'd like to stay home with my babies, I cannot afford that and having assistance with child care takes so much pressure off. I wish more programs would recognize the need to include the middle class in programs similar to these. We don't see our entire paycheck and have more taxes taken out. Now we are living paycheck to paycheck."

- **Married mother of 2 children, Colton, CA**

"Child care providers depend on consistent, on-time payments to remain operational. They cannot operate on uncertainty. Rent, payroll, and staffing costs continues regardless of reimbursement delays. The temporary stay orders give us breathing room — but it is not a solution. The solution is preparation, coordination, and safeguarding the people who rely on us."

- **Holly Mitchell, LA County Supervisor**



STORIES STAFF SHARED THROUGH HEAD START HOME VISITATION PROGRAM:



“One of our families was feeling the strain with the recent federal government shutdown. Both parents work full-time but they depend on subsidized child care to bring home a paycheck for other necessities. They don’t have significant savings and fear a potentially missed payment is not something they can wait out.”

- Family in Palmdale, CA



“Due to the sudden changes with Cal Fresh, one parent did not receive her payment as she had hoped. She was concerned about how she and her family were going to eat. They are currently at a homeless shelter and provided meals, but the meals are very little.

She shared that many of the meals at the shelter were cold and unappetizing and felt they were being punished due to their current circumstances.”

- Family in Lancaster, CA

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