

Families Can't Find Affordable Child Care



¹ MIT Living Wage Calculator; ACS (B19013)

² MIT Living Wage Calculator (last updated Feb. 15, 2026), livingwage.mit.edu

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FY24-25

Now is the time to expand and strengthen the community-based child care system, so families can access the care that meets their unique needs.

The system provides licensed spaces for only
1 in 4 children
with working parents³

Child care costs more than in-state college tuition
Child Care (1 child): **\$13,834/year**
Cal State Humboldt: **\$6,084/year**
In-state:

Child Care (2 children): **\$18,696/year** = 31% of their income

7,020 working caregivers of children under 5 in Humboldt County.⁴

Humboldt County County specific data	\$61,160 Median yearly income (before taxes) in Humboldt County. ⁵
600 Available Licensed Home Spaces ⁶ 1,874 Available Licensed Center Spaces	668 Children are enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) ⁷ TK expansion reduced the licensed child care workforce, shrinking available supply for infants, toddlers, and families who need non-traditional hours.

The current child care system is unable to meet demand.

Changing Tides Agency specific data representing a portion of Humboldt County		
267 Providers available for referral	123 Licensed Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies 409 License-Exempt Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies	1,038 Subsidized Licensed Spaces Family Child Care Homes 2,179 Subsidized Licensed Spaces Center-Based

Even when care is available, cost and other barriers can make it difficult for families to access care.

³ Child Care Aware of America

⁵ ACS 2024 B19013

⁴ ACS 2024 B23008

⁶ California Community Care Licensing Division (CCL)

⁷ California Department of Education (CDE)