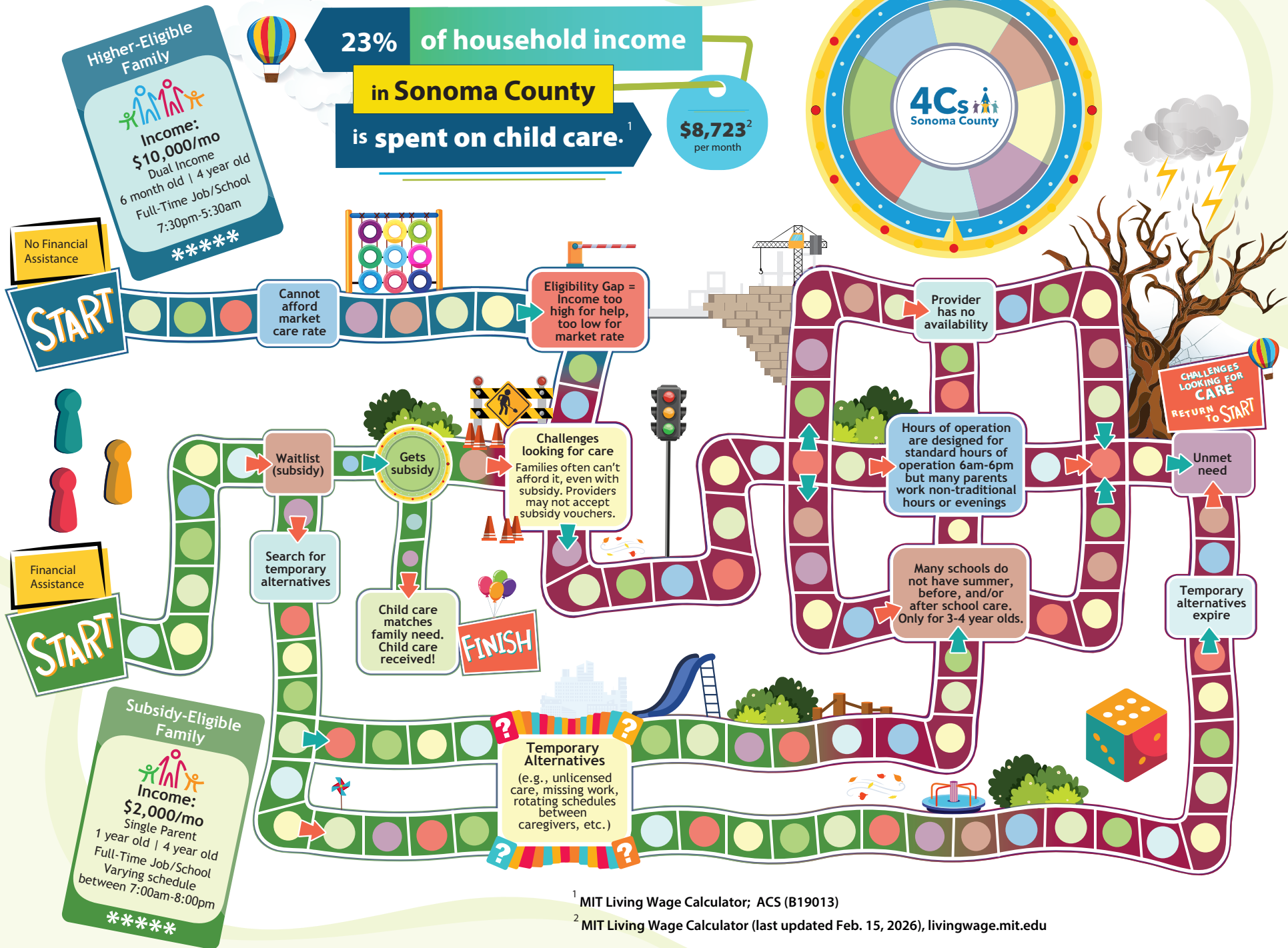


Families Can't Find Affordable Child Care



¹ MIT Living Wage Calculator; ACS (B19013)

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

Families Can't Find Affordable Child Care

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): **\$11,962/year**
Sonoma State In-state: **\$6,084/year**

Child Care (2 children): **\$24,153/year** = 23% of their income

26,017 working caregivers of children under 5 in Sonoma County.⁴

Sonoma County County specific data	\$104,674 Median yearly income (before taxes) in Sonoma County. ⁵
2,146 Available Licensed Home Spaces ⁶ 8,444 Available Licensed Center Spaces	2,530 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.

4Cs of Sonoma Agency specific data representing a portion of Sonoma County	1,144 Families on the waitlist at 4Cs of Sonoma. Many are on the waitlist for years.
596 Providers available for referral	3,336 Subsidized Licensed Spaces Family Child Care Homes
410 Licensed Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies 533 License-Exempt Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies	6,093 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)