

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): **\$13,191/year**
CSU Long Beach: **\$6,084/year**
In-state:

Child Care (2 children): **\$31,372/year** = 35% of their income

652,988 working caregivers of children under 5 in Los Angeles County.⁴

Los Angeles County County specific data	\$90,112 Median yearly income (before taxes) in Los Angeles County. ⁵
45,158 Available Licensed Home Spaces ⁶ 190,620 Available Licensed Center Spaces	39,432 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.

City of Norwalk Agency specific data representing a portion of Los Angeles County		132 Families on the waitlist at City of Norwalk. Many are on the waitlist for years.
65 Providers available for referral	83 Licensed Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies	254 License-Exempt Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies

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)