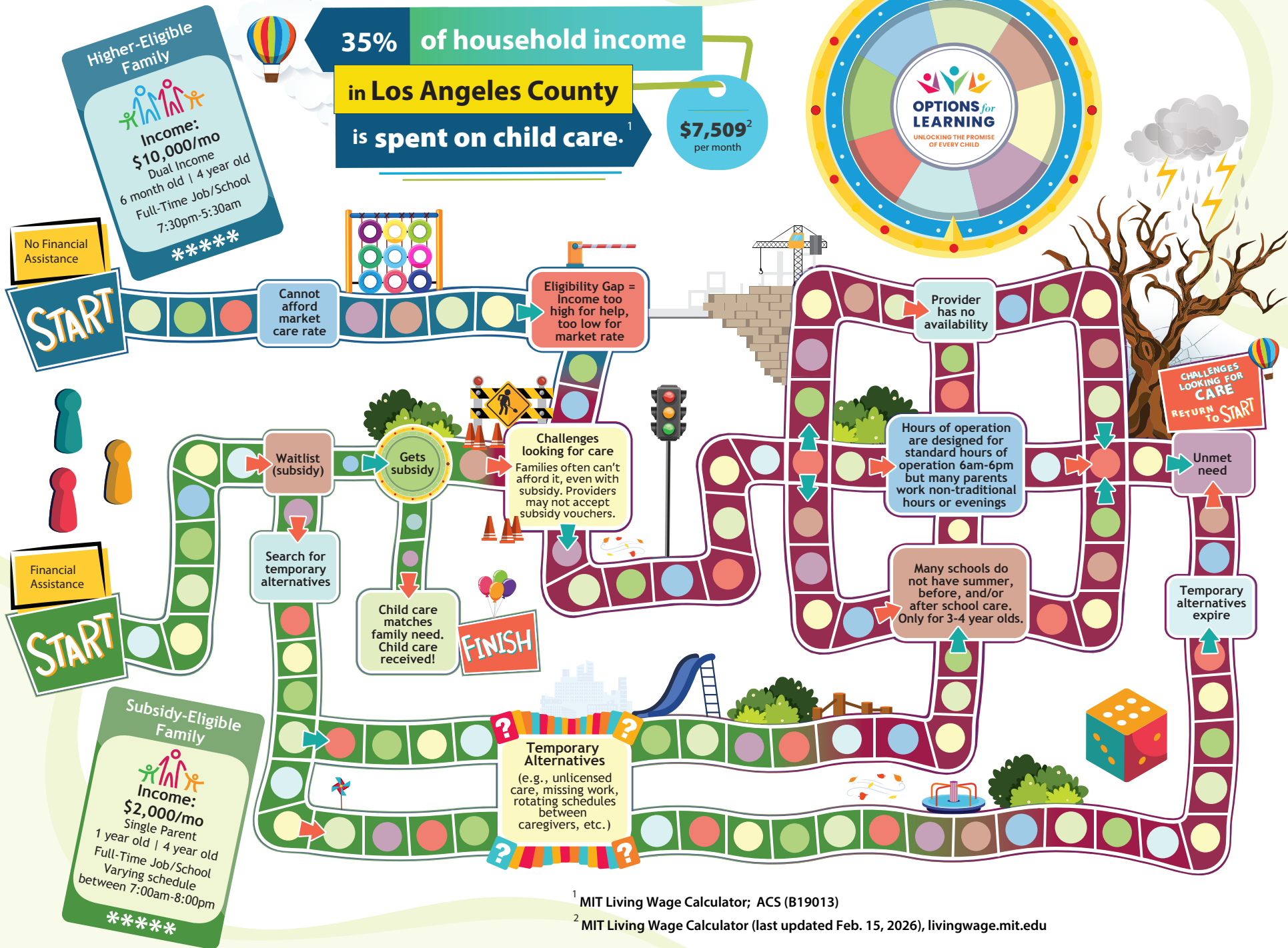


Families Can't Find Affordable Child Care



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): **\$13,191/year**
Pasadena City: **\$1,380/year**
College 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.

Options for Learning Agency specific data representing a portion of Los Angeles County	3,945 Families on the waitlist at Options for Learning. Many are on the waitlist for years.
578 Licensed Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies 1,717 License-Exempt Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies	4,353 Subsidized Licensed Spaces Family Child Care Homes 21,717 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)