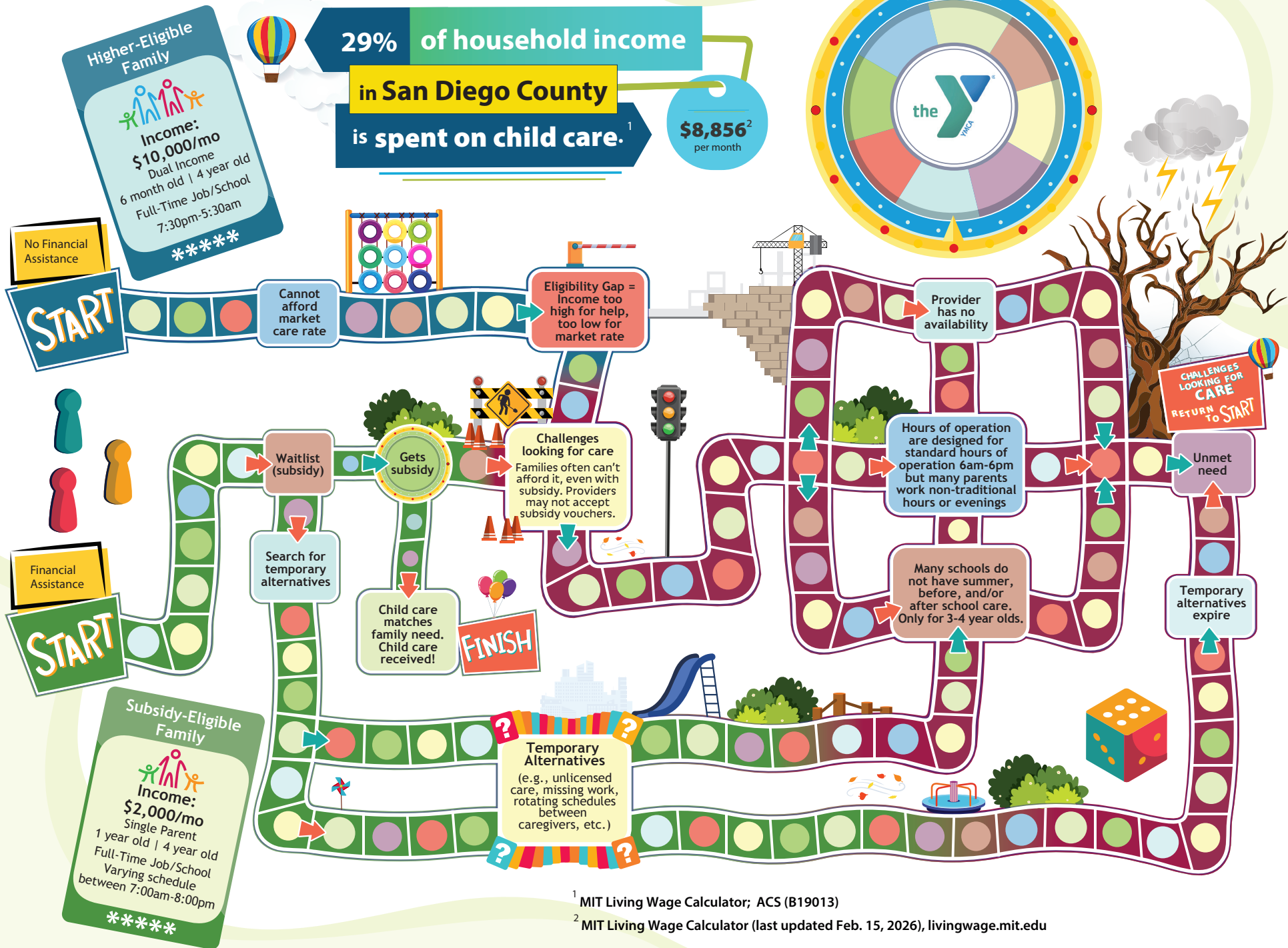


Families Can't Find Affordable Child Care



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): **\$16,085/year**
SDSU In-state: **\$6,084/year**

Child Care (2 children): **\$30,581/year** = 29% of their income

207,955 working caregivers of children under 5 in San Diego County.⁴

San Diego County	
County specific data	Median yearly income (before taxes) in San Diego County. ⁵
20,130 Available Licensed Home Spaces ⁶	16,679 Children are enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) ⁷
71,388 Available Licensed Center Spaces	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.

YMCA	
Agency specific data representing a portion of San Diego County	Families on the waitlist at YMCA. Many are on the waitlist for years.
5,456 Providers available for referral	2,276 Licensed Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies
	1,769 License-Exempt Providers receiving Child Care Subsidies
	39,764 Subsidized Licensed Spaces Family Child Care Homes
	66,620 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)