

Child Care in North Carolina Did you know that...



www.childcareservices.org

 approximately 457,186 children under six in the state live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working? The need for child care is critical to the economic viability of these families.

 the state received and spent \$340,794,207 in federal and state funds (not including Smart Start) to help parents pay for child care in fiscal year 2018? In July, the state served 65,115 different children with child care subsidy and had **10.896** eligible children on the waiting list for subsidy.

 North Carolina has 6.071 licensed child care programs? Of these, 4.480 are centers and 1.591 are family child care homes. Of all the licensed programs in the state, 70% of the centers and 49% of homes have a 4 or 5 star rating. These businesses employ 37,383 people directly, and also contribute to the economy through purchases of goods and services provided by other businesses in their communities and state.

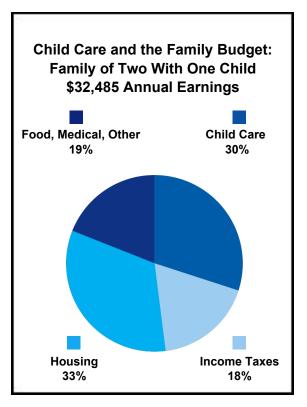
 there are 183,279 birth to five year old and 58,400 school-age children currently enrolled in these child care programs.

 among birth to five year old children enrolled in centers in North Carolina, 73% are in 4 or 5 star licensed centers. Among birth to five year old children enrolled in homes in North Carolina, 50% are in 4-5 star licensed homes.

 2,106 teachers, directors and family child care providers living in North Carolina participated in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in fiscal year 2018 with 907 child care programs supporting their employees returning to school through this scholarship program?

 using federal guidelines for setting subsidy payment rates and data from fiscal year 2015 market rate study, the 4-star center market rate for two year olds in North Carolina is \$815 per month?

 most families in North Carolina cannot afford the full cost of child care? Low-income families and families with more than one child have to pay a high percentage of their income for care. A single mother with one child earning \$32,484 or less per year can receive child care subsidy as funds are available. If funds are unavailable or if this parent's earnings exceed the income eligibility limit, a parent would pay 30% of her gross income (see chart) for child care offered at the county rate. Little is left in the family's budget for food, medical, clothing, travel or other basic living expenses. Due to the high cost of child care, parents often make difficult choices. Some may be forced to seek TANF. Others may seek cheaper, often inadequate child care or leave their children unattended.



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