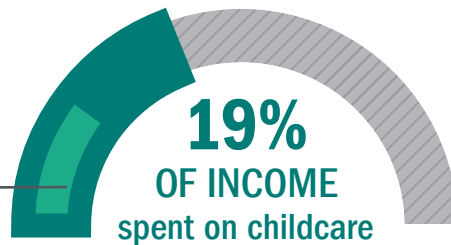


# The Cost of Early Care and Education Programs is Out of Reach for Many Michigan Families

Michigan families told us that they are **spending too much of their income on early care and education programs**, such as childcare and/or preschool.

Michigan families are spending on average **19% of their income** on early care and education programs

Nearly 10% more than is considered reasonable by the federal government.



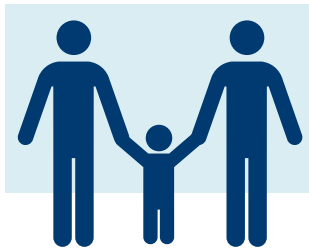
The cost of early care and education programs is especially high for families of infants and toddlers.



Even middle-income families struggle with early care and education costs



They often are not eligible for income-based programs (like Head Start or GSRP)...



but do not earn enough to afford early care and education programs without help.



Subsidies are available to income eligible families, but while these subsidies can help, **many families report they have a difficult time finding providers who will accept it and when they do, the subsidy does not always cover the full costs of care.**

**Families who can't afford early care and education programs must make difficult choices**, such as quitting their job or choosing a care environment they don't feel as comfortable with.



The **COVID-19 pandemic** has increased hardships for many families who depend on early care and education programs.



Many families have experienced a cut in their income while the cost of programs has stayed the same.



Families wanting to keep their child's space during shut downs have had to continue to pay for care while their children have been at home.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

Despite these challenges, **Michigan is working hard to meet the needs of families.** You can find out more about all kinds of programs for families with young children on the [MI Kids Matter website](#).

**Interested in applying for early care and education cost assistance?** Check out the MI Bridges website to fill out the [application](#). The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) also has a [frequently asked questions](#) webpage you can review.

**Looking for an early care and education program for your child?** Check out the [Great Start to Quality ratings](#) to find a high-quality provider near you.

For more information about Michigan's PDG efforts, please contact Dr. Joy Milano at [milanoJ@michigan.gov](mailto:milanoJ@michigan.gov).

For more information about the Needs Assessment, please contact Dr. Ann-Marie Faria at [afaria@air.org](mailto:afaria@air.org).



**WE WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!**

We want to know if we missed something. What else should we know about the affordability of early care and education programs? **Fill out this survey** to tell us and MDE/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services what you need.

[TAKE THE SURVEY >](#)