

GEORGIA'S HARD- WORKING FAMILIES NEED HELP WITH CHILD CARE NOW



Georgia's children deserve access to high-quality, affordable child care, and families depend on this care so that they can participate in the workforce—but for too many Georgians, it's **out of reach**. Our state's families with young children need our help **now**.



Families across Georgia struggle to afford child care. The average yearly infant tuition exceeds in-state tuition at a four-year public college and child care expenses represent **more than one-third of the earnings** of a family with low income.¹



Child care is crucial to many families' economic security and to children's long-term success. It's also an integral pillar to **supporting Georgia's economy**.²



It has never been more clear that child care is crucial to many parents' ability to work. Yet more than **1 in 3 Georgia parents** with young children reported they had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change a job due to problems with child care.³

One way to help address the state's child care challenges is through meaningfully funding Georgia's **Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program**, which provides scholarships that help some working families with low incomes afford child care. Yet the program serves **only an estimated 14% of income-eligible children**⁴ due to limited funding.

THE URGENCY OF ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING

Georgia families with young children continue to experience child care challenges that have been compounded by a series of other stressors, including inflation and access to critical needs such as baby formula. The **end of federal pandemic relief funding** of more than \$2 billion, which has been a historic and critical lifeline for Georgia child care providers and families, is likely to create **additional barriers** to access. Many **other states**, such as Louisiana, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania, **are making historic investments** in child care. We applaud the inclusion of \$1 million for CAPS in the Governor's budget proposal. Yet additional state funding for CAPS is essential to ensure access and quality.

WE URGE THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INCREASE THE ADDITIONAL STATE INVESTMENT IN THE CAPS PROGRAM TO \$20 MILLION.

Every additional dollar for child care is an investment in Georgia's current and future workforce.



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[1] Malik, R. "Working Families Are Spending Big Money on Child Care." <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/working-families-spending-big-money-child-care> [2] GEEARS. "Opportunities Lost." <https://gears.org/oppstost/> [3] GEEARS. "Checking In: How Georgia's Families are Navigating Child Care & Employment Impacts in the Era of COVID-19." <http://gears.org/wp-content/uploads/Survey-Findings-2021.pdf> [4] Ullrich, R., Schmit, S., & Cosse, R. "Inequitable Access to Child Care Subsidies." https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019/04/2019_inequitableaccess.pdf [5] GEEARS. "2022 Georgia Likely Voter Poll." <https://gears.org/research/polling/>