

# 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.<sup>1</sup>



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**.<sup>2</sup>



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.<sup>3</sup>

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**<sup>4</sup> 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](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/>