

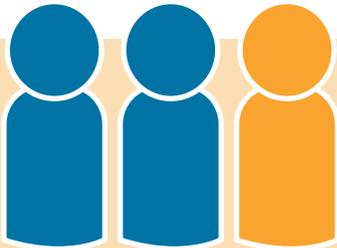
## The Good News...

Michigan's unemployment rate is very low. In 2017, the annual average was just 4.6 percent.

## The Bad News...

Employers are having to dig deeper into the labor pool to find qualified candidates, many of whom have barriers to working, including a lack of access to **affordable, high-quality** child care.

Two out of three children live in homes where their parents work.



*Note: Both parents in two-parent families and one parent in single-parent families.*

The majority of Michigan families need child care, but it's **EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE.**

Center-based infant care in Michigan costs almost as much as in-state tuition at a four-year public university.

Infant Cost in Center

**\$10,281**

Public University Tuition

**\$12,935**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, any child care that costs more than 7 percent of a family's income is considered unaffordable. Unfortunately, Michigan families spend well over that (even more than they spend on housing).



**48.8**

The percentage of income single parents would have to spend to access center-based infant care



**12.1**

The percentage of income married couples would have to spend to access center-based infant care



**72.3**

The percentage of income married couples at the poverty line would have to spend to access center-based care for two children

High-quality Child Care is Expensive and **HARD TO FIND.**

**85,935**

The number of child care slots with providers licensed to take infants and toddlers that rate at three stars or better



**185,010**

The number of infants and toddlers needing care in Michigan

Since **2007**, the number of **children served** and the amount of **state spending** on child care in Michigan have both **declined**.

Number of Children Served	FY	State Spending on Child Care
<b>106,062</b>	2007	<b>\$416 million</b>
<b>32,217</b>	2017	<b>\$140 million</b>

**Why Child Care MATTERS**

**What Michigan NEEDS TO DO**

**Access to affordable, high-quality child care:**

- Lets parents work and can provide families a pathway out of poverty
- Helps ensure children are ready for school and prepares them for future success
- Helps our economy now, and any investment in our children today helps ensure a thriving economy in the future

**For Michigan’s economy to grow, we must do more to help parents enter the workforce and climb the career ladder once they’re there. We can do that by:**

- Raising the income eligibility threshold (our current income limit for initial eligibility is tied for second lowest in the country)
- Increasing reimbursement rates to providers making it easier for them to provide high-quality care to families participating in the program

**Resources:**

Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, 2017 annual unemployment average  
 Child Care Aware of America using data from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015  
 Child Care Aware of America, 2017, *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care*  
 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2007 and 2017, *Annual Report of Key Program Statistics*  
 National Women’s Law Center, 2016, *Red Light Green Light: State Child Care Assistance Policies*