

# Child Care in State Economies

FACT SHEET

2019 Update



## Colorado

### Impact of the Child Care Industry in Colorado

- There are 9,022 market-based child care providers with revenue of \$749 million in Colorado. This includes 7,918 sole proprietors (family child care home-based providers) and 1,104 child care centers.
- \$749 million in direct revenue generated within the market-based child care industry is estimated to support about \$955 million in spillover or related productivity in other industry sectors for an estimated combined total economic impact of about \$1.7 billion in Colorado.
- In terms of jobs, 22,573 sole proprietors and wage and salary employees in the child care sector are estimated to support about 9,860 workers in other industries for a total jobs impact of 32,433.
- The \$407 million in employee compensation and proprietors' earnings generated directly within the child care industry is estimated to support about \$310.3 million in additional earnings across the state for a total earnings impact of \$717.3 million.

### Child Care Usage in Colorado

- There are 1,049,246 children under age 15 (336,207 under age 5 and 713,039 between ages 5 and 14) in Colorado who may require paid child care services.
- About 273,890 children under age 15 are in paid care – 121,473 (36.1%) under age 5 and 152,417 (21.4%) between the ages of 5 and 14.
- About 45.7% of children birth to age 5 in Colorado are in non-parental care for at least 10 hours every week.

### Cost of Child Care & Labor Force Participation

The cost of care in Colorado remains a hurdle for many parents seeking to enter or stay in the labor force.

- The average annual cost of child care for an infant is \$14,960 in a child care center and \$10,522 in a family child care home.
- The average annual cost of infant center-based care is 138.6% of the cost of tuition and fees at a 4-year Colorado college.
- Center-based infant care is 23.9% of state median income.
- Since 2010, family child care homes have declined from 9,945 to 7,918 in 2016 – a decline of 20.4%. For working families, the decline in home-based care reduces the availability of the least expensive care option for families.

### The Link Between the Paid Child Care Sector and the State Economy

- Access to affordable child care can increase labor force participation and support state and regional economic growth.
- Access to affordable child care can support parents seeking additional education and training, which contribute to higher earnings over an individual's lifetime.
- Increased subsidy payments trigger state level responses in wage rates, the mix of low- and high-skilled labor used in the state, prices of goods and services, and trade flows.

Note: Regulations for child care licensing vary by state. The economic information provided through the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census includes employers and sole proprietors who report child care business income. This does not mean such entities are regulated by the state or are in compliance with state law. Therefore, state regulatory lists may vary from child care business data reflected in the Census Bureau data.

Sources: Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board, *Child Care in State Economies: 2019 Update*; 2016 U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census and County Business Pattern data and non-employer statistics data; Current Population Survey for the 2015-2017 period; 2016-2017 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Child Care Aware of America 2017 child care rates, *the U.S. and the High Cost of Child Care* (2018).

