

# Child Care: Can't afford it; can't live without it.



## THE SOLUTION:

Increase funding for CCFAP, Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

The need for child care is a reality for the majority of families with young children in Vermont. But for most families, child care is too expensive. In fact, some middle-income Vermont families are spending nearly 40% of their income on child care.

The affordability challenge forces parents to make tough choices, pitting their natural desire to provide their children the best start in life against so many other needs—including their ability to keep a good job.

### Average annual cost of child care per child in Vermont:

Infants: \$8,205 - \$11,513  
Toddlers: \$7,846 - \$11,130  
Preschoolers: \$7,748 - \$10,440\*

The average two-parent, two-child Vermont family is spending about \$20,000 a year on child care—more than the cost of full-time, in-state tuition at a Vermont State College.

**Vermont families need help paying for child care.**

*\* Act 166 programming may impact the rates of pre-qualified preschool programs.*

**CCFAP**



The Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) helps Vermont families afford child care. For most families, eligibility for assistance is determined by household income. The less a family earns, the more assistance they are eligible to receive. Families earning 300% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Level (\$73,800 for a family of 4) or less are eligible.

The problem is that CCFAP has been underfunded for years and, as a result, is not really meeting the need of families:

1. It doesn't provide enough assistance to eligible families, who are still paying up to ~40% of their income to child care.
2. The rates it pays to child care providers on behalf of eligible families are based on what providers were charging in 2008 and 2009—not their current costs.
3. Not enough families are receiving assistance.

## TAKE ACTION!

Let's Grow Kids is part of a group through the Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance advocating for an increase of \$9.2 million for CCFAP to fill the current funding gap. We need your help asking legislators to find a way to significantly increase funding for CCFAP. Use our online Legislator Lookup tool to find your legislators and email them to say you believe this is a smart investment for Vermont:

[letsgrowkids.org/legislator-lookup](https://letsgrowkids.org/legislator-lookup)

