Licensed Child Care Costs

California is ranked the 3rd least affordable state in the nation for child care. Many families struggle to afford child care, which makes the availability of subsidies vital for many working parents to maintain employment while providing a quality early care environment for their children.

Child Care Costs

The cost of child care in California varies greatly by region, as parts of the state have very high costs of living compared to others. For example, the average cost of infant care in a licensed center ranges from $9,746 a year in Trinity County to over $23,114 in San Francisco County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infant Care Costs</th>
<th>Preschool Care Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant care in center</td>
<td>$17,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant care in home</td>
<td>$11,718</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Care and Family Budgets

For a family making the state median household income of $81,362, paying for one infant in a family child care home and one preschool-age child in a center will account for over one-third of their gross income.

Affordability of Care for Families

The cost of infant care in California is higher than the cost of tuition at a four-year public university. Average annual cost for an infant in a center is $17,384 and in a family child care home is $11,718, while public college tuition is $10,210.

2. 2018 Regional Market Rate Survey
3. 70% of 2018 State Median Income for a family of three
4. U.S. Housing and Urban Development rent for 2-bedroom 50th percentile