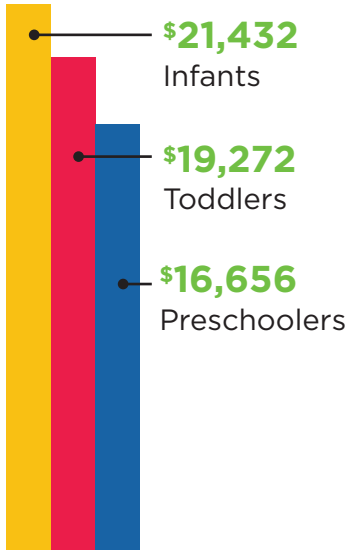


Westchester's Working Parents: Quality Child Care is a Priority, But We Can't Afford it!

In survey, 400+ parents reveal startling sacrifices and cite child care as a "top priority" in their decision of where to work.

Are parents, especially women, losing critical opportunities because reliable, quality child care is not affordable?

Average monthly cost of full-time child care:



Child care "issues" have caused parents to:

49% Call out of work **49%** of the 130 receive child care subsidy **40%/46%** Arrive late/leave early

These "issues" include inability to pay, unreliable child care arrangements, worry that a child was unsafe or not receiving the best care.

- ▶ "I almost lost my job due to lack of child care."
- ▶ "It was a topic of my performance evaluation."
- ▶ "Not working because of no child care."

178 parents missed up to a full week of work due to child care issues. **29** quit or lost their job.

Are parents making reasonable sacrifices to pay for child care, or are they trapped in a dangerous cycle?

In a household with 2 working parents who have *one infant and one preschooler in a child care center*, the cost would be approximately

\$38,088 PER YEAR.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| If household income is ▶ | \$60k | \$90k |
| % of income that is rent ▶ | 36% | 24% |
| % of income that is child care ▶ | 63% | 42% |

Unlike with college expenses, assistance is not readily available, and 70% of Westchester parents report they have trouble paying for child care.

This is nearly a 50% increase from the previous year.

In order to afford child care, families had to:

129 HOUSEHOLDS Cut back spending on things like food and utilities
53 HOUSEHOLDS Use credit cards
92 HOUSEHOLDS Borrow from family

Parents report that because of child care, they were forced to:

- ▶ Turn down a job opportunity
- ▶ Reduce working hours
- ▶ Leave a job
- ▶ Delay returning to work

- ▶ "I had to reduce my working hours, turn down an opportunity, leave my previous employment and take a position that pays less money to be more available due to child care."

Aren't there subsidies to help low-wage-earning families afford quality child care?

While nearly

40% of our respondents are eligible, only **18%** are receiving a child care subsidy.

As on a national level, this is an issue in Westchester because parents are:

- ▶ Unaware child care subsidies exist
- ▶ Unable to complete the application without assistance
- ▶ Reluctant to apply for social services

The Child Care Council of Westchester receives County funding for a Subsidy Specialist, who helped 1,020 families apply in 2019. It is critical we keep and increase this funding.

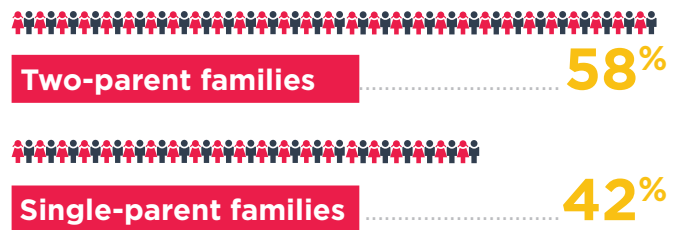
411 Westchester parents responded to our 2019 Survey...

92% have at least 1 parent working outside the home.

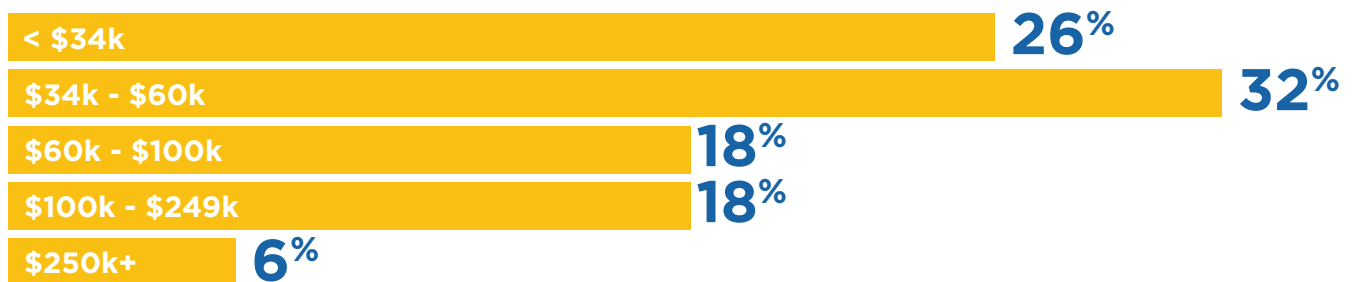
▶ *“Yes, child care is an important part of my decision to work where I do!”*

60% of Westchester parents

Demographics:



Family Income:



Through advocacy and education, the Child Care Council of Westchester works to create more equitable access to safe, quality child care.

- ▶ Only then will all children have a true and fair chance to reach their potential
- ▶ Only then will economically disadvantaged children enter kindergarten on par with their peers
- ▶ Only then will working mothers have the same career opportunities as everyone else
- ▶ Only then will employers benefit from the talents of a truly diverse and productive workforce

It's about time.



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