



Arizona Works When Child Care Works

FIRST THINGS FIRST



Arizona's Early Childhood Agency

Committed to healthy development and learning from birth to age 5.






**of brain growth
happens in the
first 5 years!**



**Created by voters in 2006
and funded by tobacco tax.**

Our three focus areas are:

-  Quality child care
-  Strengthening families
-  Preventive health



\$1

**Invested
in early
childhood**

=

\$16

**In returns
to our state's
economy.**



Quality child care impacts the present & future workforce.

Increased

- High school graduation
- Post-secondary education & training
- Healthy outcomes & higher personal income

Decreased

- Dependence on social welfare
- Special education & grade retention
- Crime related costs & incarceration rates





We have a child care crisis.



**Demand
exceeds supply.**

304,000 children in
Arizona may need
child care, but only
230,000 slots exist.



Demand exceeds supply.

304,000 children in Arizona may need child care, but only **230,000 slots** exist.



Child care wages are low.

\$14.60/hour is the national median, making recruitment and retention difficult.



Demand exceeds supply.

304,000 children in Arizona may need child care, but only **230,000 slots** exist.



Child care wages are low.

\$14.60/hour is the national median, making recruitment and retention difficult.



Families can't afford more.

12-32% of income is spent on child care; **infant care** costs more than state college tuition.

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is sitting at a wooden table, smiling as she reads a book to a young child with curly hair. The child is leaning over the table, looking at the book. The book is open, showing colorful illustrations and text. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a dining room or kitchen. The overall tone is warm and educational.

**Arizona's working families
already face a **tough reality.****



The child care crisis: impact on working families.



90%

Say costs
have increased



The child care crisis: impact on working families.



90%

Say costs
have increased



73%

Report child care
options decreased



The child care crisis: impact on working families.



90%
Say costs
have increased



73%
Report child care
options decreased



35%
Left a job



The child care crisis: impact on working families.



90%
Say costs
have increased



73%
Report child care
options decreased



35%
Left a job



82%
Missed work



Here's Arizona's **economic case** for child care.



Arizona's economy loses **\$4.7 billion** annually.



**Families lose
\$3 billion annually**

in earnings and job
search expenses.



**Employers lose
\$958 million**

annually due to
absences & turnover.



**The state loses
\$725 million**

annually in
tax revenue.



- **\$12 Million** in assistance for state fiscal year 2025.
- First investment for working families in **15 years**.
- State never restored **\$84M** annual funding eliminated during the Great Recession.
- Only about **30%** of eligible children in Arizona receive assistance currently.



41% child care gap in Coconino County

- 9,652 children aged 5 and under.
- 2,945 children live in homes where both parents work.
- 2,308 available child care slots with licensed providers
- 2.6 children for every existing space for three & four year olds.



“ *The ability to recruit and retain top talent is more important than ever, and **child care is key to solving** many of the workforce challenges that Arizona businesses face.*”

Danny Seiden

President & CEO

AZ Chamber of Commerce & Industry



A young girl with blonde braids is sliding down a pink slide at a playground. She is wearing a teal t-shirt, grey pants, and brown boots. In the background, a person in purple scrubs is walking away. The playground is on green grass with a brick building in the distance. The image has a dark overlay and decorative lines in the corners.

What can you do?



How can you support?



1. Connect through our **Take Action** page.

Find resources to support employees

Calculate the financial impact on your business

Connect with FTF to learn about community-based solutions

1. Advocate for more **public support.**

Thank you.



    [FirstThingsFirst.org](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org)