



The pandemic has exacerbated our nation's child care crisis and made increasingly obvious what was always true: investing in high-quality early childhood education and educators, working in all settings, is good for children, families, businesses, and our nation's economy.



## NAEYC Affiliate

Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

### GOAL: Access to High-Quality Early Learning

**738,904**

Number of children birth through 8 <sup>(1)</sup>

**22%**

Percentage of children birth through 5 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line <sup>(2)</sup>

**65%**

Percentage of children with all available parents in the workforce <sup>(3)</sup>

### How Much are Families Paying Annually for Center Based Child Care?



Infant <sup>(4)</sup>

**\$9,017**



4 Year Old <sup>(5)</sup>

**\$7,486**

### Where Are Children Receiving Their Early Learning Experiences?

**22,400**

Number of children receiving child care assistance per month, on average <sup>(6)</sup>

**9.48%**

Percentage of eligible children receiving child care assistance per month, on average <sup>(7)</sup>

**10%**

Percentage of children receiving child care assistance who are being served in licensed or regulated family child care settings <sup>(8)</sup>

**16,849**

Number of children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs <sup>(9)</sup>

**17,879**

Number of children in state funded PreK programs\* <sup>(10)</sup>

**69**

Number of NAEYC accredited early learning programs <sup>(11)</sup>

**48%**

Percentage of people living in a child care desert <sup>(12)</sup>

\* These data are pre-pandemic. For additional information on the impacts of the pandemic on child care and early learning, visit [NAEYC.org/pandemic-surveys](https://naeyc.org/pandemic-surveys).

\*\* State data may vary. \*\*\*This number includes children under 13 and those with disabilities ages 13-18. Percentages may vary based on state data for children under five, and infants and toddlers.

## Goal: Advancing the Early Childhood Education Profession

Now is the time for our nation to commit to providing equitable access to high-quality child care, which by necessity requires well-prepared, well-compensated educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation.

### What Supports Are Provided for the ECE Workforce?

11

Number of IHEs with NAEYC accredited programs <sup>(13)</sup>

4,286

Number of licensed child care centers and family child care homes <sup>(14)</sup>



Does the state provide scholarships to support early childhood educators in earning credentials and degrees? <sup>(15)</sup>

### How Much Are Early Childhood Educators Compensated?

\$20,488

Est. Annual Salary

\$9.85

Child Care Workers  
Hourly Rate <sup>(16)</sup>

\$7.25

State Minimum  
Hourly Rate <sup>(17)</sup>



53%

Nationally, the percentage of the child care workforce who, prior to the pandemic, earned so little that they lived in families receiving public benefits. <sup>(19)</sup>

22.9%

State percentage of early childhood educators living in poverty <sup>(20)</sup>

### The Impact of the Pandemic on Child Care

NAEYC's survey from November 2020, completed by more than 6,000 respondents working in child care centers and family child care homes across the country, illustrated a deep crisis for the essential yet undervalued child care sector.

42%

Percentage of respondents reported taking on debt for their programs by putting supplies or other items on their own personal credit card

59%

Percentage of child care programs said they were losing money every day that they remained open

69%

Percentage of respondents said recruiting and retaining qualified staff, who are needed to effectively care for, educate, and support children, is more difficult now than it was before the pandemic

\*2021 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia is \$26,500 per year. The poverty guidelines are updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).