2025 Child Care Affordability

California

Annual Price of Child Care

The price of child care remains too high for many families.

In California the average price of child care is:

$17,301 per year

for an infant in family child care

$14,484 per year

for a toddler in family child care

$23,071 per year

for an infant in center-based child care

$14,378 per year

for a toddler in center-based child care

Affordability of Child Care for Families

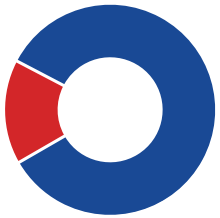
In all states, the price of child care in most settings, for most age groups, remains higher than what is considered affordable.

In California:

- The median income for a married couple is **$144,216,** which means center-based child care for an infant would use **16%** of family income.
- The median income for a single parent family is **$46,632,** which means center-based child care for an infant would use **49%** of family income.

16%

of median income for a married couple family



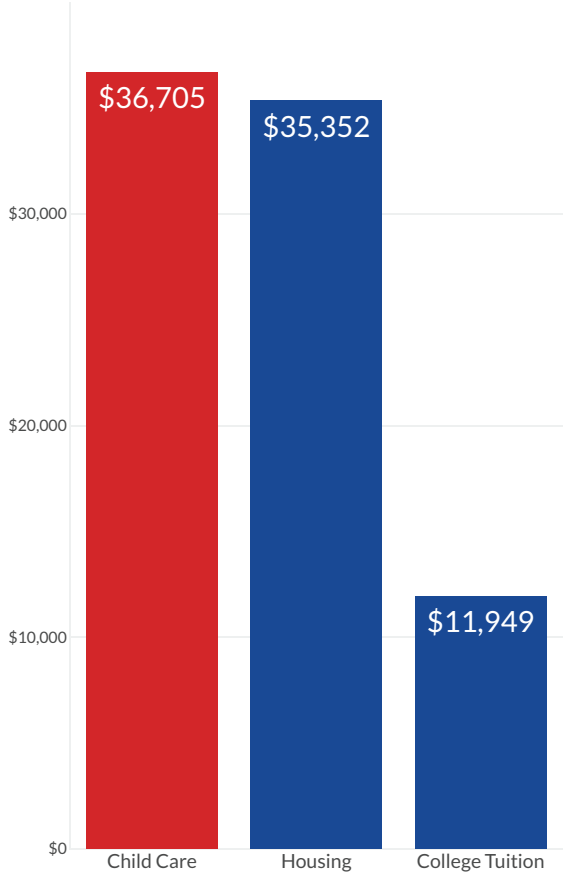
49%

of median income for a single parent family



Child Care vs. Household Expenses

When compared to other household expenses, child care often has the highest price.



Annual child care price for 2 children (an infant and 4 year old) in a center

Source: Child Care in America: 2025 Price & Supply Report

www.ChildCareAware.org/price-landscape25