



Child Care in America: 2024 Price and Supply

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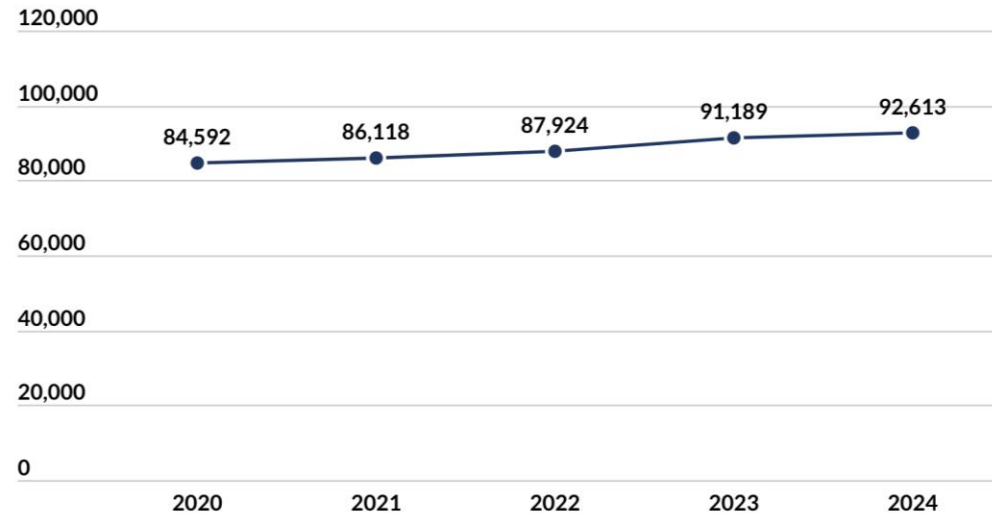
Study Methods

- January 2025: Survey to state Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) organizations and state agencies responsible for administering the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG); 44 states and DC
- Public data; 6 states
- Point-in-time data, December 2024 to March 2025



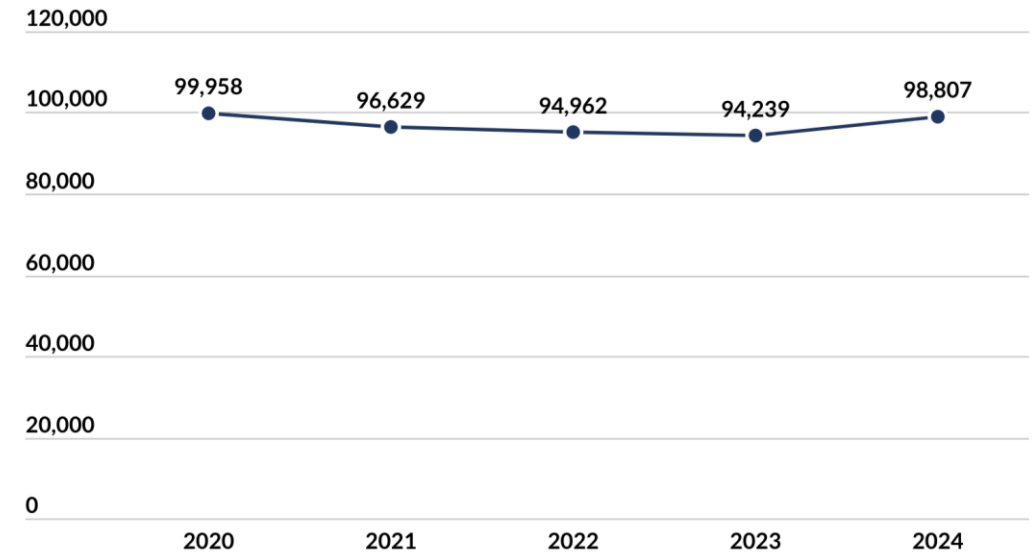
Child Care Supply: National Trends

Figure 1: Number of Licensed Centers Open by Year*



*Source: Calculations based on CCAoA annual survey of states, 2020-2024. Based on data from 40 states.

Figure 2: Number of Licensed Family Child Care Homes Open by Year*



*Source: Calculations based on CCAoA annual survey of states, 2020-2024. Based on data from 39 states.

Child Care Supply:

National & State Trends

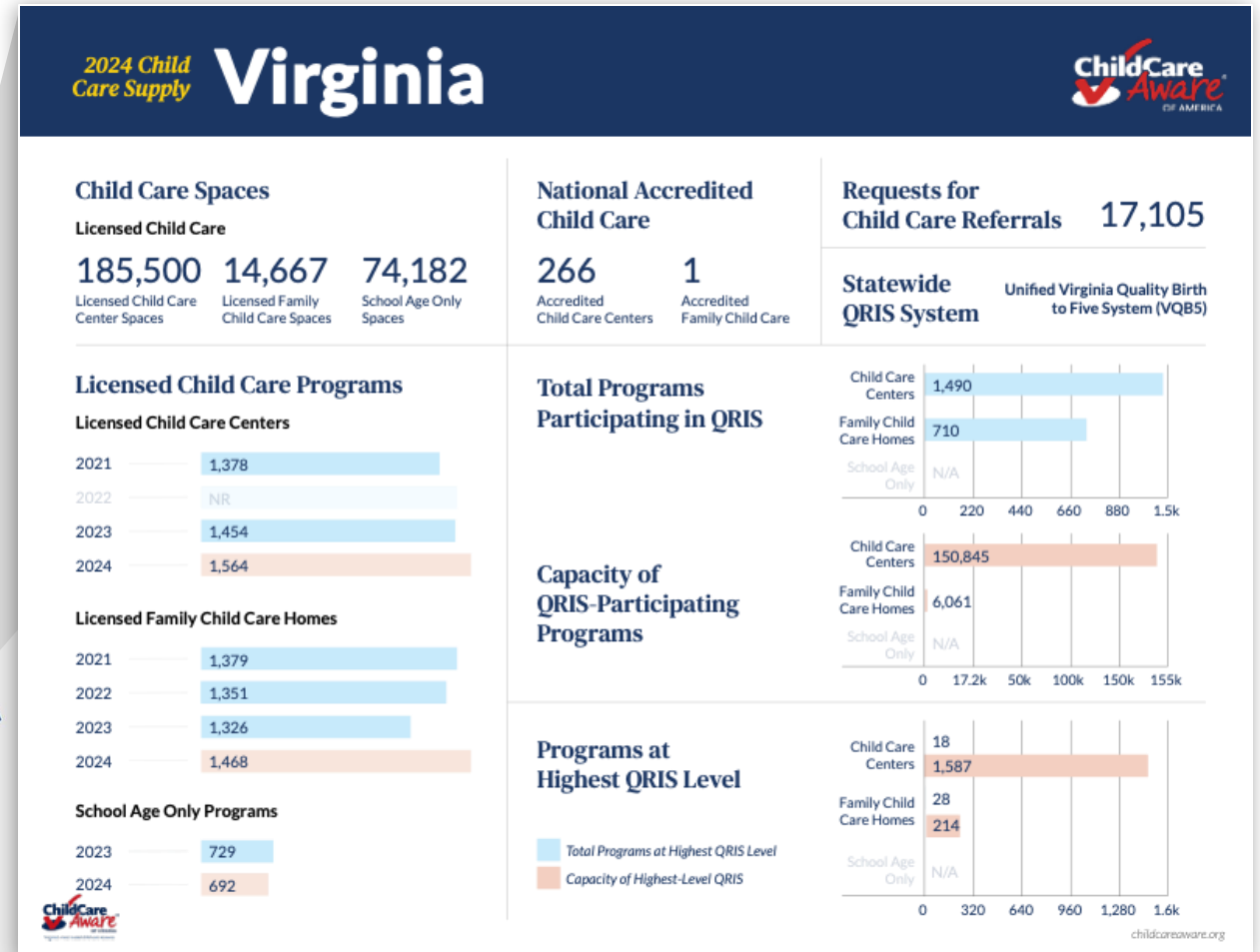
- Child care centers increased nationally by 1.6% from 2023 to 2024, continuing steady growth since 2020
- Licensed family child care (FCC) homes rose 4.8% nationally — the first increase in years — but supply declined in 29 of 39 states
- Four states (CA, KS, MA, VA) saw FCC supply grow by more than 10%; six others had smaller increases (IN, KY, ME, NY, OR, SC)

Price and Supply



A smartphone screen showing the website for "Child Care in America: 2024 Price & Supply". The page features a header with the ChildCare Aware of America logo, navigation links (About, Issues, Families, Providers, CCR&Rs, Events, Resources), and buttons for "Donate", "Become a Member", and "Help for Military/DoD Families". The main content area has a background image of a baby crawling and the title "Child Care in America: 2024 Price & Supply". Below the title is a subtitle: "Understanding the child care landscape is a crucial first step toward advocating for a stronger child care system." There are four red buttons: "Annual Child Care Landscape Analysis (2024)", "Annual Price of Care (2024)", "Recommendations", and "Take Action". A fifth red button, "Register for the Upcoming Report Webinar", is also present. At the bottom, a dark blue banner reads "Annual Child Care Landscape Analysis". The footer shows the text "2024 Child Care Supply: National Trends" and the ChildCare Aware of America logo.

Child Care Supply: State Trends



Data sheets for each state & DC

Child Care Affordability:

National Trends

- Average national price of child care in 2024:
\$13,128
- 10% of median income- married couple with children
- 35% of median income- single parent with children
- Child care prices have risen significantly: 29% from 2020-2024
 - Outpacing inflation: 22% from 2020-2024



Child Care Affordability

Child care prices continue to exceed many household expenses

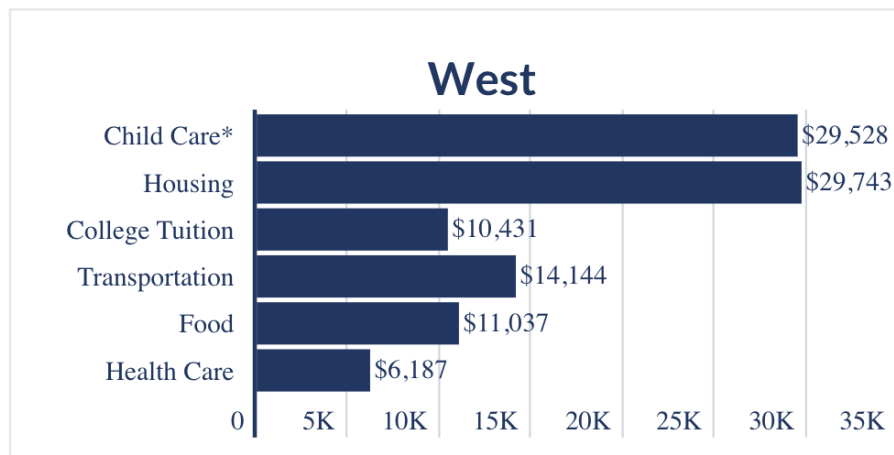
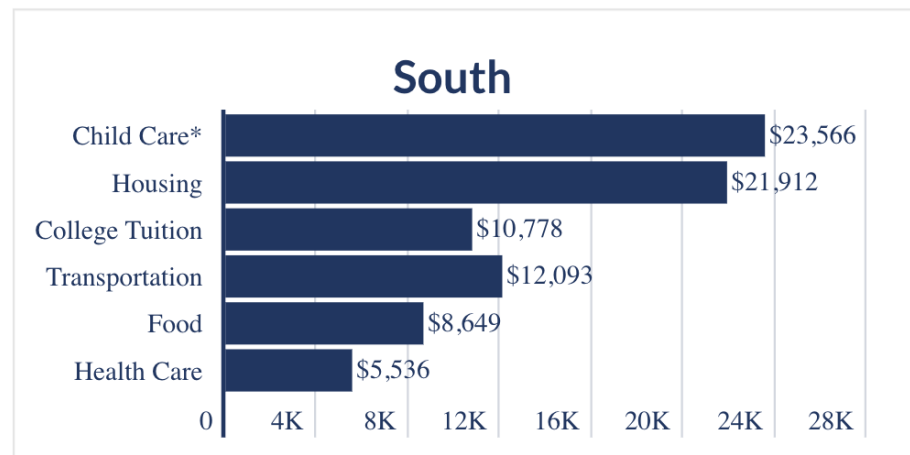
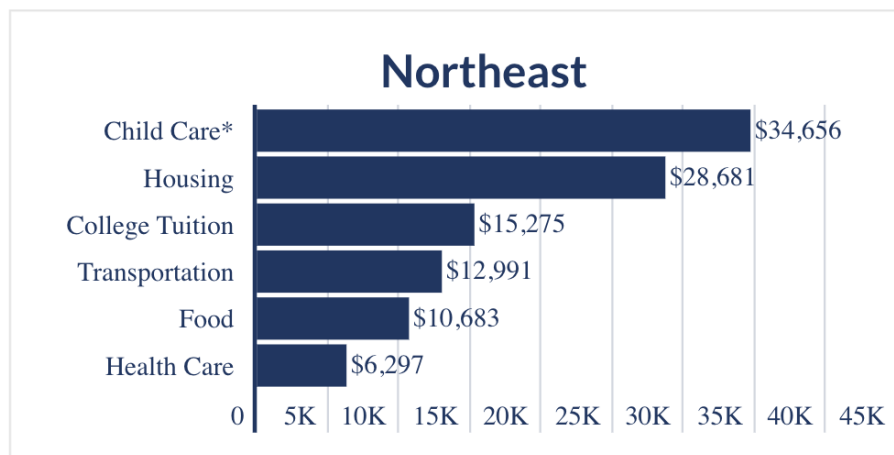
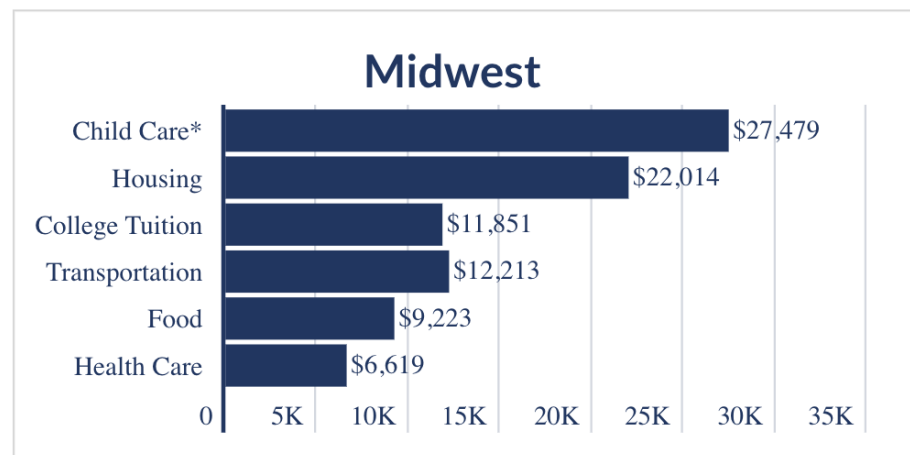
- 45 states & DC : Exceeded mortgage payments from 0.05% to 75%
- 49 states & DC : Exceeded rent payments from 19% to over 100%
- 41 states & DC : Exceeded college tuition from 0.8% to over 100%

Child care professionals in a center average earnings: \$33,140 /year

- 44% to over 100% of income for center-based care for two children



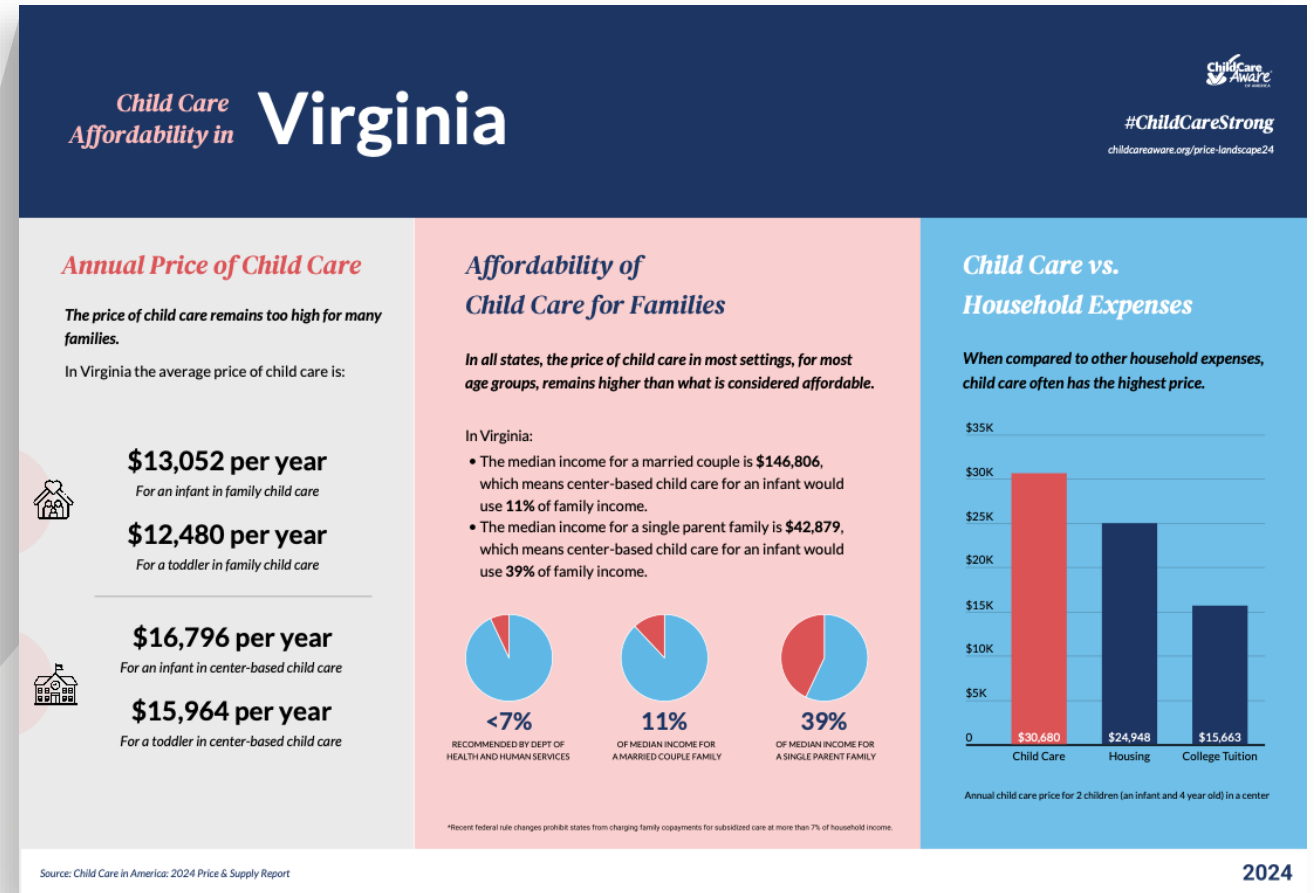
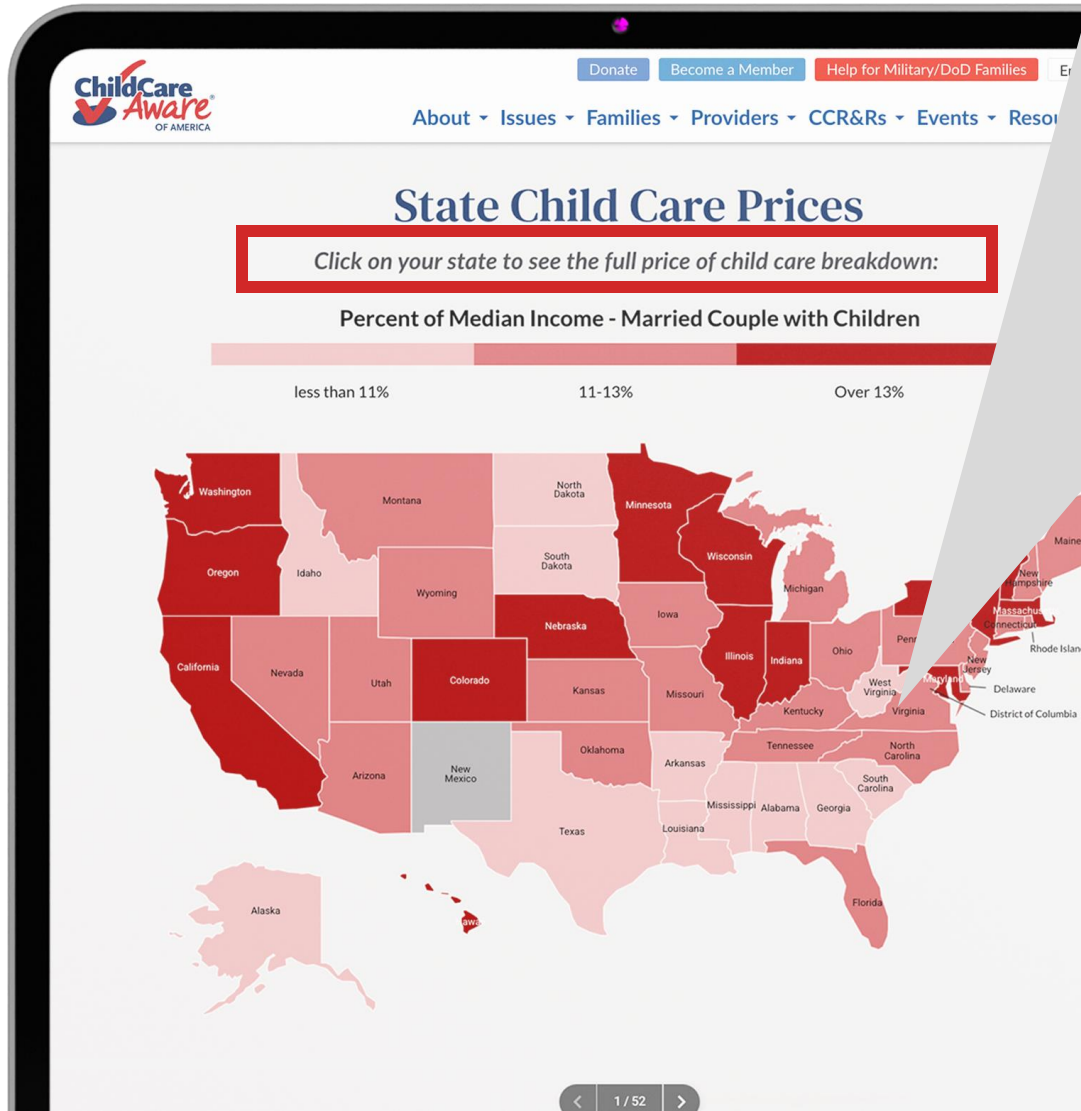
Child Care Affordability: Regional Trends



*Average price of child care for two children (an infant and 4-year-old) in a center

Sources: Child care prices calculated from CCAoA annual survey. Housing, transportation, food and health care data retrieved from [Table 1800: Region of Residence: Annual Expenditure, U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(2023 data\)](#). College tuition data retrieved from the 2024 College Board [Trends in College Pricing](#) report. Regions are defined by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Child Care Affordability: State Prices



View/download data sheets by state



Conclusions

- After meaningful state and federal investments in child care over the past five years, the child care system is growing.
- However, the high price of child care remains a substantial burden for families.

Recommendations

- Solving America's child care challenges requires a combination of policy levers and public investment that leads to the viability of the system long-term.
- Congress must prioritize child care and early learning in its tax policies and federal funding decisions this year.
- States must step up and make child care investments and policy improvements.



Take Action



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Share New 2024 Child Care Data with Your Lawmakers

88 actions taken

12 needed to reach next goal

Email Your Lawmakers 2024 Child Care Data & Analysis

Child Care Aware® of America's NEW report includes analysis of 2024 child care data, examines emerging child care trends, and provides recommendations to strengthen the sector. Key findings include:

- Child care supply increased nationally--after meaningful state and federal investments in child care over the past 5 years, the child care system is growing.
- The national average price for child care rose to \$13,128 in 2024.
- It would take 10% of a married couple with children's median income to afford this national average price.

Lawmakers need this information as they make critical decisions about child care in the coming months. Use our simple form to share this vital research with your Governor and members of Congress.

Here's how to get started:

1. Complete the form with your contact information.

2. Review and customize the email templates. Click the pencil icon in the bottom left corner under the email template to edit the message.

3. When you are ready, click the 'submit' button to send your emails.

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Questions?

Contact Information

research@usa.childcareaware.org

