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National Report: Child Care Costs Hurt Families and Economy

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Child Care Aware® of America has released the 11th edition of its [Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2017](#) report. The annual report shares data to demonstrate how unaffordable and inaccessible child care is for families, and the negative effects on our workforce, our economy, and our children’s future.

Here’s how Minnesota ranks in a few key areas:

- 6th least affordable center-based infant care
- 6th least affordable center-based care for 4-year-olds
- 35th least affordable family child care for infants
- 37th least affordable family child care for 4-year-olds

“Without additional support, child care isn’t affordable for families and at the same time, isn’t a viable business for many providers,” said Ann McCully, Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of Minnesota. “We must make more investments that will make a long-term difference for everyone involved.”

Unfortunately, in many parts of Minnesota, child care is simply unavailable. In an update to last year’s *A Quiet Crisis: Minnesota’s Child Care Shortage* report, Minnesota’s Center for Rural Policy and Development found that the state needs to increase the number of licensed child care spots by 35 percent to meet the current shortfall.

“We read or hear about the child care shortage in Minnesota every day,” said McCully who is also on Child Care Aware® of America’s Board of Directors. “It really drives home the need to not just make child care more affordable, but to find creative solutions to make running a child care business more sustainable.”

The full *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2017* report is available for download at usa.childcareaware.org/costofcare. This year’s report includes an interactive map that features county level data for seven states, including Minnesota.

About Child Care Aware® of Minnesota

Child Care Aware® of Minnesota has been helping families find the quality child care and supporting the professional growth of child care professionals for more than 25 years. Visit www.childcareawaremn.org for more information. You can follow them on Twitter [@MNChildCare](https://twitter.com/MNChildCare) and on Facebook at facebook.com/mnchildcare.

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