

KIDSCAN'T WAIT

In Minnesota, the average annual cost of care for an infant in a child care center is \$13,993.

Elizabeth: Waiting for affordable child care

Elizabeth is a single mother with a 12-year-old son and a 4-year-old daughter. She has been struggling to afford child care for the last several years, and as a result has had to quit numerous jobs that don't pay enough to make child care affordable for the hours she needs.

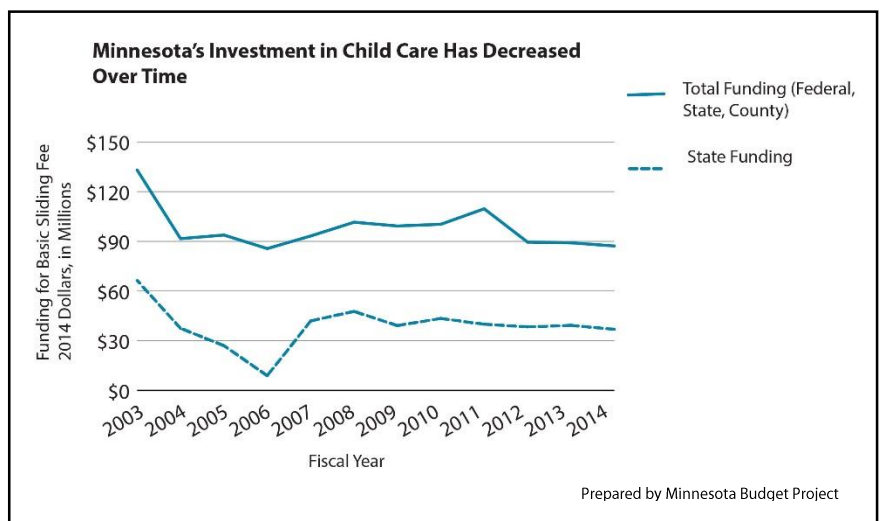
Currently, Elizabeth is working full-time and has a schedule that maximizes her ability to be home with her children. But still, **nearly half of her income goes to child care expenses, making it a struggle every month to meet her family's basic needs.**

She qualified and applied for Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance almost a year ago, but has been on a waiting list, along with more than 5,000 other families.



Making child care more accessible and affordable by increasing Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance:

- Allows parents to work,
- Provides children with long-lasting benefits from consistent and dependable care, and
- Ensures businesses can find and keep employees they need.





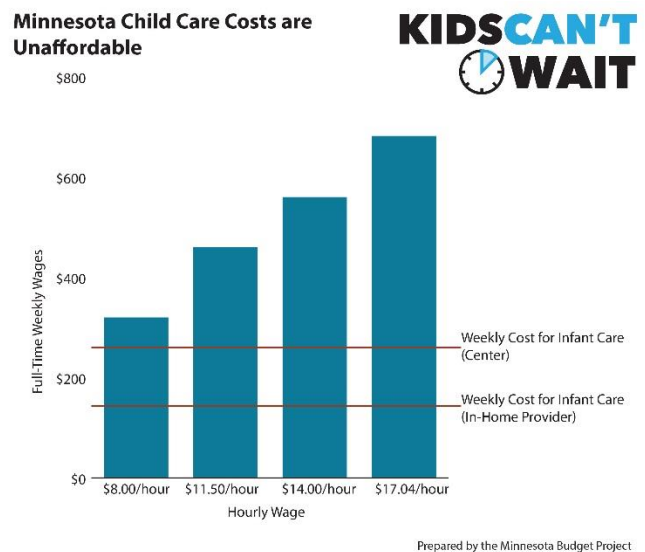
“Investments in the Child Care Assistance Program allow parents to work and kids to succeed. All parents should have access to safe, reliable child care – especially those most in need, who are working to break cycles of poverty.” - Tim Marx, president and CEO of Catholic Charities

Tania’s story: Struggling without Child Care Assistance

Tania and her husband have three children: 3-year-old Xcaret, 7-year-old Leonardo and 12-year-old Camila. Her husband travels for work, and Tania is currently working part-time and going to school, studying to become a community health worker. The family is struggling to pay their bills and may face foreclosure.

Currently, Xcaret is attending the Early Wonders Preschool Program, thanks to a subsidy from Project for Pride in Living, but additional costs may be added in June. Tania knows Leonardo could benefit from after-school child care where he could have help with his homework and opportunities for physical activities, but she can’t afford any programs he can access. And there are limited options for summer.

More than anything, Tania wants her children to have access to consistent, enriching learning environments. If she had Basic Sliding Fee to better afford child care, it would bring much-needed stability to the whole family.



Kids Can’t Wait is a coalition organized around affordable, accessible child care for all Minnesota families. **Members include** Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Children’s Defense Fund-Minnesota, Hmong-American Partnership, ISAIAH, Jewish Community Action, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Legal Services Advocacy Project, Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs, Minnesota Budget Project, Minnesota Coalition for Women’s Economic Security, Project for Pride in Living, and YWCA of Minneapolis.

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