

**Four-year-old kindergarten is essential to the child care industry.
The child care industry is essential to our economy.**

Parents need to go to work.

200,862 child care slots available in licensed, registered, and approved child care providers → **200,862** parents can now go to work × **\$45,933** median income of a one-earner household =

\$9.2 billion
taxable wage income available because of child care centers

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on child care availability.

2,379 total providers → **1,437** providers currently open = **-39.6%** decline in providers
200,862 total slots → **117,316** slots in open providers = **-41.6%** decline in slots

The child care center business model depends on enrollment of older children.

Per DSS regulations, licensed, registered, and approved child care centers must adhere to specific staff-to-child ratios dependent on the age of the children in the classroom.

Minimum gross income for child care teacher
\$20,800
 \$10 per hour for 40 hours per week per year

