

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S Child Care Crisis



RISING CO\$T

ESD 112 stands to lose an estimated \$500,000 in 2018, due to the rising cost of providing child care. Our families have seen five rate increases since 2013, with more to come.

Minimum Wage Increases

The minimum wage is set to increase 30% between 2016 & 2020, which impacts the largest portion of our expenses.

ESD 112 CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



1,700

children served, ages 6 weeks–12

30

different centers

300

caregivers employed

\$7M

annual budget

Subsidy Gap

We lose \$250k each year, due to the gap between what subsidies cover and the actual cost of care.

Staff Training

An increase in high-needs children with social/emotional issues and state quality care initiatives require more staff training.

For many Southwest Washington families, child care is more expensive than their mortgage payment, if they can even secure care at all.

AVAILABILITY CRUNCH

Fewer Programs

In 2002, Southwest Washington had over 500 child care programs. The recession saw many programs close, and today that number is around 350, a decrease of 30%.

Higher Demand

Between 2000 and 2016, the number of children under the age of 5 increased by 7%, and the need for child care has increased with the recent improvement of the economy.



I drive 40 minutes out of my way each day to take my infant to child care, and I feel lucky to have a spot for him at all. I was on the waitlist for the other two infant centers that are closer for over a year before giving up and accepting the longer commute.



- A Park Crest Early Learning Center parent

Early Care
& Education

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