Every week in Arkansas, the parents of 137,953 children under age 6 are working.

Lack of access to affordable child care:

94% of workers involuntarily working part-time due to child care problems are women.

Census Bureau data shows:

- 1.1 million parents throughout the U.S. who usually work part-time cite problems with child care as the primary reason for not working full-time.

The National Survey of Children’s Health shows:

- about 2 million families throughout the U.S. with a child 0-5 had a parent quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change a job in the past year because of child care problems.

Employers see first-hand that lack of access to affordable child care:

- translates to lower productivity, higher absenteeism and turnover, additional costs in hiring and training new employees, and difficulty recruiting skilled employees.

Arkansas Annual Cost of Child Care at a Glance

Center-based Care

- $6,726 for infants
- $5,348 for 4 year-olds
- 15.9% of household income for infants
- 11.7% of household income/4 year-olds

Family Child Care Homes

- $5,364 for infants
- $4,944 for 4 year-olds
- 11.7% of household income for infants
- 10.8% of household income/4 year-olds

*HHS recommends no more than 7% of household income.

Parents need child care in order to work.

However, parents already struggle to afford the cost.

They can’t pay more. At the same time, child care programs depend on parent fees to hire & pay staff.

Low operating budgets for child care programs have led to underpaid, stressed staff, with high turnover.

It’s time to invest in the workforce that supports all other workforces. Employers & parents depend on it.

A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT

Fills In the Gap Between Funding and Cost

What parents can afford

Cost of high-quality care with a well-trained and educated workforce

Sources: Committee for Economic Development (CED) of The Conference Board, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (2017); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), 2016 & 2017, Child Care Aware of America, the U.S. and the High Cost of Child Care (2018).