



Missouri's Child Care Assistance Program

*Keeps Parents Earning
And Children Learning*

Quality, Affordable Child Care is an Economic Development Issue for Kansas City

Endorsed by key economic development organizations throughout the state, Missouri's child care program helps keep parents at work while their children have quality, safe places to learn and play. Without child care assistance, many parents would have to choose between working less desirable jobs or placing their kids in unsafe conditions.

Child Care Assistance Impacts

Business Owners

Audrey Johanns, owner of Café Via Roma in Jefferson City:



“Because of Missouri’s Transitional Child Care Assistance Program, I will be able to continue to grow my business and promote quality employees. Without it, some of my staff would be forced to turn down raises, just so they could keep their child care. It really makes a big difference for businesses *and* the employees.”

Why invest in Missouri’s child care assistance program? Because it’s good for Missouri’s economy!

Child care is an essential support for Missouri’s working families

- 117,000 women with children under the age of 6 depend on child care to go to work every day in Missouri
- 302,000 young children live in families where all parents are in the workforce. 185,000 of these children are in two-parent households.

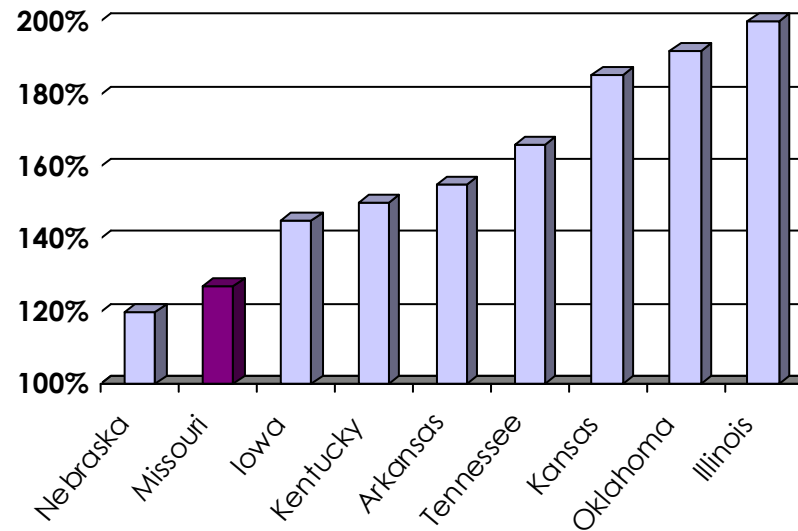
Child care is a critical industry in Missouri’s economy

- The regulated child care industry employs 34,000 people in 5,000 small businesses.

Quality early care and education programs prepare Missouri’s children for tomorrow’s workforce

- 90% of a child’s brain develops before the age of 5.
- To stay competitive in a global economy, MO must start investing today in tomorrow’s workforce.

Compared to our Neighbors, Missouri is at a



2009 State Child Care Assistance Income Eligibility Limits (As % of Federal Poverty)

PROBLEM:

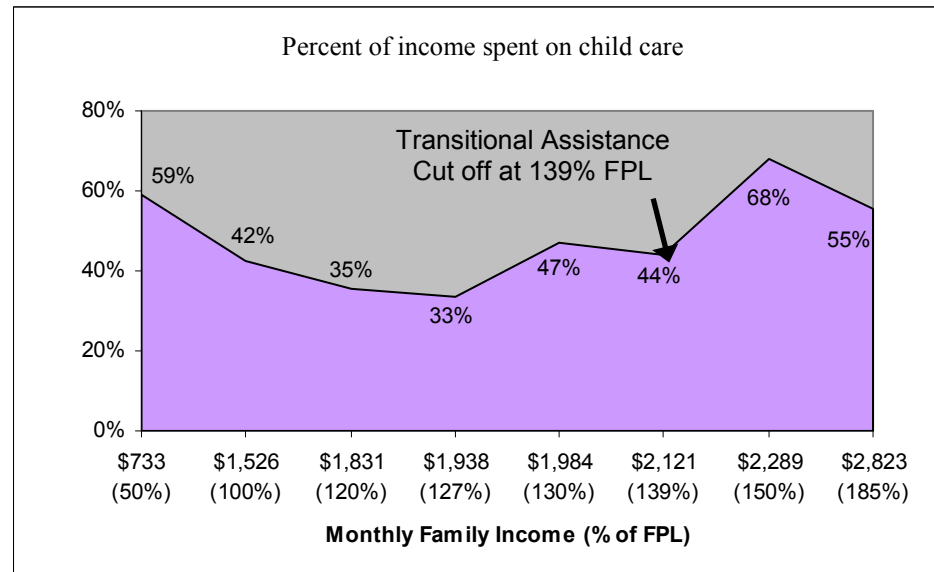
- Missouri ranks 49th in the nation for supporting child care.
- Missouri used federal stimulus dollars to support child care assistance in the previous legislative session, leaving a General Revenue hole in order to continue to fund the program at 127% of the Poverty Level.

SOLUTION:

- Slightly increase General Revenue Support of Missouri’s Child Care Assistance Program so that we can maintain the current assistance rate at 127% of FPL and not become the last in the country when it comes to supporting our working families.

Affordability is an issue for Missouri's working parents

Because of MO's low reimbursement rates, parents receiving child care assistance can still pay as much as 59% of their total income to access child care.



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