

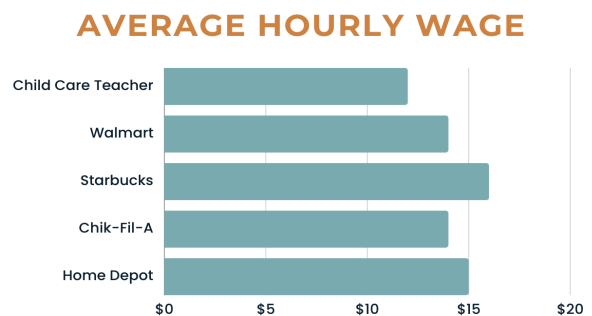
Extend Child Care Compensation Grants to keep parents working and businesses growing

Our child care system is at the edge of a funding cliff. If Child Care Compensation Grants aren't extended by June 30th there will be catastrophic consequences for North Carolina businesses and families. Without child care, parents can't work and children miss out on important early educational experiences. Additionally, businesses in nearly every sector have identified child care as a *critical factor* in their workforce challenges.

Federal relief funds run out in June

Since 2021, Child Care Compensation Grants have provided higher wages and bonuses to more than 40,000 North Carolina early educators. **Without support from the NC General Assembly**, the vast majority of child care teachers will receive a pay cut, putting their hourly wages lower than most retail and service workers.

Prior to the grants, the average wage for a child care teacher in North Carolina was \$12/hour. **Returning to lower wages will result in a mass exodus of teachers who can earn more working in fast food, retail and similar industries.** Child care programs can't compete with other businesses unless they significantly raise costs for parents, as cutting staff is not an option. Children's development can't be nurtured by a self-checkout machine.



Parents can't afford to pay more, early educators can't afford to make less, and NC's economy can't thrive without a stable child care system.

Child care teachers are the workforce behind the workforce

North Carolina is a top state for business, but our child care infrastructure is struggling to keep up with the demand as more people move here and need care for their young children. **According to a recent survey, 30% of child care programs say they expect to close when the relief funding ends in June, which would impact more than 91,000 young children and families.**

This funding cliff puts families, businesses, and the state's economy at risk. Extending the Child Care Compensation Grants will help teachers stay in the classroom, child care programs stay open, parents find care for their children, and businesses keep employees.

Information provided by Child Care Services Association, company research, NC Chamber of Commerce, North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Council, and the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education.

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April 2024