Child care is a major expense in family budgets, often exceeding the cost of housing, college tuition, transportation, and food.

**CHILD CARE VS. HOUSING**
In 2017, the cost of center-based care for 2 children exceeded housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

**CHILD CARE VS. COLLEGE TUITION**
In 2017, the cost of center-based infant care exceeded one-year’s tuition and fees at a four-year public college in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

**CHILD CARE VS. HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES**
In 2017, the cost of center-based care for 2 children exceeded the costs of food and transportation combined in all regions of the country.