Early Learning & Care
WHERE HISTORIC UNDERINVESTMENT MEETS NATIONAL HEALTH CRISIS

Early Care in Washington State
Prior to COVID-19

51% did not have access to licensed care

314,000 children under age 5
with all caregivers working

51% did not have access to licensed care

Impact of COVID-19

- 16% of child care programs closed (many permanently)
- 19% fewer child care spots available due to closures
- 40% of children have access to care post-COVID

Children without access to care post-COVID

The pandemic has further reduced the number of available care options and left even more families without care.

Racial Disparities

Income disparities put families of color on unequal ground when searching and paying for care.

- Indigenous: $51,307
- Black: $56,250
- Latinx: $59,350
- White: $70,656

Washington statewide average yearly income by race/ethnicity

Women Shoulder the Burden

Income disparities also impact women. In Washington state, women earn only $3.00 for every $4.00 earned by men.

Learn More

www.WashingtonSTEM.org