

Improving Child Care in the United States for Families and Women of Color

For many families and women, getting—and keeping—a job is essential to supporting their families. Child care is fundamental to the economic security of women and families, but is out of reach for many. Child care is one of the highest costs in a family’s monthly budget, and is often a larger expense than the cost of housing, transportation, or food—making it difficult to make ends meet or build assets.

If parents do not have access to safe and dependable child care, they may be unable to keep their jobs or maintain consistent employment, which could have long-term financial effects.

For families of color, these challenges are especially poignant. For these families, child care expenses consume an average of 14% of their monthly income. For Latino families, these costs average 14.9% of their monthly incomes, and for Black families, these costs average 13.6% of their monthly income.¹



14.9%
LATINO

13.6%
BLACK

Latino families spend 14.9% of their monthly income on child care, compared to the 13.6% Black families spend.

Policymakers should improve child care for all working families by substantially increasing federal direct assistance programs and improving federal tax credits that will give all families access to affordable, comprehensive, and high-quality child care programs.

Proposals should:

- Provide investments that will make high-quality child care affordable to everyone, including low-income and middle-class families.
- Ensure that all children receive high-quality child care that meets families’ needs, including access to sufficient options and different settings.
- Expand availability and access to high-quality child care for infants and toddlers.

About

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Endnotes

- 1 UnidosUS calculations using the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 Panel Wave 4 data (2016).