

RI CAMPAIGN FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

Child Care Facts:

- **Families need child care** so they can go to work and children need high-quality child care so they can build skills and knowledge about the world.
- Science tells us that the **early years are a critical time** for brain development, laying the foundation for a child's future success in school and life.
- 73% of children under age 6 in Rhode Island have all parents in the workforce (**many are single mothers**) and need child care so they work to support their families.
- 98% of the **teaching staff in Rhode Island child care centers are women** and 99% of the licensed family child care home providers are women.
- In 2015, the median wage for a child care teacher in Rhode Island was \$9.48/hour, just above the state minimum wage. Child care is the lowest paid teaching job in Rhode Island and **one of the lowest paid professions in the state**.

Rhode Island's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps low and modest income working families pay for child care. But the **rates the state pays are too low to support access to high-quality child care**. Rhode Island has the lowest payment rates in New England and pays well below the market rate for child care.

What happens when rates are not adequate?

- **Quality suffers** - programs struggle to pay teachers a fair wage and provide enriching learning opportunities for children.
- **Teacher turnover increases** as teachers leave for higher paying jobs in the community. Children have adjustment and learning problems when teachers keep changing.
- **Programs cannot find qualified teachers** to work at the wages that are available.
- **Programs cannot afford to accept children who are using the CCAP program**.
- Some programs need to **charge "private pay" families a higher rate** to make up for the inadequate state rate.

The RI Campaign for Quality Child Care is working to increase quality CCAP rates so working parents can enroll their children in high-quality care and child care teachers are paid a fair salary.

JOIN US: E-mail Katy Chu at kchu@rikidscount.org to get involved in the Campaign. To learn more about the Campaign, go to: www.facebook.com/RIQualityChildCare

