

# How is that gap bridged?

## Teacher salaries:

Our child care system is propped up by the low wages it pays the dedicated, highly skilled women who provide this essential care.

**Average Louisiana Kindergarten teacher salary: \$45,200** (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Average Louisiana child care teacher salary: \$20,320** (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

It's important to note that child care teachers typically work 12 months per year, while most kindergarten teachers have summers off, as well as more extensive benefits packages, including pensions, sick days, and more paid holidays. **As a result, the disparity in pay is even higher when you account for benefits and the total number of hours worked per year.**

# True cost of quality vs. What NOLA centers charge

Range of costs to provide quality child care in Louisiana:

 Estimated  
**\$20,748**  
per year for infants

 Estimated  
**\$11,904**  
per year for four-year-olds

Center for American Progress, <https://www.costofchildcare.org>

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New Orleans average market rates:

 Estimated  
**\$7,885**  
per year for infants

**\$12,863 gap between cost**

2020 Louisiana Market Rate Survey

 Estimated  
**\$7,862**  
per year for four-year-olds

**\$4,042 gap between cost**

# Quality care is expensive

## The affordability problem:

New Orleans household median income, **\$41,600 in 2019** (U.S. Census Bureau)

- Cost of child care for **one infant would be 19%** of household income
- Cost of child care for **one infant and one four-year-old would be 38%** of household income
- A fall 2020 survey of Louisiana parents by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children reported that **47% of respondents were concerned** about being able to pay for child care due to costs.

## Teacher to child ratios:

Current ratios are **1:4 for infants** and **1:10 for 4-year-olds** and is state mandated.

(Louisiana Department of Education Child Care Regulations)

Would we really sacrifice child safety to lower costs?