



# The State of Child Care in the District of Columbia

Affordable, accessible and reliable childcare is needed to ensure that parents can work towards economic security, that the minds of children are nurtured and developed, and that businesses have a stable and productive workforce.

However, the foundation of childcare in DC fails to provide the support necessary to ensure that women, families and children thrive.

## The realities of child care in DC:

- In DC the average annual cost of full-time, center based infant care is **52% of the median annual income** for a single mother with children under the age of eight.<sup>1</sup>
- For a single worker with an infant and a preschooler this equals **\$2,456 of their monthly budget**.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2008, **child care employees earned on average \$15,391 per year** or \$8.84 per hour for classroom aides.<sup>3</sup>
- **Wards 7 and 8 have the centers with the lowest total capacity of all the eight wards**. Ward 8 has only enough capacity to reach 36.5 percent of resident children under five, while Ward 7 has capacity for 41.0 percent.<sup>4</sup>
- Over **13,000** children on child care providers' waiting lists.
- **None of the subsidy rates met the 75th percentile of the market rate**. Subsidizing child care at a lower rate forces child care providers to lose money on every subsidized child they take, reducing the number of slots available to families receiving subsidies and increasing the waiting list.<sup>5</sup>
- Single mothers with young children **who receive child care assistance are 40 percent more likely to still be employed after two years** than those who do not receive such assistance.<sup>6</sup>
- Child care break downs cause **45 percent parents to miss at least one day of work every six month and 65 percent of parents to be late for work or leave work early**.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Washington Area Women's Foundation "2010 Portrait of Women & Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area." 2010. Washington, DC: WAWF.

<sup>2</sup> Wider Opportunities for Women. 2010. "The Basic Economic Security Tables for the Washington, DC Metro Area." Washington, DC: WOW.

<sup>3</sup> Lyons, D. 2008. "District of Columbia Child Care Market Rates and Capacity Utilization: A Study of Family Home and Child Care Center Providers in the District of Columbia." Washington, DC: Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy.

<sup>4</sup> Office of Early Childhood Education DC, Office of the State Superintendent of Education. "Child Care Profiles." 2009. Washington, DC: OSSE.

<sup>5</sup> National Association of Child Care Research and Referral Agencies. 2010. "Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2010 Update". Washington, DC: NACCRRRA.

<sup>6</sup> Matthews, H. 2006. "Child Care Assistance Helps Families Work: A Review of the Effects of Subsidy Receipt on Employment." Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

<sup>7</sup> Matthews, H. 2006. "Child Care Assistance Helps Families Work: A Review of the Effects of Subsidy Receipt on Employment." Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.