

Local Families Are Hit By The Child Care Crisis

Key Concerns

- **Childcare is too expensive**
 - Average childcare tuition is higher than the cost of attending LCC - imagine having two or more kids that need childcare!
 - Many families are giving up work or making other long-term financially impacting decisions based on the high cost of childcare
- **Childcare availability is too low**
 - Most Cowlitz County families are relying on Friends, Family, and Neighbors multiple days a week to fill the gap
 - Childcare hours outside of the basic 8am-5pm workday are extremely difficult to find
 - Children with specific needs are harder to find childcare for and keep access to childcare

We need more local leaders that will stand-up for our children and their families who are struggling with the high cost and low availability of childcare!

As a community we are joining together in calling for action that will help local families.

Actions To Improve Childcare Affordability & Access

- Local employers can offer a childcare benefit that helps people with young children chose to stay in the workforce
- Our community needs funding for a service that helps people start new home-based childcare businesses (Vancouver, WA has successfully launched a program like this)
- We need to provide more support to the Friends, Family, and Neighbor childcare providers so many local families are relying on



Learn more at <https://www.cowlitzcommunitynetwork.com/advocacy>

Join Local Families, Friends, Neighbors And Other Leaders Calling For Action

Tell people about the impact of the Child Care Crisis

- Share your own story or invite someone you know has been impacted to tell theirs
- Use the bullet points about “Key Concerns” on the other side of this page if you want ideas about what others think are big problems with childcare
- [Post to social media](#) about the financial impact of unaffordable childcare and/or difficulty finding reliable childcare access
- [Write a Letter to the Editor](#) about high childcare cost and/or limited childcare access
- [Call or email local elected officials](#) and let them know you expect to hear them calling for solutions and action that will make childcare more affordable and more accessible

Call for more local leadership and action

- Make sure local leaders know this is a priority our community needs them to focus on!
- Our business community can help solve this problem - encourage them to innovate and lead development of local solutions to the Child Care Crisis
- Promote and encourage the individuals and agencies that are already stepping up to the plate to help local families face difficulty with childcare access and affordability

Learn more about local impacts of the Child Care Crisis

- Local Child Care Partnership Survey - [Fact Sheet](#)
- Local Child Care Partnership Survey - [Full Study](#)
- Worksource Southwest WA - [Local Business Impacts of Childcare Crisis Report](#)
- Child Care Aware - [SW WA Report](#)

Join State & National Advocacy Campaigns

- Childcare Aware - [Statewide Campaign](#)
- [Federal Policy Advocacy](#)



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