

Granite Guide to Early Childhood

A new series of primers summarizing evidence across key areas of New Hampshire's (NH) early childhood care and education (ECE) sector



Title

What Do NH Families Want for Child Care?

Fewer Providers, Longer Distances: NH's Child Care Landscape

NH's Well Educated, Underpaid Child Care Workforce

High Child Care Costs Strain NH Family Budgets

Attempting to Offset Costs Through NH Child Care Scholarships

Operating on Thin Margins: The Cost of Providing Child Care

Creating an Equitable Child Care System in NH



Some take-aways

Families sometimes make less-than-ideal tradeoffs for ECE that fit schedules and budgets, but they widely agree on the importance of reliability.

Both the volume and variety of ECE options available in NH are insufficient, as offerings continue to consolidate and shrink over time.

Compensation for early educators is low, especially relative to their education, making it hard to recruit or retain workers that could expand supply.

The cost of tuition can be a family's largest expense, which underscores the importance of the ability to make individualized ECE decisions.

While changes to NH's Child Care Scholarship Program mean more help for more families, reaching all who could benefit is a challenge.

Although wages are low, the volume of ECE staff necessary to align with state standards and minimal safety practices means operating costs add up quickly.

With no federal policy relief on the horizon, states must find their own solutions, and lessons learned in NH and other states may guide the way.

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