Child care is vital human infrastructure that supports our county’s families and businesses.

**THE COST OF UNDERFUNDING CARE**

- Before the pandemic, approximately **104,712 residents utilized child care** in order to work full time in San Mateo County’s hospitals, schools, grocery stores, and other workplaces, supporting the economy to the tune of approximately $6.4B.
- Post-pandemic, our county is looking at a projected **shortage of over 43,000 child care spaces**, which would **drain our economy of about $3.6B**.
- Our economy cannot fully recover unless women can fully participate. Lack of child care has caused millions of women to leave the workforce since March 2020. Nationally, this crisis has left **40% of businesses unable to fill vacancies**.

**CHILD CARE: A WISE INVESTMENT**

- **Multiplier effect:** Every dollar spent on child care results in two dollars of short-term economic output, a higher multiplier than most industries.
- **Long-term benefits:** Children in families with low incomes who receive high-quality early learning and care have dramatically better life outcomes; for every $1 invested, the county saves $17.
- **Housing:** Parents with child care can work to keep a roof over their heads; for each $1 spent on high-quality early education, local property values increase by about $13 per year.
SOURCES


**Multiplier effect:** "Economic Impacts of Early Care and Education in California" by Jenifer MacGillvary and Laurel Lucia, August 2011, UC Berkeley Labor Center.


**Housing:** "Economic Impact." First Five Years Fund, 27 May 2020.