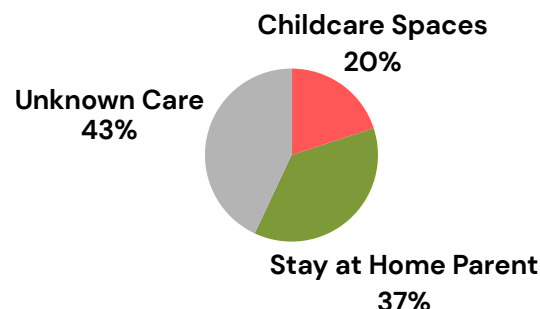


Juneau Childcare By The Numbers 2025

Childcare Supply Gap

Families need more care than the current system provides. One prominent childcare center has 64 families on the infant care waiting list.

- There are **3,099** children in Juneau ages 0–9.
- Approximately **1952** (63%) need some type of childcare because all family members are in the workforce.
- There are **619** childcare spaces available.
- Approximately **1333** (67%) children are in unknown care.



The Cost of Care

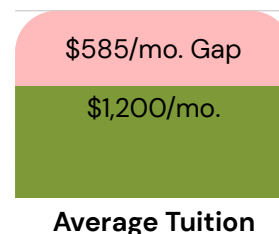
A space costs more to operate than tuition can reliably cover.

A McKinley Research Group study shows that the average cost of providing care is **\$1,785⁹** per month.

In Juneau, childcare costs an average of **\$1,200** per month. This is 15% of the median household income.

This leaves a \$585 per month gap that cannot be passed on to parents due to affordability constraints.

- Monthly Tuition
- True Cost

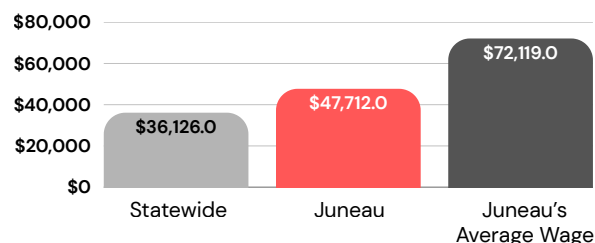


Wages as Cost Driver

Operating costs are high because safe care is labor-intensive. Even so, early educators do not earn a living wage.

In 2025, the average annual wage for a childcare worker in Juneau was **\$47,712**.

Average Wage for Childcare Workers



Juneau's Commitment

Juneau currently invests approximately \$1.5M in an operating grant program administered by Southeast Childhood Collective to help close the identified gap between the cost of providing care and what parents can afford to pay.

These investments have expanded the number of available childcare spaces while increasing wages for childcare providers.

While growth in childcare capacity has been gradual, the sector has stabilized. Improved market conditions are fostering long-term sustainability and encouraging entrepreneurs to open new childcare programs for the first time in years.

Action Steps

Juneau's annual investment has stabilized the childcare sector, increased wages, and encouraged new program growth. Yet significant unmet demand for childcare remains. While Juneau invests approximately \$10,000 per K–12 student each year, local investment in children ages 0–5 is about \$5,100 per child. Expanding childcare capacity will require continued investment from government, businesses, and philanthropy.

Additional investment will:

- Expand childcare capacity by helping existing programs grow and supporting new providers.
- Improve affordability by closing the gap between the true cost of care and what families can reasonably afford to pay.
- Raise educator wages toward a local living wage, strengthening recruitment and retention of qualified professionals.

Juneau Child Care By the Numbers	
Juneau Population Ages 0–9 ¹	3099
Estimated children under ages 0–9 with all parents working ¹	1952
Total capacity, all types of care	619
Estimated number of children in unknown care ⁴	1333
# Childcare workers in licensed facilities	86
Average annual childcare cost per infant ⁴	\$15,103
Average annual childcare cost per preschooler ⁴	\$13,193
Average annual wage, Juneau childcare worker ⁴	\$47,712
Average annual wage in Juneau ⁷	\$72,119

Sources: 1–US Census Bureau; 2–SOA Childcare Program Office; 3–Tlingit & Haida Head Start; 4–Southeast Childhood Collective; 5–Alaska Developmental Profile; 6–MIT Living Wage Calculator, <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/02110>; 7–US Bureau of Labor; 8–Juneau School District; 9–McKinley Research Group. Alaska Child Care Cost of Care Study. Alaska Department of Health, 2024

