



# AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

**TODAY, MASSACHUSETTS HAS THE HIGHEST AVERAGE EARLY CHILDCARE COSTS IN THE US AT \$16,400 PER YEAR. THAT IS 80% OF A MINIMUM-WAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MASS.**

*(Boston Globe)*

**IN 2013, ONLY 27.2% OF CHILDREN IN MASSACHUSETTS WERE ENROLLED IN STATE PRE-K, HEAD START, OR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS. PARENTS IN A LOW INCOME SITUATION, WHO CAN'T GET INTO HEAD START OR A STATE VOUCHER, OFTEN CANNOT WORK BECAUSE CHILDCARE COSTS ARE SO HIGH.**

*(Children's Defense Fund)*

## WHAT IS IT?

A public system that ensures that all families have the ability to enroll their kids in quality childcare and Pre Kindergarten at affordable prices at any income-level. Child care and PreK can be provided via vouchers, state funded programs, and federally funded Head Start facilities.

## WHO HAS IT?

In 2014, of the 40 states with state-funded pre-K programs only nine served more than half of all 4-year-olds in the state, and 11 served less than 10 percent. Only three states – **Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma** – truly have universal pre-K programs.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Research demonstrates that high-quality pre-k increases a child's chances of succeeding in school and in life. Children who attend high-quality programs are less likely to be held back a grade, less likely to need special education, and more likely to graduate from high school. They also have higher earnings as adults and are less likely to become dependent on welfare or involved with law enforcement.

*(Pew Research Center)*

**TAKE ACTION:**

1. Visit [www.fairshot.com](http://www.fairshot.com) and **join our movement** by connecting with our **social media**, attending our events, and volunteering in your community.
2. Spread the word about Affordable Child Care to your friends and coworkers. Ask politicians and businesses to make it a priority and adopt a policy.
3. **Hold meetings** with community members to discuss the issue and take action.
4. Use your social media to **share your story** and advocate for Affordable Child Care. Write an op-ed for your local paper or for a blog.

**AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE EMPOWERS WOMEN AND PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY.**