

# What's causing the shortage of qualified early care and education teachers? <sup>[1]</sup>

There's a hole in the bucket.

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## AVAILABILITY

[Access infographic \[PDF\] <sup>\[2\]</sup>](#)

[Access online <sup>\[3\]</sup>](#)

## Excerpts from infographic

Teaching in early care and education is one of the lowest-paid occupations in the United States. But we know that a qualified, stable workforce is key to expanding access to quality early education for all children. Policymakers are trying to get there by prioritizing workforce training.

This new infographic shows how professional development investments are lost as long as poverty-level wages drive qualified teachers out of the field, and how to fix the leak. Increased compensation through public investment can keep early educators in the field:



**Yet professional development investments are lost as long as poverty-level wages keep driving qualified teachers out of the field.**

- Over half of child care worker families and 43 percent of preschool and kindergarten teacher families rely on public income supports (like food stamps and the Earned Income Tax Credit) just to make ends meet.<sup>5</sup>
- A bachelor's degree in early childhood education is the college major with the lowest projected lifetime earnings.<sup>6</sup> In fact, most early childhood educators with bachelor's degrees earn less than \$15/hour.<sup>7</sup>

**As a consequence, children lack qualified teachers and stable learning environments. Efforts to expand access suffer as the educator shortage intensifies.**

**THE SOLUTION? FIX THE LEAK!**

**Increase compensation through public investment to keep early educators in the field.**

**References:**

1. Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2018
2. For a Family of Four in 2017
3. States Report Child Care and Development Funds Benefit All Children in Care
4. Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2016
5. Early Childhood Workforce Index - 2018
6. Major Decisions: What Graduates Earn Over Their Lifetimes
7. CSCCE analysis of the National Survey of Early Care and Education, 2012

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Region: United States [4]

Tags: wages [5]

workforce [6]

working conditions [7]

Women [8]

Source URL (modified on 6 Apr 2021): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/21/04/what%E2%80%99s-causing-shortage-qualified-early-care-and-education>

**Links**

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/21/04/what%E2%80%99s-causing-shortage-qualified-early-care-and-education>

[2] [https://cscce.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CSCCE\\_Infographic-FINAL-1.pdf](https://cscce.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CSCCE_Infographic-FINAL-1.pdf)

[3] <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/hole-in-the-bucket/>

[4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865>

[5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/wages>

[6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/workforce>

[7] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/working-conditions>

[8] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/women>