family resource center

Child Care Works
A video series for policymakers

Child care is workforce infrastructure.

Your constituents can't work without it, and right now the system is costing San Joaquin County more than $1.2 million a year.

Child care looks like a different problem depending on who you ask. Parents can't afford the care they need, providers earn too little to keep their doors open, and employers lose workers without always knowing why. These are one problem: care costs more to provide than families can pay, and state rates leave providers to cover the difference.

$1.2M
lost every year in San Joaquin County because of child care gaps

61.7%
of working parents in the county have lost time in the workforce because of child care, and half were out three months or longer

About 1/2
of the cost of full-day care for a 4- year-old is covered by the State Preschool rate, a gap of $13,200 to $17,500 per child each year

What your constituents are telling us

- **Families can't close the gap.** Full-time care for an infant and a school-age child runs $13,460 to $17,059 a year, about half of a single parent's household income.
- **Providers absorb the shortfall.** More than 80% of a center's budget goes to staff, so when rates fall short, the gap lands on wages. Child care teachers are among the lowest-paid workers in the county.
- **Parents leave the workforce.** One in five working parents has quit a job because of child care, and more than one in three has turned down a job offer.
- **Employers feel it but can't fix it alone.** When local employers were asked what would help most, 16 of 47 chose affordable, reliable child care in their community, and only 2 chose employersponsored benefits.

What you can do

- **Invest in child care at its true cost**, so rates reflect what quality care actually costs to provide in San Joaquin County.
- **Meet the providers and employers** in these videos. FRC can bring them, and the county data, to you

WATCH THE SERIES.
Local providers, employers and the data that connects them.

Family Resource Center of San Joaquin County has served local families since 1980.

Christina Gilbert, Chief Strategy Officer
cgilbert@frcsj.org · 209.461.2749

When child care works, we all work.

Sources: FRC regional workforce survey, conducted by Zogby Analytics, presented May 6, 2026 (economic impact, 61.7%, time out of work, parents who quit or declined job offers)· Stockton Chamber of Commerce employer survey, 47 respondents, 2026 (employer preferences).