

INFRASTRUCTURE

FAST FACTS

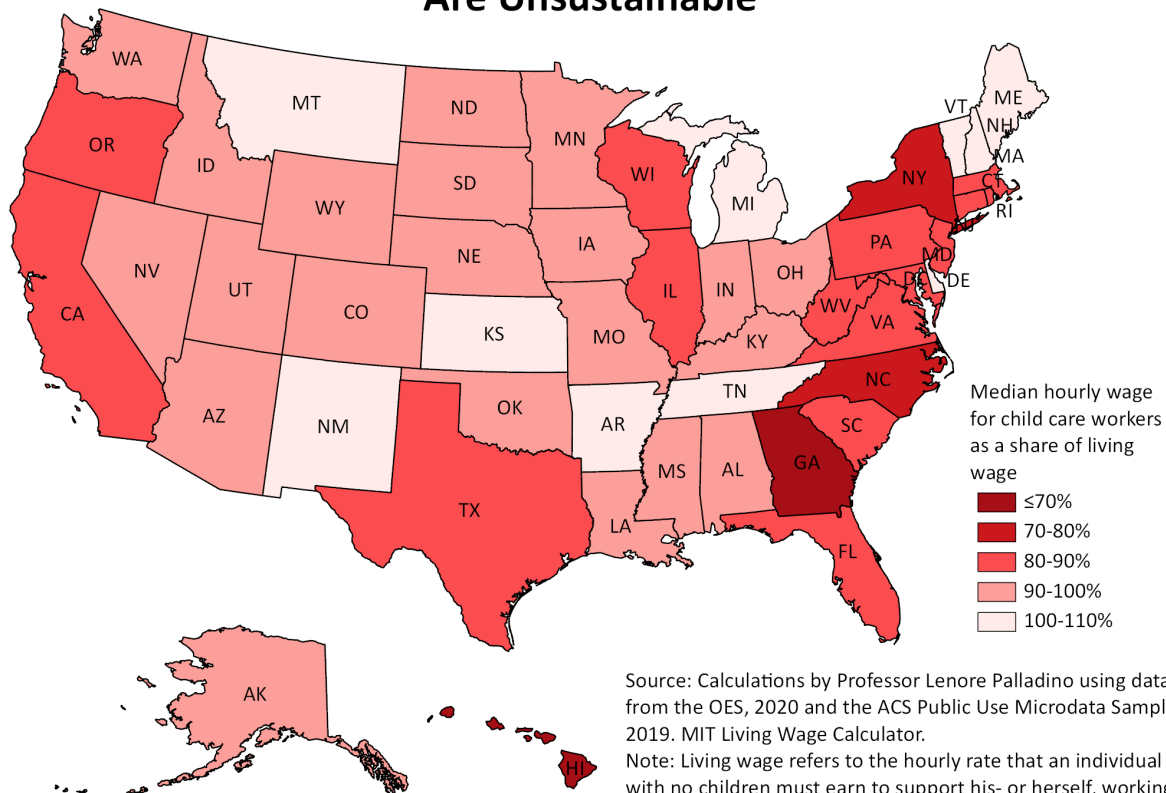
Joint Economic Committee

@JECDems

Across Most States, the Typical Child Care Worker Makes Below a Living Wage

- In 40 states, the median hourly wage for a child care worker is below the living wage.
- In 19 states, the median hourly wage for a child care worker is below 90 percent of the living wage.
- In four areas, the median hourly wage for a child care worker is below 80 percent of the living wage. Those include New York (where the median child care worker is paid 75 percent of the living wage), the District of Columbia (73 percent), Georgia (67 percent) and Hawaii (61 percent).

In Most States, Child Care Worker Wages Are Unsustainable



Across Most States, the Typical Child Care Worker Makes Below a Living Wage

Child Care Worker Pay			
State	Living Wage, USD	Median Hourly Wage, USD	Hourly Wage as a Percent of Living Wage
Alabama	13.77	12.77	93%
Alaska	15.06	14.04	93%
Arizona	14.94	13.63	91%
Arkansas	13.29	14.02	105%
California	18.66	15.53	83%
Colorado	16.35	15.60	95%
Connecticut	15.98	13.28	83%
Delaware	15.32	15.48	101%
District of Columbia	20.12	14.75	73%
Florida	14.82	12.78	86%
Georgia	15.36	10.33	67%
Hawaii	19.43	11.92	61%
Idaho	13.95	13.20	95%
Illinois	15.37	12.62	82%
Indiana	13.44	12.13	90%
Iowa	13.62	13.27	97%
Kansas	13.51	13.63	101%
Kentucky	13.48	12.26	91%
Louisiana	14.06	13.35	95%
Maine	14.92	15.19	102%
Maryland	17.25	15.30	89%
Massachusetts	17.74	14.81	83%
Michigan	13.63	14.92	109%
Minnesota	14.9	13.55	91%
Mississippi	13.43	12.42	92%
Missouri	13.72	12.67	92%
Montana	13.94	14.58	105%
Nebraska	13.57	12.50	92%
Nevada	13.67	12.82	94%
New Hampshire	14.47	15.59	108%
New Jersey	16.2	14.16	87%
New Mexico	13.97	14.71	105%
New York	18.62	14.00	75%
North Carolina	14.72	11.81	80%
North Dakota	13.08	12.65	97%
Ohio	13.16	12.49	95%
Oklahoma	13.53	12.37	91%
Oregon	16.85	13.75	82%
Pennsylvania	13.39	10.99	82%
Rhode Island	14.79	12.08	82%
South Carolina	14.58	12.35	85%
South Dakota	12.61	12.45	99%
Tennessee	13.25	14.11	106%
Texas	14.01	11.87	85%
Utah	14.52	14.36	99%
Vermont	14.93	16.37	110%
Virginia	16.61	13.45	81%
Washington	16.34	15.02	92%
West Virginia	13.38	11.51	86%
Wisconsin	14.02	12.05	86%
Wyoming	13.19	12.31	93%

Source: Calculations by Professor Lenore Palladino using data from the OES, 2020 and the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, 2019. MIT Living Wage Calculator.

Note: Living wage refers to the hourly rate that an individual with no children must earn to support his or herself, working full-time year-round, based on typical expenses in the location.