

# PETERSBURG CHILDCARE

## 2021 Needs Survey Results



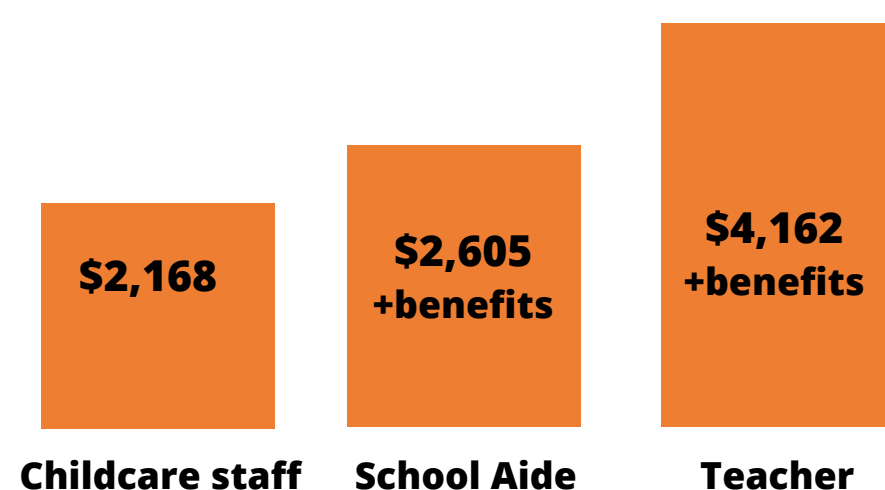
This project funded was by the Petersburg Community Foundation and completed by the Early Childhood subgroup of the SHARE Coalition.

### Staffing is Top Concern

#### \$12.72/HR AVERAGE STARTING WAGE

School paraprofessional aides' starting wages are 22% more, teachers' starting wage is nearly double and these positions offer insurance and retirement benefits unlike childcare positions. The chart below compares starting wages with no prior experience.

#### Local Starting Monthly Pay



#### 80% STAFF TURNOVER RATE

Over the past 2 years rate of pay, work environment and lack of benefits are top 3 reasons for leaving local childcare/preschools.

#### STAFF RELYING ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS & 2ND JOBS

30% of childcare staff are relying on State or Federal assistance programs to make ends meet for their families (SNAP, WIC, Childcare assistance).

30% have second jobs to supplement their salary.

52% of childcare/preschool staff obtain insurance through Medicaid.

### Community & Economic Impact

#### CHILDCARE COST & AVAILABILITY IMPACTS THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

- **44%** of parents surveyed said they are currently not working due to lack of childcare
- **35%** have reduced their hours or gone to part time due to lack of childcare
- Most parents/caregivers have been Late to Work (33%) or Had to Leave Work Early (50%) due to lack of childcare.

### Provider Concerns

#### COST OF OPERATIONS IS TOP CONCERN FOR PROVIDERS

With State regulations requiring low staff-to-child ratios for young children, the cost of operating a childcare/pre-school is very high. Local providers say the cost of operations is their number one challenge. Providers are unable to pay staff more due to high operational costs.

#### SHORT STAFFING IMPACTS CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY

Low wages and lack of benefits makes attracting and retaining qualified professionals very difficult. Some facilities are almost always operating under capacity due to staffing shortages. This means less childcare spots available to Petersburg families.

#### PARENTS USING INFORMAL CARE INSTEAD

Of parents/care-takers surveyed, 26% were having their children cared for during the day by family and friends and 8% by a babysitter.

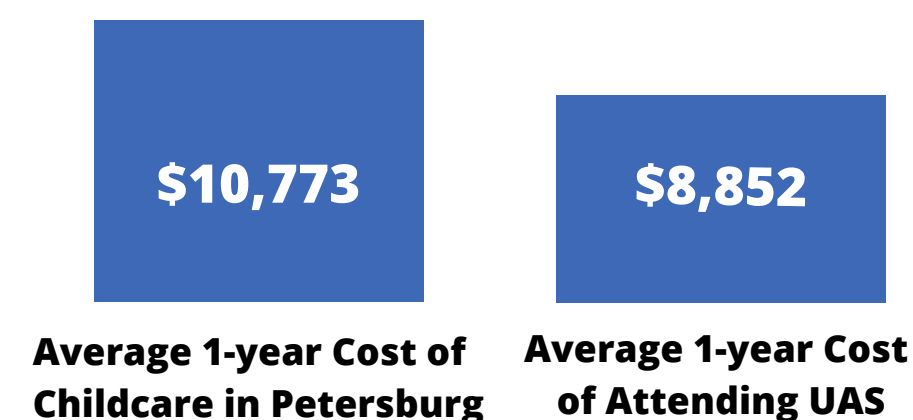
### Care is Expensive for Parents

#### HIGH COST DOESN'T WORK FOR FAMILIES

COST is the #1 reason most parents surveyed said childcare programs don't work for their families.

#### CHILD CARE COSTS MORE THAN COLLEGE

A year of child care for one child costs more in Petersburg than in-state tuition at the University of Alaska Southeast.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

### Availability is Limited

#### CHILDCARE SPOTS ARE LIMITED

Availability is the top concerns among childcare providers. For some age groups, parents may have to wait 1-2 years to get a spot in childcare or after-school programs.

#### HOURS AND OPTIONS ARE LIMITED

The lack of weekend and extended hours are top concerns for both parents and providers. Local licensed providers have slight variations in hours, but most are open 7:30am-5:30pm. One in-home provider is open 6am-6pm. The lack of after school and summer programming are also top concerns.