

For Immediate Release:

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**New Report: Child Care Fees More Expensive for Families than
Housing-
Minnesota is among the Most Costly States**

Washington, D.C. –The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) has released “*Breaking the Piggy Bank: Parents and the High Price of Child Care*”, an extensive nationwide survey of child care prices. The report finds that parents across the United States are struggling to meet the high cost of child care, with Minnesota ranking in the top four most costly states. Many families face a Catch-22. They need to work to support their families. They rely on child care to go to work. But, the high price of child care – a staggering \$3,016 to \$13,480 a year for one child – strains family budgets. “The public hears a lot about rising health care costs. But, families are likely to spend more on child care than they do for health care and food combined,” explained Ann McCully, Executive Director of the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network . “Affording quality child care should not be a dream,” McCully continues. “Increased state, federal and private investments are needed to make accessible child care a reality for all families while also supporting the work of the qualified education professionals who care for our youngest children. The current system puts all the strain on parents and child care providers.” A report released by The Minnesota Department of Human Services shows child care providers in the state “operate on the thinnest of margins” with family child care providers earning an average of just over three dollars an hour and child care centers operating at a profit of just under one percent.*

Child care costs more for infants than it does for preschool-age children. *Breaking the Piggy Bank* ranks the top 10 least affordable states for preschool age care (New York, Minnesota, California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington) as well as the top 10 least affordable states for infant care (Minnesota, Massachusetts, California, New York, Virginia, Illinois, Rhode Island, Washington, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Colorado). In Minnesota, child care costs take an average of 28 percent of low-income families’ monthly paychecks (10 percent is widely considered “affordable”.)

The NACCRRA report calls for increased federal, state, and local investment in quality child care drawing a parallel between underwriting the cost of our nation’s university system and making a broad-based investment to underwrite the cost of child care. Investing in quality child care is increasingly shown to be the best route to school preparedness and success for children.

About Child Care Resource and Referral: Across the United States, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies help families find, select, and pay for child

care, as well as provide training and support to child care providers and help communities and states meet their child care and parenting needs. Minnesota's CCR&R system helped over 20,000 families navigate the child care system in 2005. The system also improves the quality of child care in the state by offering grants, professional development, and training opportunities, and technical assistance to child care professionals.

To find out more information about The Minnesota CCR&R Network, go to <http://www.mnchildcare.org> ([add local web address here](#))

*Cost of Child Care: Legislative Report on Cost Containment Options in the Child Care Assistance Program, January 2005. Minnesota Department of Human Services

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Talking Points:

We support families and child care providers in the state. The current economic strains on the field place an unfair burden on both groups. Increased state, federal and private investments are needed to make quality child care a reality for all families while also supporting the work of the qualified education professionals who care for our youngest children.

Just as we underwrite the cost of our nation's colleges and universities, a broad-based investment to underwrite the cost of child care is necessary as well.

Breaking the Piggy Bank: Parents and the High Price of Child Care is the latest report from the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

Breaking the Piggy Bank presents data on child care prices collected from a nation-wide survey of State Child Care Resource and Referral Networks and local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The report also analyzes findings from a series of focus groups conducted with parents in seven sites across the country.

Click here to download a copy of the full report:
<http://www.naccrra.org/docs/policy/pricereport2.06.pdf>

Click here to download a summary:
http://www.naccrra.org/docs/policy/price_report_summary.pdf