



ALASKA CHAMBER

The leading voice advancing business in Alaska

thread Summit
October 26, 2023

Statewide



Board of Directors

The Alaska Chamber has representation in all regions of the state.

Alaska Strong

Our members are located in **23 of the 29** boroughs/census areas, and **88%** of our members are headquartered in Alaska.



Impactful

Our membership's direct business activity supports more than **58,000** total Alaskan jobs and **\$4.6 billion** in total wages annually.

Generous

77% of members make cash contributions that support hundreds of nonprofits throughout Alaska, giving on average of **\$200,000** annually.

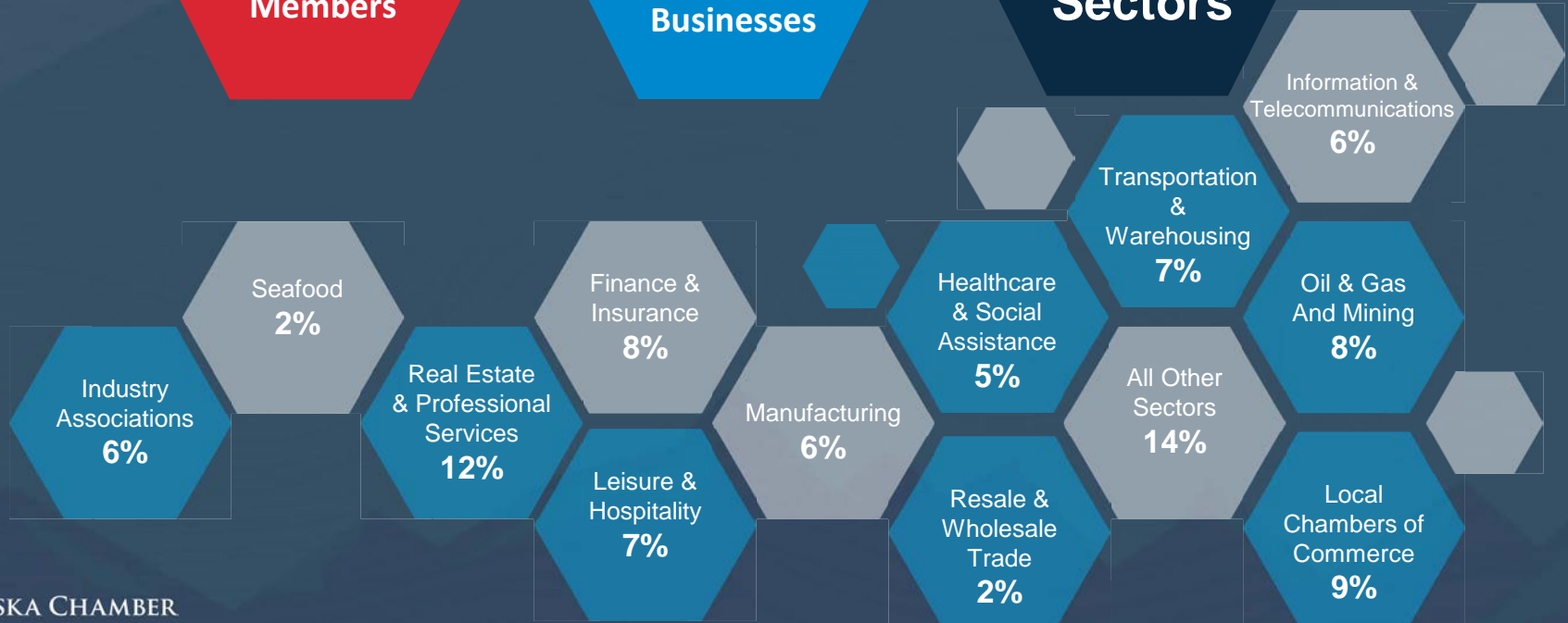


Who we are

700+
Members

60%
Small
Businesses

**All
Economic
Sectors**



Alaska Chamber Child Care Policy Position NEW in 2023

(S) 9. Support decreases of barriers to entry for childcare, to increase availability of and access to childcare in Alaska

Predictable childcare enables a stable workforce. When employers can recruit and retain a qualified workforce that is not struggling with childcare issues, business, families and the economy are strengthened. The Alaska Chamber encourages the Alaska Legislature, governor and congressional delegation to work with the business community to identify fiscally responsible reforms to the childcare system.

HOW CHILDCARE IMPACTS
ALASKA'S WORKFORCE
PRODUCTIVITY AND THE
STATE ECONOMY



Untapped Potential in **AK**



61% of Alaskans live in what the Center for American Progress defines as a childcare desert.



Population: 736,081

Average Household Income:
\$73,181

Minimum Wage: \$10.34 per hour

Capital: Juneau

Surveyed: 264 parents of
children 5 years and younger

Untapped
Potential in

AK



-\$152M

Annual estimated cost to Alaska employers due to absences and employee turnover



FIGURE 02.

Household breakdown of primary reason for selecting arrangement, by income group

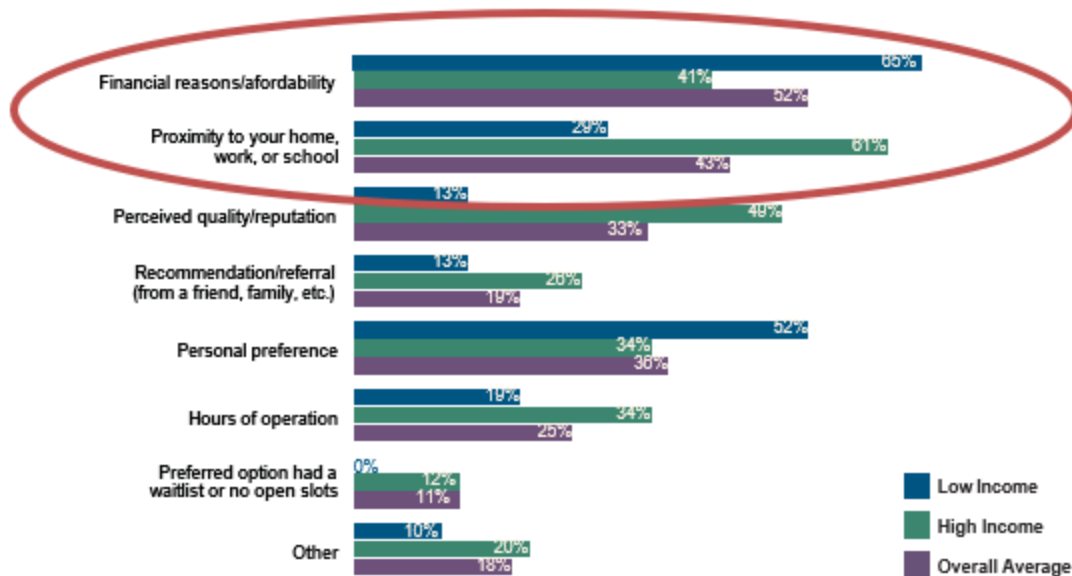


FIGURE 03.

Household breakdown of primary funding for childcare, by income group

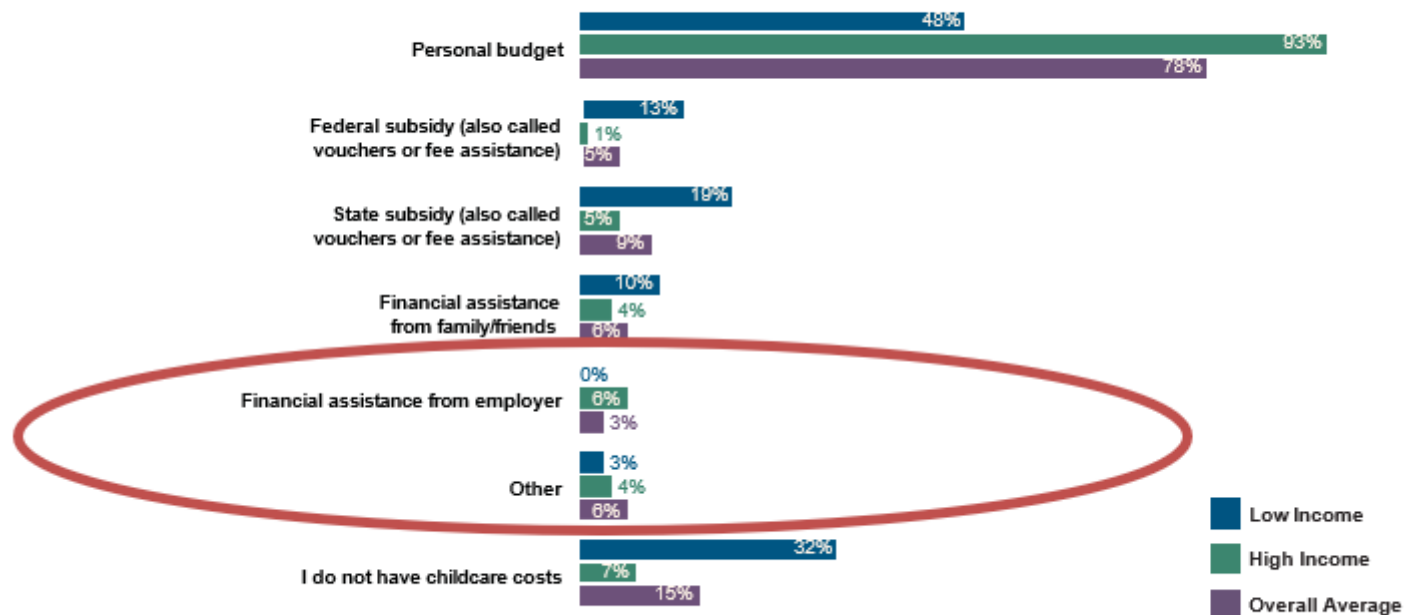


FIGURE 16.

How parents said childcare issues impacted their employment

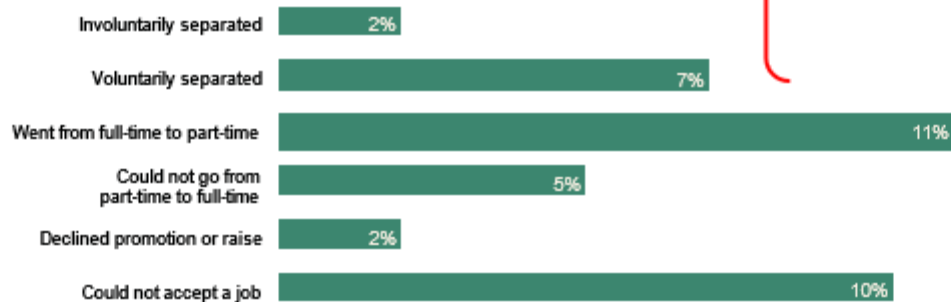


FIGURE 17.

How parents said childcare issues impacted their employment, by income group

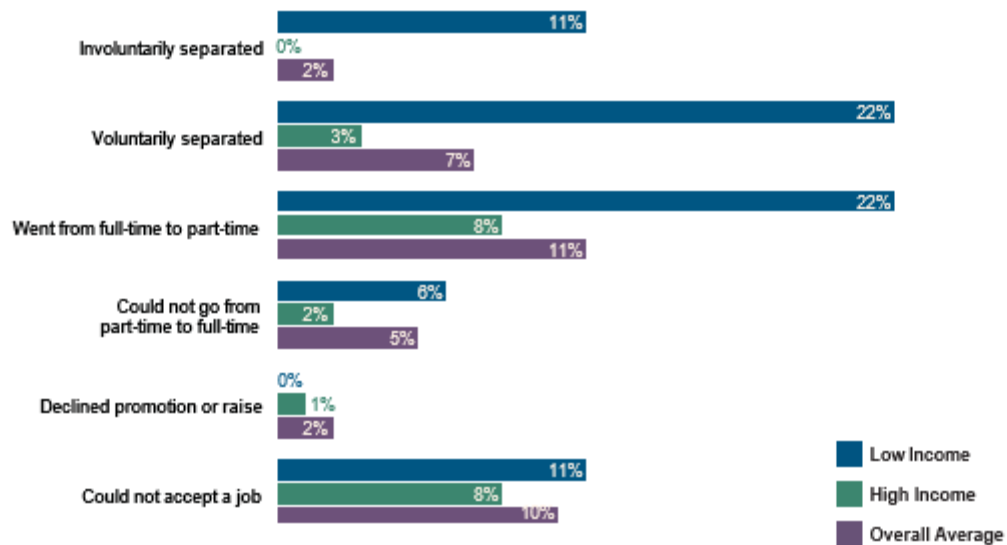


FIGURE 32.
Time to return to work for those leaving employment

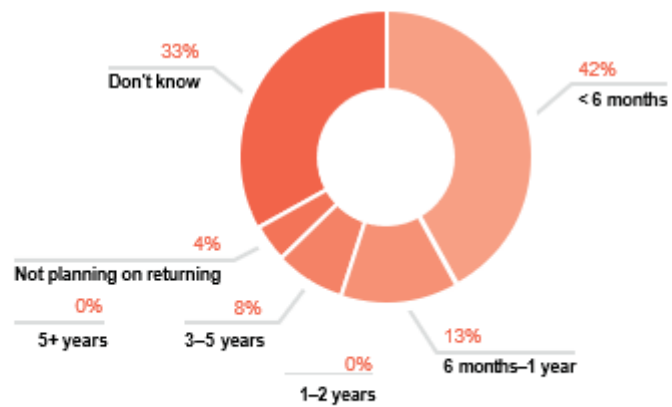


FIGURE 33.

Time to return to work for those leaving employment, by income group

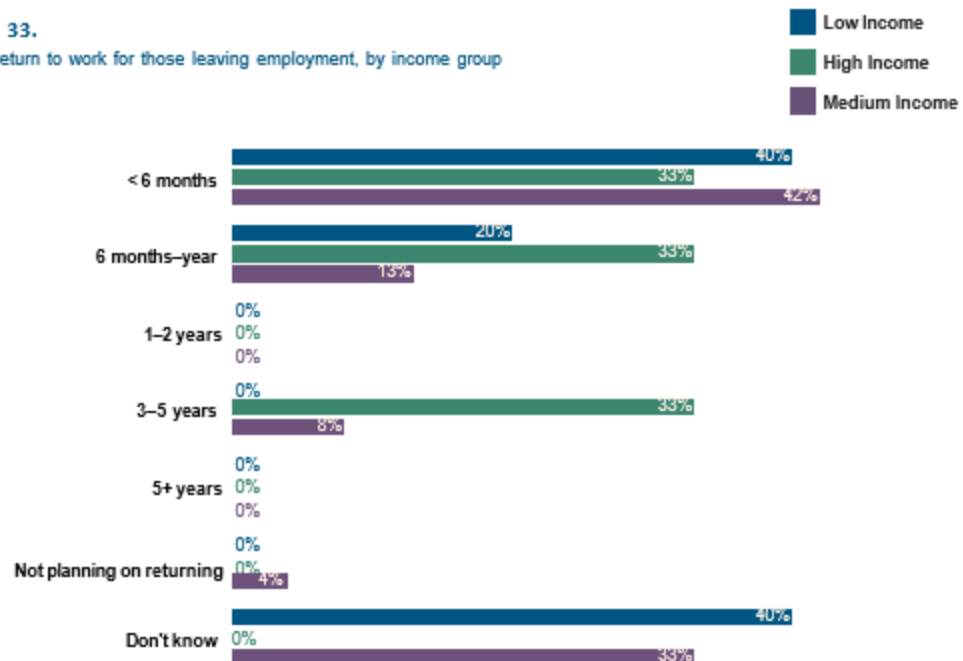


FIGURE 19.

Parents leaving employment over the next 12 months, by gender

**FIGURE 20.**

Percent of parents leaving employment citing childcare issues as a primary reason, by gender

**FIGURE 22.**

Parents leaving employment citing childcare issues as a reason, by income group

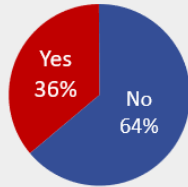


Business and Childcare Public Opinion Survey – April, 2023

Lack of child care impacted work?

Has a lack of access to child care or ability to pay for child care caused you or a family member to miss work or choose not to participate in the workforce?

Results among working-age Alaskans with children



Location	Yes	No
Anchorage (n89)	44%	56%
Southcentral (n63)	33%	67%
Interior (n35)	15%	85%
Southeast (n21)	38%	62%
Rural (n10)	40%	60%

Gender	Yes	No
Male (n101)	27%	73%
Female (n116)	43%	57%

Age	Yes	No
18-34 yrs old (n24)	65%	35%
35-44 yrs old (n86)	49%	51%
45-54 yrs old (n106)	18%	82%

Party	Yes	No
Democrat (n34)	50%	50%
Republican (n61)	24%	76%
Non-Partisan (n25)	51%	49%
Undeclared (n85)	33%	67%

Household income	Yes	No
\$40K or less (n17)	51%	49%
\$41-60K (n15)	37%	63%
\$61-80K (n28)	30%	70%
\$81-100K (n29)	50%	50%
\$100K or more (n116)	32%	68%

From 2021 to 2023...

- No change in absenteeism from work.
- Females still disproportionately impacted.
- Income disparity exists, but serious problems at all levels.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Bipartisan Policy Center Launch New Partnership to Tackle America's Child Care Crisis

The Early Childhood and Business Advisory Council will convene early childhood stakeholders and business leaders in nine communities across the country to explore innovative solutions to child care issues

"While the current child care crisis has been decades in the making, the pandemic has brought to light how essential child care is to the success of our workforce and the economy," said Cheryl Oldham, senior vice president at the U.S. Chamber Foundation. "If we want the economy to get back on its feet, we have to solve this urgent problem. That's why the business community is a key stakeholder in this effort. Thanks to our longstanding work on child care and connections to local chambers, and BPC's expertise in building policy solutions, both organizations are uniquely positioned to partner in successfully leading this initiative."

The Early Childhood and Business Advisory Council will bring together local chambers of commerce with key stakeholders, including state and local early childhood advocates, business owners, and state administrators, to drive progress in communities where significant barriers to child care exist.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

QUICK WINS

WORKING PARENT SUPPORT

Complexity: +

IMPACT



Leverage existing organizational programs to support working parents.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

Complexity: ++

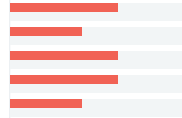


Accommodating work schedules that create stability and predictability for working parents.

INTERNAL INVESTMENTS

BACKUP CARE

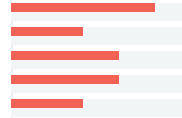
Complexity: ++



Temporary childcare for unforeseen last-minute changes.

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

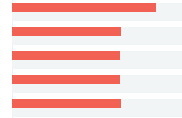
Complexity: ++



Help working parents access or afford locally-available childcare.

SUBSIDIES

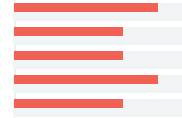
Complexity: +++



Help working parents access or afford locally-available childcare.

ONSITE CARE

Complexity: ++++



Provide quality childcare exactly where parents need it—at work.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Complexity: ++



Using your organization as a platform to address childcare quality, access and affordability at a local, state and/or national level.

EXPAND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Complexity: +++



Ways to build community capacity and supply for childcare, benefitting your working parents in the process.

Business and Childcare

Next Steps

- ▶ Business survey as part of the 2023 Early Care and Learning Economic Impact Research
- ▶ Onsite research
- ▶ Seeking public-private partnership opportunities that *work* for Alaska
- ▶ **Governor's Task Force on Child Care policy recommendations**