

State of Child Care

Apache Junction, Arizona



Enhancing
Early Childhood



Apache Junction Child Care Gap Data

Total Number of Children: 2597

Supply of Child Care Slots: 1047

Difference: 1550

Percentage Gap: 60%

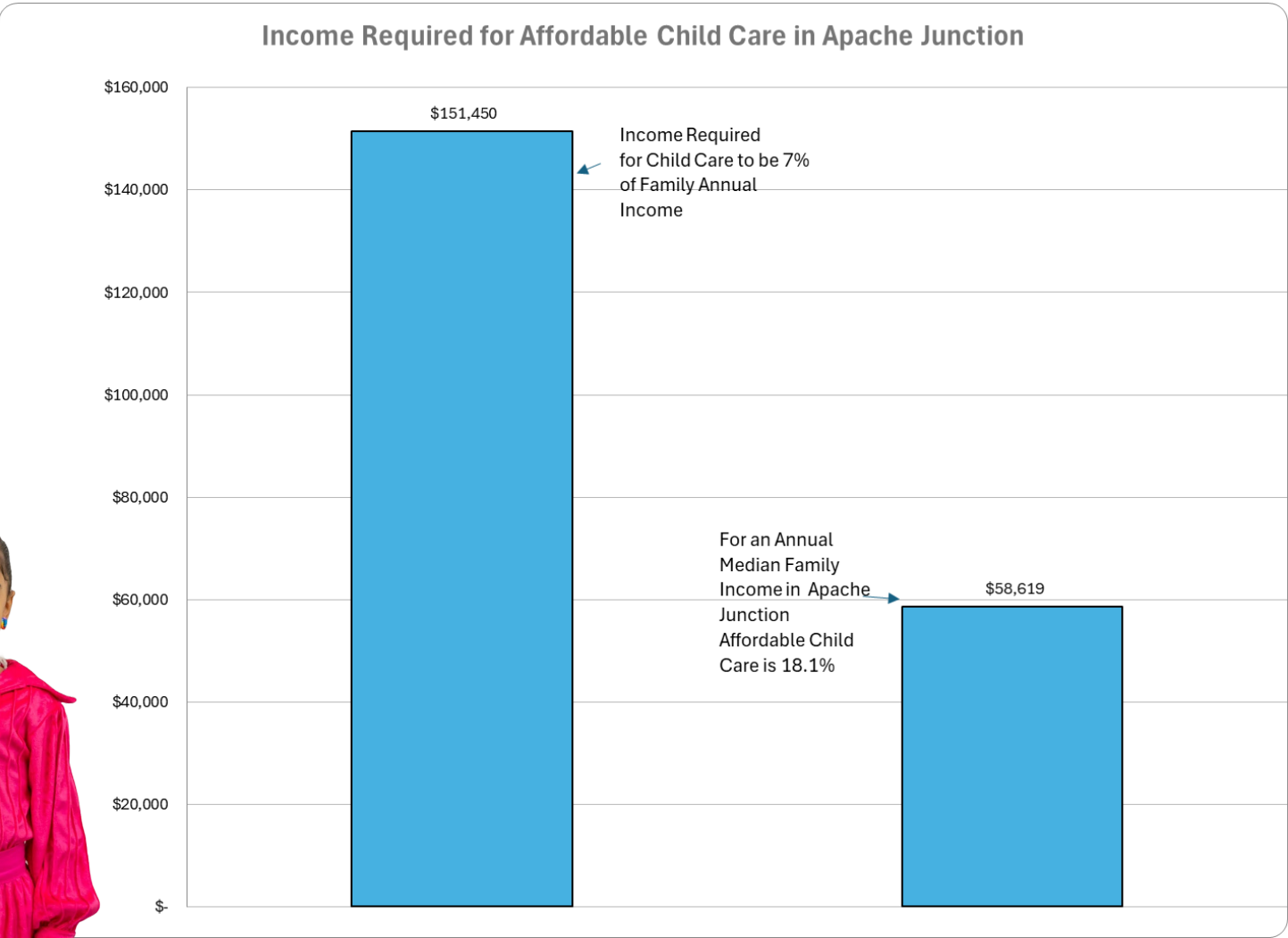


Cost of Child Care

- Child care is considered affordable if it costs 7% or less of family income;
- Average annual cost of center-based care for one infant in Pinal County is \$10,602
- County Survey Data:
 - What is the Average Weekly Cost of Your Current Childcare Arrangement(s)?
 - Ranged from \$0 - \$850 per week
 - Average of \$204 per week



Child Care Is Not Affordable



First Things First

Arizona's Early Childhood Agency
Update

Katrina Devinny,
Pinal Regional Director
November 4, 2025





Our economic impact



\$323 Million

In annual
economic
output



2,800

Full-time
jobs are
supported



\$18.2 Million

in annual state
and local tax
revenue



Reduced need

for social welfare
and criminal justice
services

Source: [Jim Rounds Economic Report](#)



How we are funded

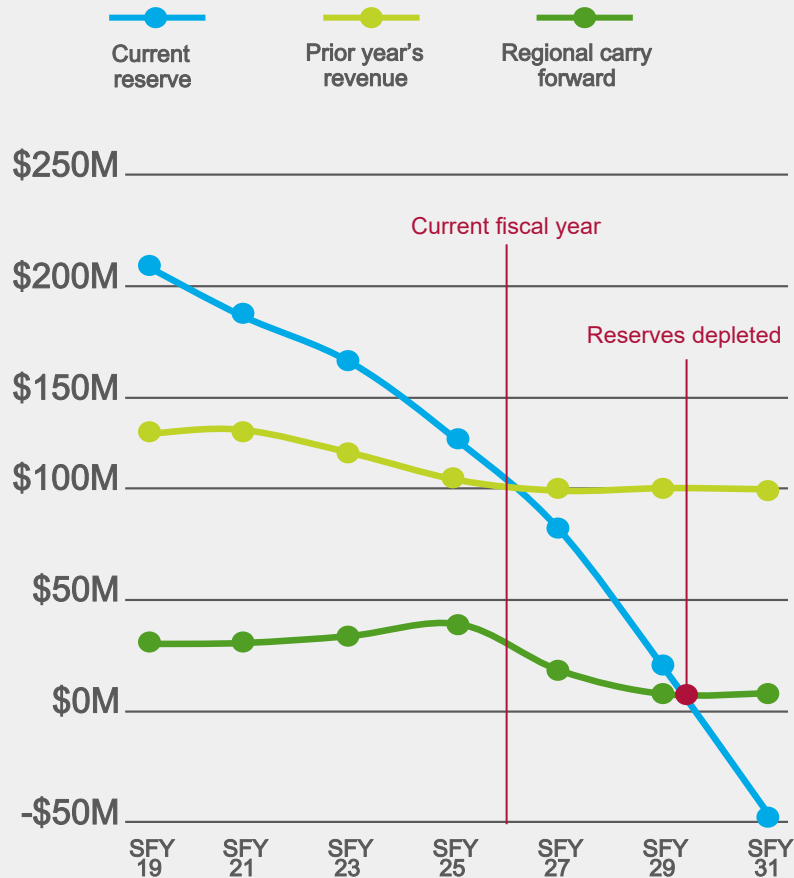
- 94.4% from tobacco taxes
- 5.5% from grants
- 0.1% from gifts
- 0% from State General Fund

We rely *almost* entirely on a single, shrinking revenue source.





FTF projected funds



The challenge we face

- Tobacco revenues are down nearly **42%** since 2008
 - \$76 million less in SFY25
 - Per-child investment down to **\$206**
 - **Reserves will be gone by SFY2030**
- Core programs in jeopardy:
 - Quality child care & scholarships
 - Parenting education & home visitation
 - Professional development
 - Early literacy support



Solution : Close the loophole

- Taxing vape/nicotine products products could generate up to **\$80M annually**
- Stabilizes early childhood funding
- Protects nearly **80 FTF-funded grant partners** who serve **133,000 families**
- Supported by FTF's Policy Agenda





LIFT Plans

(Local Influence for First Things First)

101

Developing Early
Childhood Public Policy
Understanding

202

Demonstrating Advocacy
Skills

303

Leading Partner
Engagement



What Everyone Can Do



Support

Lobby in support of any legislation that invests in the early childhood system.



Speak Out

Create a Request to Speak (RTS) Account.
Sign into RTS in support of any legislation that invests in the early childhood system.



Show Up

Register and attend Early Childhood Day at the Capitol.
Monday, February 16, 2026



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

101

Developing Early
Childhood Public Policy
Understanding

- Complete the direct advocacy training exercise.
- Learn about statewide and regional early childhood funding streams and the legislative process. Watch the Early Childhood Public Policy 101 Presentation or request a Government Affairs presentation.
- Learn about regional and statewide early childhood programmatic outcomes.



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

101

Developing Early
Childhood Public Policy
Understanding

- Go to azleg.gov and identify your statewide legislators by clicking on Senate (Members) and House (Members). Share what you have learned about early childhood.
- Develop and share your "elevator speech" with data from your local regional area
- Identify local relationships and their connections to early childhood education. Develop a network and relationship map.



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

202

Demonstrating Advocacy
Skills

- Call or email an elected official to provide your position on an early childhood public policy issue.
- Share about the importance of positive early childhood public policies in an op-ed, podcast or tv interview.
- Join FTF staff at a meeting with elected official(s) to introduce yourself and discuss the importance of public policies that support children and their caregivers.



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

202

Demonstrating Advocacy
Skills

- Participate in at least one roundtable, briefing, or working group
- Use social media to tell your story and make an advocacy request to your network.
- Actively participate in policy maker site visits to FTF-funded programs.



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

303

Leading Partner
Engagement

- Conduct a meeting with an elected official(s) to introduce yourself and discuss the importance of public policies that support children and their caregivers.
- Use an advocacy skill to get at least 10 people to engage an elected official in support of early childhood.
- Facilitate introductions and joint meetings between partners and early childhood education advocates.



LIFT Plans

What Can You Do?

303

Leading Partner
Engagement

- Attend early childhood education events.
- Include early childhood education in the strategic plans and initiatives.
- Submit op -eds in support of early childhood education.
- Support family friendly policies.

Thank you!

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