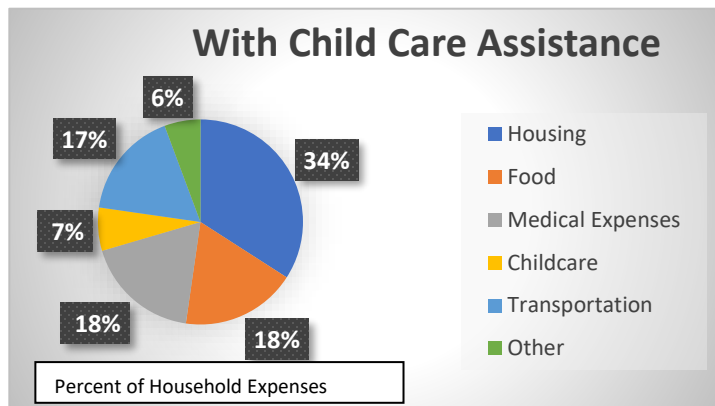


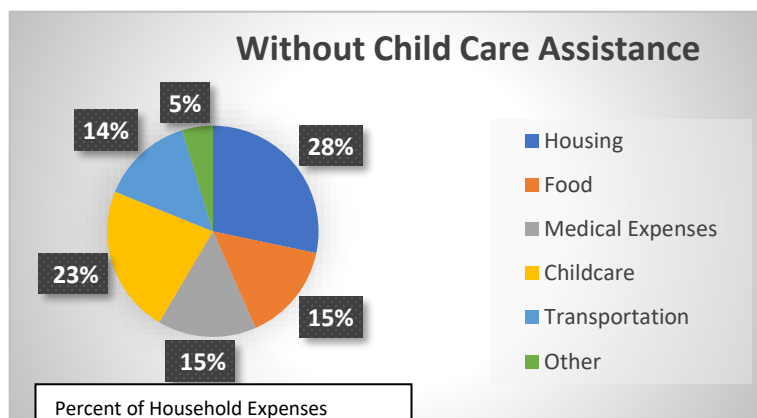
KIDSCAN'T WAIT

Childcare is expensive for nearly every family in Minnesota. The Child Care Assistance Program helps lift families out of poverty by keeping their child care expenses manageable. HF3861 would ensure more families with limited income benefit from the Child Care Assistance Program



A family of three in Minnesota (two parents and one toddler), making \$44,000 annually, qualifies for the Child Care Assistance Program. With a monthly co-pay of \$175, it means child care costs remain at about 5-7 percent of their budget and they have resources to afford other necessities.

This family also must be careful not to increase their annual income over \$45,000. Otherwise they would no longer qualify for the program.



Without childcare assistance, that same family making \$45,000 or more a year will pay nearly 25% of its budget on child care costs. This makes for tough decisions on affording other necessities such as food, housing, and medicine.

HF3861 would increase the income limit for families to participate in the program and allow thousands of more children to benefit from access to child care around the state.

Child Care Assistance data taken from DHS 2021 Co-Payment Schedules available at:

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6413j-ENG>

Average costs of childcare in Minnesota are published by Child Care Aware Minnesota available at:

<https://www.childcareawaremn.org/community/cost-of-care/>

Cost of living expenses estimated using the Minnesota Economic Stability Indicator Family Scenario planner available at:

<http://www.economicstabilityindicatormn.org/ScreeningTool>