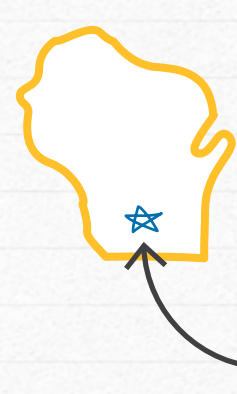


The REAL Cost of Child Care



In Madison, Wisconsin it costs **\$945** per month for daycare.

With an average monthly income of \$4,367, over **20%** of a family's income goes towards child care. And that's if they just have one kid.

Child care	\$1,530
Housing	\$898
Taxes	\$830
Other	\$811
Health care	\$807
Food	\$782
Transportation	\$613

A family of four has to make **\$6,271** per month to have a decent quality of life.

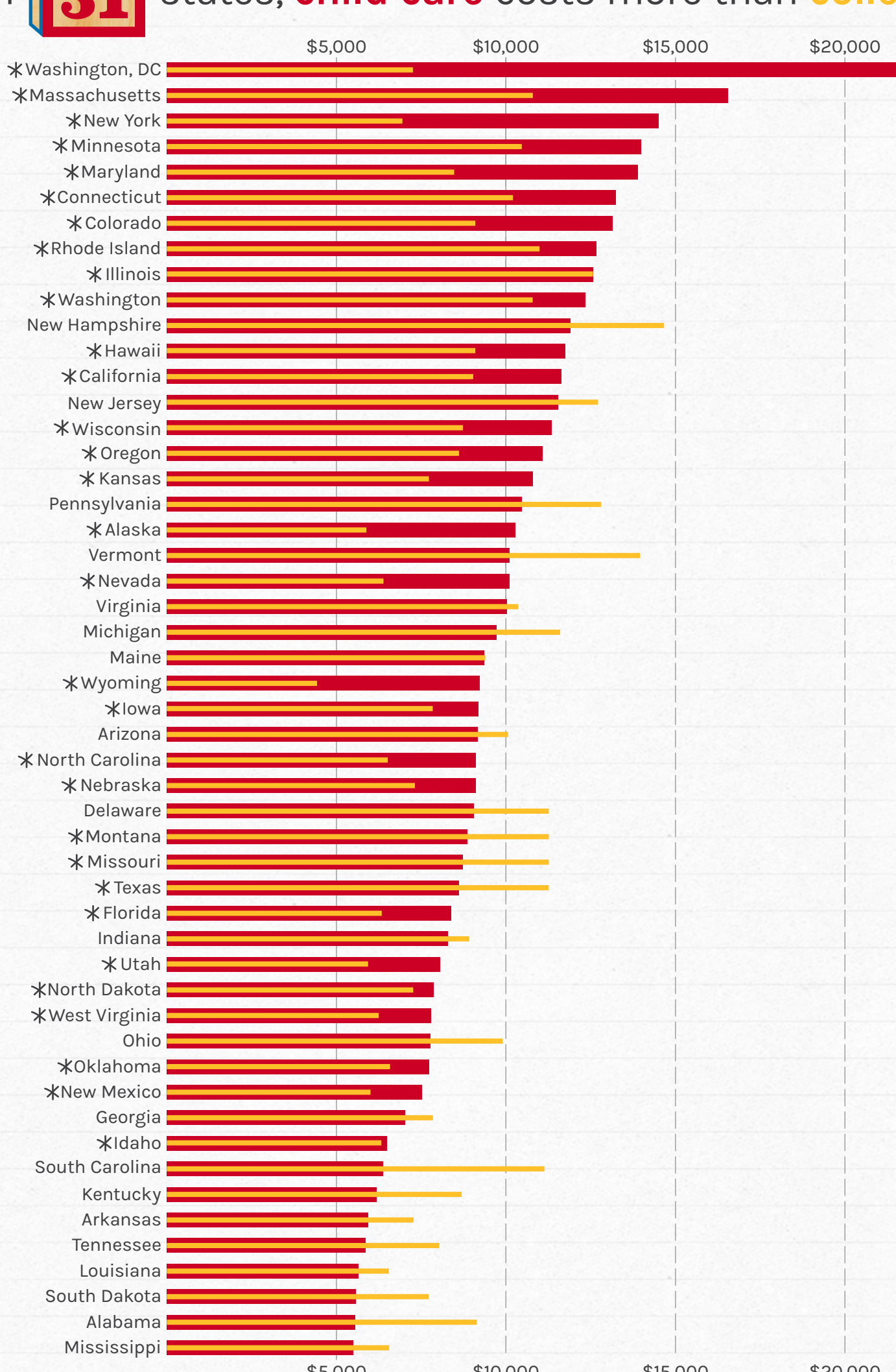
This is how much the average household actually makes.

This is the local limit for getting federal child care assistance through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

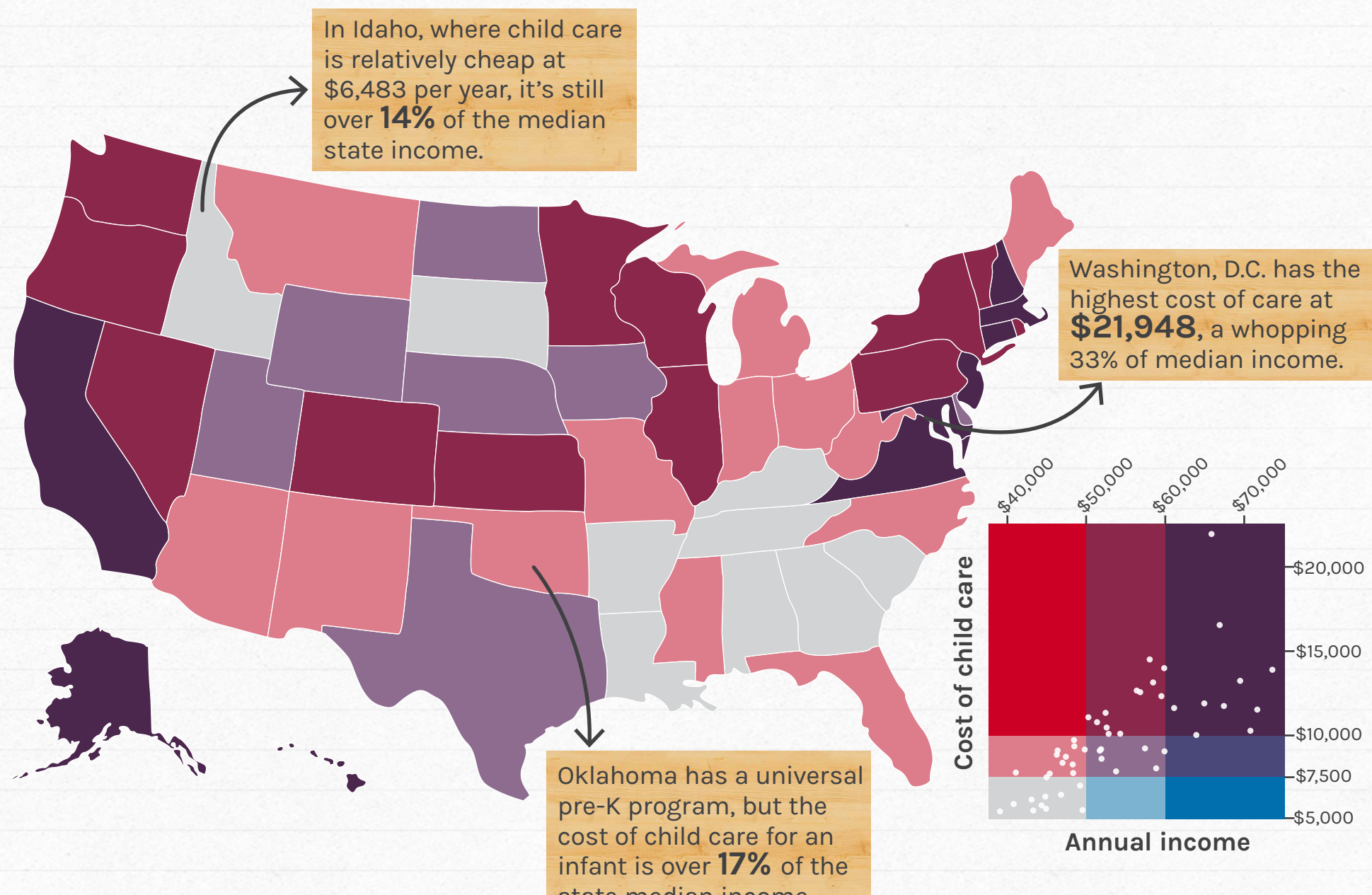
CCDBG is the main source of federal funding for child care. However, despite a rise in need, Congress hasn't increased its budget since 2002, leaving many low- and medium-income parents with no child care assistance.

But this isn't just a local issue, **it's a national problem.**

In **31** states, **child care** costs more than **college**.



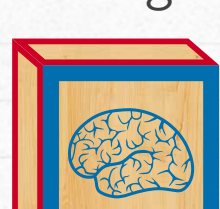
*States (including D.C.) where the yearly cost of child care is more than one year of in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.



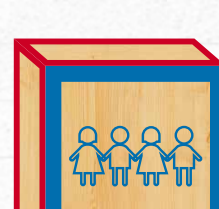
It's **extremely expensive** to send your kid to daycare, and American families are mostly on their own. We provide free public education to everyone starting in kindergarten. Shouldn't we start sooner?

High-quality childcare is important for kids.

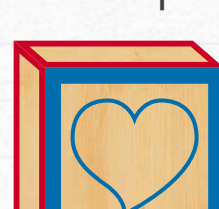
Investing in young children is key to their development.



Cognitive



Social



Emotional

Studies show that children who go to high-quality daycare are



less likely to need remedial education.



less likely to go to jail.



more likely to go to college.

High-quality childcare is important for women.



Better access to child care keeps women in the workforce. One study found that women made **\$3,000** more per year when their kids were in full-time, year-round childcare. Improving mothers' employment rates and incomes has a positive ripple effect on the kids, too.

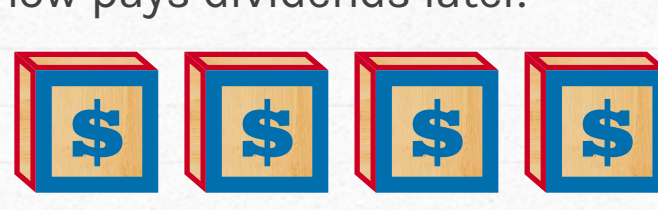
High-quality childcare is important for the economy.

Investing in our children now pays dividends later.



Spending \$1 on high-quality childcare now

=



\$8.60 of benefits for the American economy later

There is a massive societal payoff to investing in early childhood care. Kids who receive high-quality child care grow up to earn more money (and pay more in taxes). They have lower health care expenses and are less likely to go to jail. They make more money, the American government spends less on supporting them as adults. Everyone wins.

"It's time we stop treating child care as a side issue, or a women's issue, and treat it like the national economic priority that it is for all of us."

President Barack Obama
State of the Union, January 21, 2015

(imagine the United States with free, public child care for all...)

Created by **Robin Tolochko**
September 2015 for Robert Roth's UW-Madison Geography 572
Twitter: @tolomaps
Website: <http://tolomaps.com>

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Project Linework: Linework of the United States is Elmer Cuslan by Marty Elmer, with Hawaii from Moriarty Hand by Dylan Moriarty.

Data & References:
A big thank you to Child Care Aware of America and their excellent report, "Parents and the High Cost of Child Care." State data on cost of child care came from this report (January 2014). State data on cost of college also came from this report, with statistics from College Board Annual Survey of Colleges (2013-2014).

Data on median income by state: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, based on household earnings.

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