2019 Wage Data for Early Childhood Educators

Data Summary—Preschool Teachers
- The number of preschool teachers making less than $15 per hour is 187,574 (44 percent of the preschool teacher workforce).
- The number of preschool teachers making less than a living wage for a single parent is 342,392 (80 percent of the workforce).
- In no state is the median wage for a preschool teacher a living wage, and only 15 states have a median wage that is greater than $15.
- From 2017 to 2018, the median wage increase for a preschool teacher was less than inflation in 16 states, and in 12 states the median wage actually decreased.
- From 2012 to 2018, the median wage increase for a preschool teacher was less than inflation in 19 states; in five states, the median wage actually decreased.

Data Summary—Child Care Workers
- The number of child care workers making less than $15 per hour is 424,921 (75 percent of the child care workforce).
- Number of child care workers making less than a living wage for a single parent: 508,176 (90 percent of the child care workforce).
- In no state is the median wage for a child care worker a living wage or greater than $15 an hour.
- From 2017 to 2018, the median wage increase for a child care worker was less than inflation in 25 states, and the median wage actually decreased in six states.
- From 2012 to 2018, the median wage increase for a child care worker was less than inflation in 26 states.

Earnings Comparisons
- Total Earnings of all Preschool Teachers (428,110 people), 2018: $14.6 billion
- Total Earnings of all Child Care Workers (566,700 people), 2018: $13.9 billion
- Earnings of the highest-paid Hedge Fund Managers (25 people), 2017: $16.8 billion

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