



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHILDREN:

## Access to Affordable and Culturally Appropriate Programs

### What early learning opportunities do children have?



**66%** of children are cared for solely by parents, grandparents, or other relative over the age of 16.

**18%** are cared for by a paid but unlicensed provider in their own home or someone's else home.

**11%** are enrolled in Head Start, a child care center, nursery, preschool, or pre-K.

320 respondents (survey)



### It is "extremely important" that child care providers:



**87%**

Promote children's social and emotional development.



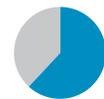
**81%**

Help prepare children for school.



**63%**

Educate children in the traditions and values of the child's cultural community.



**62%**

Speak the language from the child's cultural community.

383 respondents (survey)

Caretakers want their children to learn and retain their community's native language *and* English from a young age, but they find it more difficult to teach their children the community's native language and easier to teach English.

**85%** of caretakers believe it is "very important" for children who are growing up in this country to speak and understand their community's language.

More than **75%** of caretakers indicated that it is "very hard" or "somewhat hard" for them to teach their children **their** community's language.

More than **76%** of caretakers reported that teaching English to their children is "somewhat easy" or "very easy".



85% Very important



414 respondents (survey)



*"If you know two languages, it'll be better to help you get a job."*

*"I believe it's an investment for our kids, for their generation. It's definitely worth retaining a language."*

*"Kids who know multiple languages have better skills."*

Focus group participants



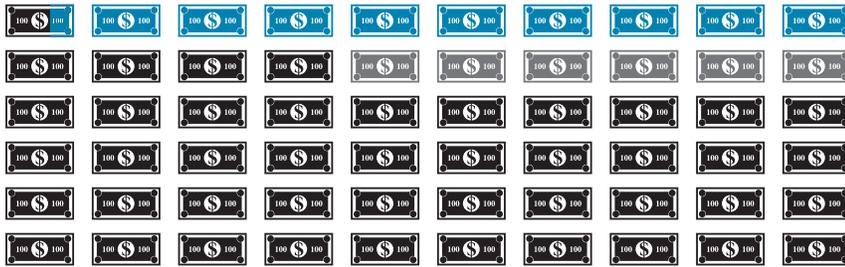
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## Cost of quality early learning is too high.

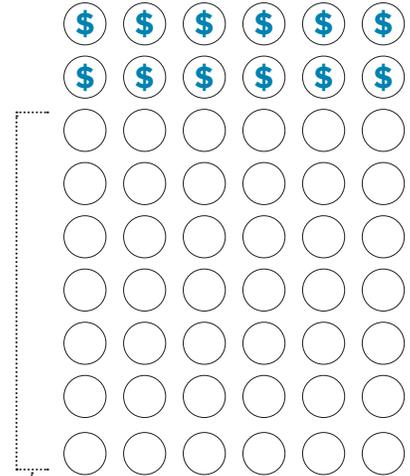
On average, SEA families' annual household income is **\$54,600**.

SEA families spend **18%** of household income on child care.



290 respondents (survey)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers affordable child care to cost no more than **10%** of annual family income.



**77%** receive no support at all to help cover the cost of child care.

## Policy Recommendations

1

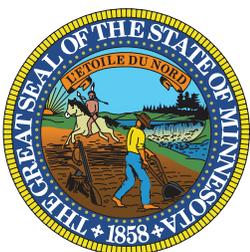
Promote bicultural and bilingual early learning opportunities in licensed pre-K programs that are respectful and cognizant of the realities of SEA families.

2

Ensure access to affordable and quality early childhood education for all children.

3

Disaggregate data to track by ethnic community.



### THE COUNCIL ON ASIAN PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

This report focuses on SEA children age four and under from the Hmong, Karen, Cambodian, Lao, and Vietnamese ethnic groups in Minnesota. Our main objectives are to inform the Governor and Minnesota Legislature, as well as local government, educators, direct service providers, and our community at large, about SEA children's early learning barriers and opportunities, and to offer policy recommendations to improve the accessibility and affordability of such opportunities. Please email any questions and comments to [capmresearch@state.mn.us](mailto:capmresearch@state.mn.us). To read the full report and data book, visit [mn.gov/capm](http://mn.gov/capm).