California law requires subsidized child care providers to make nutritious meals and snacks available to children in their care, yet the people taking care of California’s kids are not paid enough to meet their own basic needs. Policy makers must increase investments to strengthen the child care system, pay subsidized providers a living wage, and address the systemic racial inequities which continue to shape the child care field.

**Underpaid**

**One in Four Black Child Care Workers Must Turn to CalFresh to Try to Make Ends Meet**

Even before the pandemic, most of the state’s child care providers faced the challenge of operating on razor-thin margins and utilized public income support at high rates. In California, 15% of child care workers must turn to CalFresh to try to make ends meet. The problem is even more acute for Black and Latinx child care workers who are disproportionately more likely to participate.

**Share of California’s Child Care Workforce Receiving CalFresh**

- Black: 23%
- Hispanic: 19%
- 2+ or Other: 18%
- White: 14%
- Asian: 9%
- statewide: 14%


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