

What Are Child Care Family Fees?

Family fees come from racist policies that we can fix.



artwork throughout by Melanie, age 6

For more on the racist roots of child care policy, visit linktr.ee/childcarelaw



First, let's be clear:

Child care gives
people freedom to
work & go to school.

Families deserve
to choose their
child care.



But **family fees** mean many families
struggle to afford child care.

Family fees are what many families must pay if they receive a child care subsidy.



These families are mostly Black, Latinx, and other families of color who haven't been able to build wealth due to centuries of racist laws.

The idea behind family fees stems from the myth of the 'welfare queen,' and the idea that families in poverty don't deserve help without severe restrictions.

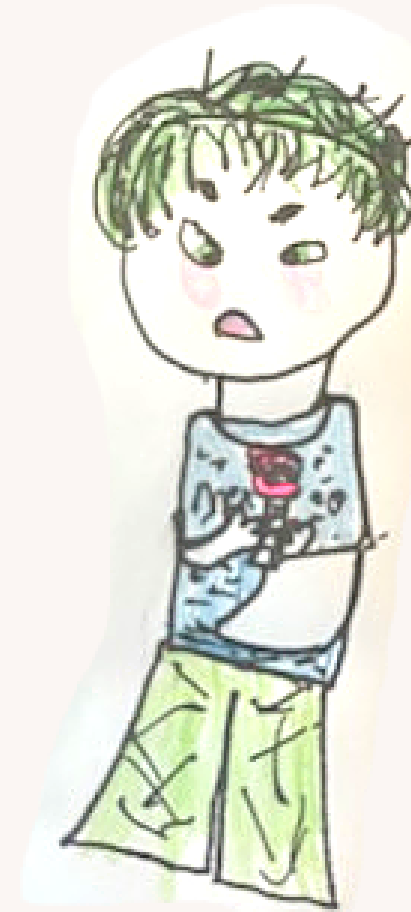
"Families shouldn't be worried about losing their child care because they can't pay family fees. That money is needed for bills, for shoes and clothes for our kids. Why is California penalizing parents?"

-Christina
Parent Leader & Mother of Three
Parent Voices California



California collects \$68 million every year to fund subsidized child care from these families, who are mostly mothers of color working low-paid jobs.

The families paying family fees are our essential workers, fighting the effects of racism and higher costs of living during COVID-19.

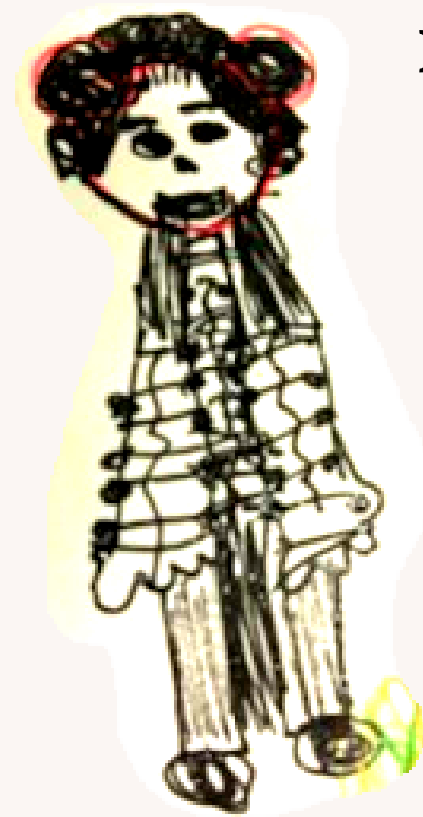


"During COVID, all my household costs have gone up, and **now I have to decide if I pay my family fee, pay PG&E, or improve my internet connection for my older son's distance learning. The stress is overwhelming. If I can't afford child care, it puts my education and training as a school psychologist at risk."**

**~Micaela
Parent Leader &
Essential Worker,
Parent Voices Contra Costa County**



We've been told child care family fees help pay for more child care for others who need it.



Here's the problem:

That means California is paying to expand child care on the backs of women of color making near-poverty wages.

We can't heal the harms of old racist policies with more racist policies.

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**We can fix the family fees problem.
California can fund our child care
system & temporarily waive family fees.**

**We can heal the harm of a family
fees system rooted
in racist policies that continues
to stop families of color from
building wealth.**



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Melanie is 7-years-old and loves art, reading, and playing Roblox.

