

## INVESTING IN INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES: Child Care

The following three icons highlight some of the many issues addressed in the budget and legislative session. Absence of an icon generally indicates that work needs to be done on the issue or that the item simply provides information.

 One of the legislative priorities identified by EPI prior to this year's session.

 Significant progress.

 Mixed bag—some, yet inadequate, progress.

### **Child Care Rates:**

- **Pandemic Emergency Rates:** The pandemic emergency rates that have been increased by executive order are in statute to be continued through December 31, 2021.
- **New CCAP rates:** New rates will be implemented on January 1, 2022 and are higher than the pre-pandemic rates. In some cases these new rates are higher than the pandemic rates, but in other cases they are lower.
- **Child Care Co-payment Cap:** The budget uses federal TANF block grant funds to cover the cost of lowering the maximum family CCAP contribution rate from 14% to 7% of family income.

 **Income Eligibility:** Provisions included in the Child Care is Essential Act to increase the entry income limit from the current 180% of the federal poverty level did not move forward.

 **Early Educator Investment Act:** This legislation—which passed the Senate but did not pass the House—would help attract and retain early childhood educators by directing the Children's Cabinet to establish a plan to address workforce compensation, to advance strategies to improve qualifications and compensation of educators, and to coordinate efforts to improve compensation of the Early Intervention and Home Visiting workforces.

**CCAP College Student Pilot:** Until now, only working parents could qualify for CCAP subsidy. A new, one-year pilot program will allow low-income college students with children to qualify for CCAP while they are in school. The pilot is funded with \$200,000 of TANF dollars.