



## Protect Child Care for Working Families | Pass LB304

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is child care subsidy?**

Child care subsidies are publicly funded programs offered in each state to offset the high costs of child care, enabling parents to pursue employment or education so they can better provide for their families. To qualify for this assistance, families must meet certain income requirements.

#### **What is LB304?**

LB304 is a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that makes permanent the current income eligibility requirements for child care assistance. It ensures that more working families can afford quality child care and stay in the workforce. Without LB304, eligibility for child care assistance will be reduced in 2026, cutting off thousands of Nebraska families.

#### **Why does this matter for Nebraska families?**

Child care is one of the biggest costs families face. Without support, many parents can't afford to work. LB304 ensures parents have access to child care so they can stay employed, provide for their families, and contribute to Nebraska's economy.

#### **How does this child care assistance work?**

The child care assistance helps cover the high cost of care for families with low or moderate incomes. Families qualify based on their household income, which is compared to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

#### **What is the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)?**

The Federal Poverty Level is a measure the government sets each year to determine who qualifies for certain programs. For a family of four in 2025, the poverty line is about **\$32,150**.

#### **How does LB304 change things?**

- Today: A family of four earning up to about **\$59,000** qualifies for child care assistance.
- Without LB304: That drops to **\$42,000** in 2026.

This change would mean thousands of Nebraska families, who are already working and paying taxes, would no longer qualify for child care help.

### **What's the impact on children?**

If LB304 fails, thousands of children will lose access to stable, quality child care. The early years are critical for learning and development, and disruptions in care can set children back.

### **Here's how it works in practice:**

- 100% FPL = Head Start eligibility (*a family of four making about \$32,150 or less*)
- 130% FPL = free school meals (*a family of four making about \$42,000 or less*)
- 185% FPL = reduced-price school meals and Nebraska's current child care assistance (*a family of four making about \$59,000 or less*)

### **What's the impact on Nebraska's economy?**

Parents can't work without child care. When families lose access, Nebraska employers lose reliable workers. LB304 helps keep parents in the workforce and strengthens Nebraska's economy.

### **What's the bottom line?**

LB304 protects child care access for working Nebraska families. It helps parents stay employed, ensures children have stable care, and secures Nebraska's future workforce.

### **How can supporters of LB304 stay connected and help?**

- Engage on social media with why LB304 is important to you and your community.
  - Use the hashtag **#PassLB304**.
  - Reshare and comment on posts.
- Check in on the LB304 webpage for ongoing updates and events.
  - [firstfivenebraska.org/PassLB304](http://firstfivenebraska.org/PassLB304)
- Reach out to your state senator to share your support for LB304.