

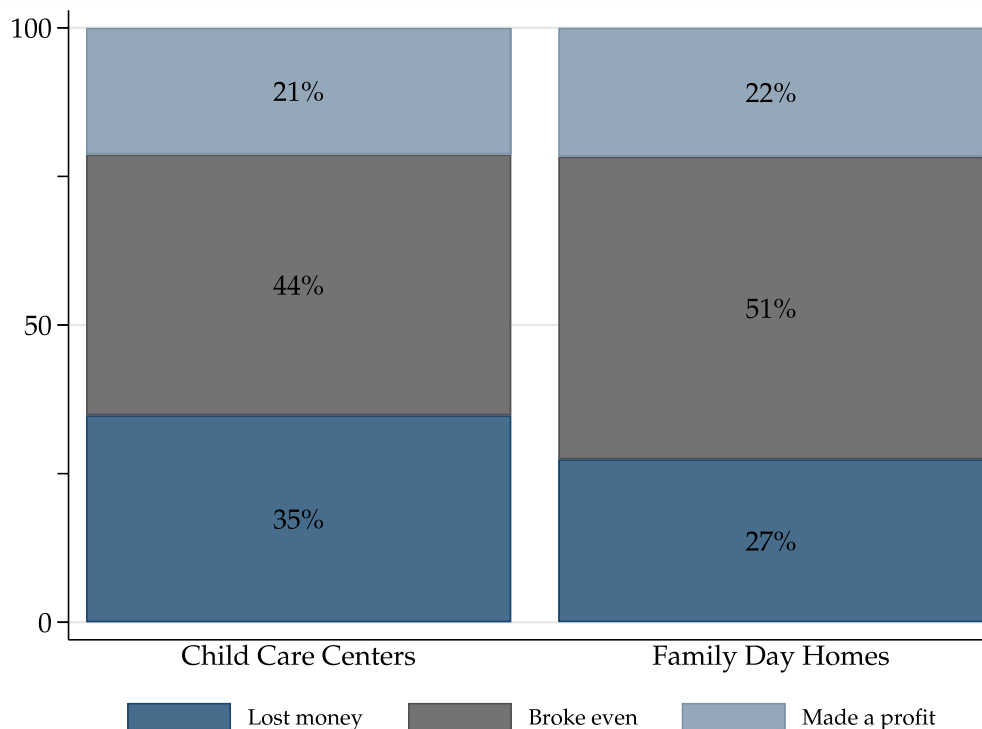
**Financial & Staffing Challenges among Virginia’s Subsidized Child Care Providers:
Evidence from Fall 2025**

Many child care providers experience high levels of financial and staffing challenges. Between August and October 2025, child care providers participating in the [Virginia Quality Birth to Five \(VOB5\) system](#), a requirement for publicly funded providers, were invited to take a brief survey about finances and staffing at their site. Over half (54%) of providers participating in Virginia’s Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) responded,¹ including 707 child care centers and 314 family day home providers.²

Key Takeaways

- **Most (79%) subsidized providers did not make a profit over the past year.**
- **Over 1 in 4 (26%) subsidized centers reported that staffing at their site was very challenging.**
- **Turning away families due to staffing issues was common at subsidized centers, with over 1 in 3 (37%) saying that they had done this since March 2025.**

Only 1 in 5 subsidized providers made a profit in the past year



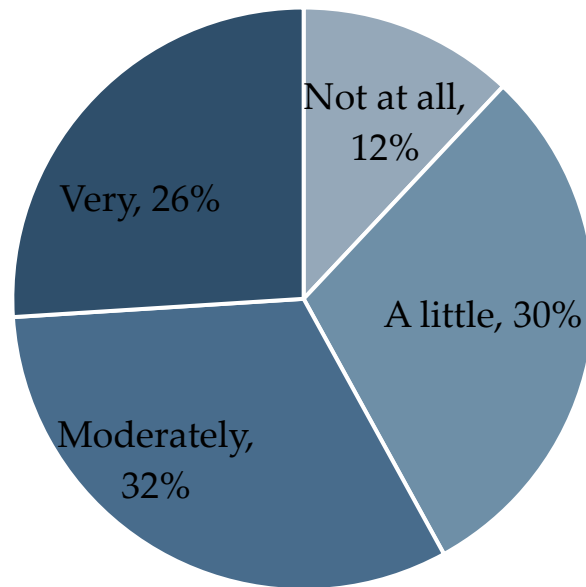
Note: Based on responses from 560 subsidized centers and 267 subsidized family day home providers. Providers were asked, “Many child care sites struggle to make ends meet. Thinking about the past 12 months, has your site lost money, broken even, or made a profit?” Respondents who answered “I don’t know” are excluded.

¹ Providers receiving public funds from sources other than CCSP (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools, military child care fee assistance) were also invited to take the survey. This analysis is limited to the 67% of respondents participating in CCSP, because [these providers tend to face particularly difficult financial and staffing issues](#).

² In Virginia, family day home providers are licensed providers who can legally serve up to 12 children. Many family day home providers operate only one classroom and do not employ staff, so their responses to items about staffing are not reported.

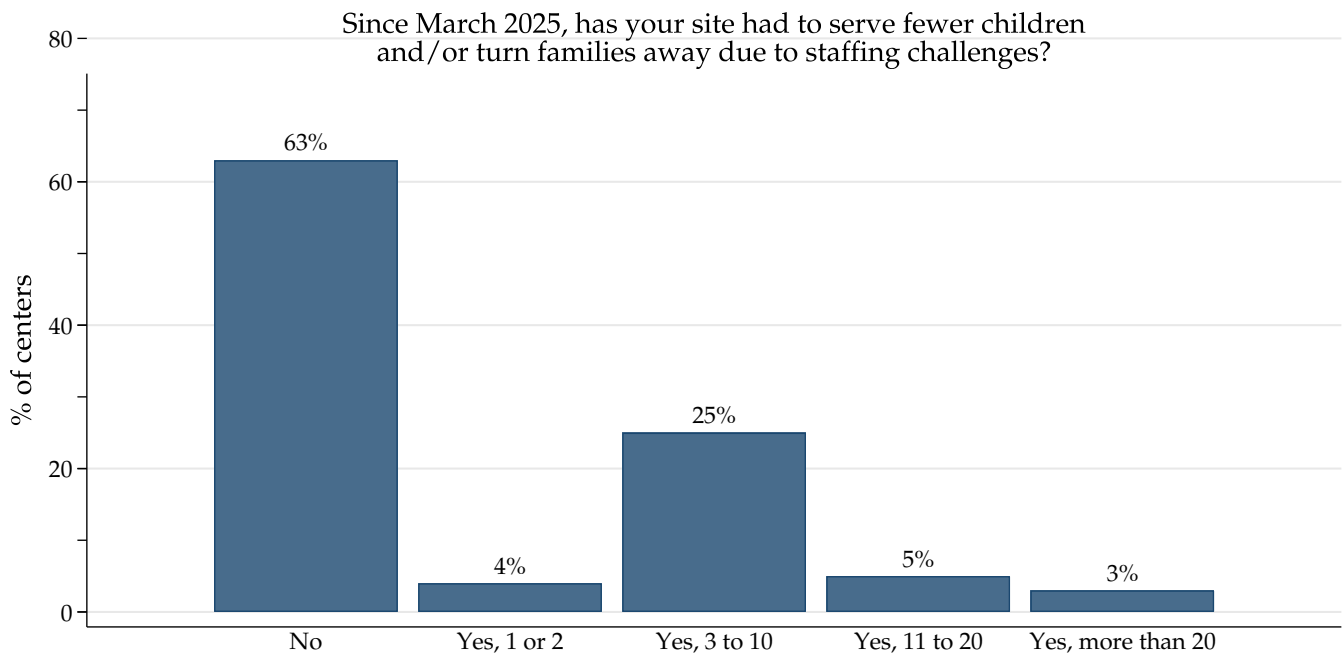
Most subsidized centers (88%) experienced staffing challenges

At your site, how challenging is staffing (e.g., educators leaving, vacancies)?



Note: Based on responses from 691 subsidized centers.

In the past 6 months, 1 in 3 subsidized centers turned away 3 or more interested families due to staffing challenges



Note: Based on responses from 684 subsidized centers.

This data brief provides insights from a partnership between the University of Virginia (UVA) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). We thank the LinkB5 team at UVA. Suggested Citation: Fares, I. & Bassok, D. (March 2026). Financial & Staffing Challenges among Virginia's Subsidized Child Care Providers: Evidence from Fall 2025. *Study of Early Education through Partnerships*.