

Families Favor Au Pair Program Amid Concerns Over Proposed Regulations

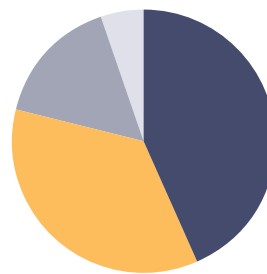
AMERICAN FAMILIES *for* Cultural Exchange

To understand public opinion on the au pair program and proposed regulations by the U.S. Department of State, American Families for Cultural Exchange commissioned a Media Intelligence Survey to examine the online conversation. Data collection and findings are based on a May 2023 to May 2024 timeframe.

American Families Chose the Au Pair Program for its Affordability and Cultural Exchange

Cultural exchange and affordability are the primary reason host families chose or considered au pair programs.

Cultural exchange generated 22% more mentions than affordability, the next leading factor families cited in their online au pair considerations from the past year.



- Cultural Exchange
- Affordability
- Flexibility
- Household Aid Beyond Childcare

Host Families are Concerned about Proposed State Department Regulations

Proposed State Department regulations increase the cost of hosting an au pair in some states while decreasing the weekly stipend that au pairs receive in others, threatening to shrink the program by at least 70%.¹ The regulations also create unnecessary administrative burdens and reporting requirements for host families.

From the anonymous online discussion about the proposed regulations, only 5% of online posts support the regulations.

Online criticisms of the proposed State Department regulations fell into three buckets:



Program costs will increase.



Au pairs will be seen as employees, diminishing cultural exchange.



Working mothers will be disproportionately impacted.

1. Alliance for International Exchange. "Au Pair NPRM Alliance Int Exchange Comment Letter." January 26, 2024.

About American Families for Cultural Exchange

American Families for Cultural Exchange is a coalition led by Cultural Care Au Pair, an official sponsor of the U.S. State Department-regulated au pair program for over 30 years, which champions the federal program that bridges cultural divides by offering immersive and enriching exchange experiences to families across the U.S. and citizens of other countries.