



Eureka Facts Au Pair Report: Talking Points

The Alliance for International Exchange commissioned EurekaFacts, an independent research firm, to conduct a multi-perspective assessment of the Au Pair program. The below talking points should be used for postings, emails to stakeholders, communications with elected officials and their staff, and/or media statements.

- The EurekaFacts report is the most extensive survey to be released publicly on the U.S. State Department Au Pair program in decades. It is based on a survey of 10,881 au pair participant alumni (17.4% response rate) and 6,452 host families (14% response rate) to determine the impact of the program. At a 95% level of confidence, the margin of error for the au pair participant alumni and host families samples were 0.9% and 1.2% respectively.
- The report by all objective measures reflects the overwhelming success of the Federal Au Pair program.
- Participants and families are very satisfied by the program. Findings show that 90% of au pairs rated their experience in the U.S. as excellent (60%) or good (30%). More than eight-in-ten (84%) au pairs say they are satisfied with their overall experience in the program, including 48% who are “extremely satisfied.”
- Overwhelming majorities of au pairs say that specific aspects of the program are “good” or “very good,” including; the applications process (95%), program orientation and training (84%), and the ability to build close personal connections to their host families (83%).
- The Au Pair Program provides participants with broad exposure to American culture and society, and fosters greater knowledge and appreciation among Americans of the participants’ home countries. According the EurekaFact’s survey, 97% of au pair alumni gained a better understanding of American culture (traditions and customs) during their time in the U.S.
- Two-thirds or more of au pairs see the program as providing “very important” opportunities for them to “gain new or improved personal skills” (77%), to experience daily life in a different culture” (73%), to improve their English skills (69%), or to learn and interact with people from a different culture than their own (63%).
- EurekaFacts finds that “Experiences like these explain in part how the program’s success helps to promote itself.”

- The EurekaFacts report demonstrates that the Au Pair program is in fact an important tool for economic growth. Financially, there is a net positive effect for host families, au pairs and on the overall impact for local economies. The expenditures from host families provide for the day-to-day needs and beyond for au pairs.
 - Au pairs spend approximately \$257 million per year on items such as dining, entertainment, and travel in the U.S.
 - Au pairs participate in all 50 states, and the District of Columbia, and individually contribute approximately \$5,336 per year to their local communities.
- Not only do they add millions of dollars in discretionary spending to the U.S. economy, they also provide flexible childcare that enables host families to work full time.
 - 71% of host families say their families would be adversely affected if the au pair program were no longer available.
 - 11% of host families are veterans or on active duty in the military.
- EurekaFacts concludes that the criticisms of program opponents are unfounded. According to EurekaFacts, these criticisms are “non-objective and non-empirical [and] introduce bias into the conversation . . .” The main critics, EurekaFacts finds, leverage “very little supporting data from program participants, elevate the opinions of those whose experiences are the exception, and are at odds with the vast majority of au pair experiences.”
- EurekaFacts report finds unequivocally that the Federal Au Pair program delivers on its goals to increase mutual understanding between peoples, develop the skills of au pairs, provide childcare support to families that need it, and strengthen the U.S. economy along the way.
- For these reasons and more, the Federal Au Pair program since its inception decades ago has enjoyed bi-partisan support in Congress and in both Republican and Democratic administrations.